

Our fatherland [continued]

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THE 35th SWISS NATIONAL FAIR,

September 11th-26th, 1954

A particularly striking object-lesson is the one given each year by the Lausanne National Fair which, for a certain period, assembles in one place all the main products of Swiss economy. Agriculture, industry, trade and craftwork are the constituent parts of this economy; but although imports of raw materials from abroad ensure the functioning of home concerns, exports of manufactured or semi-manufactured products govern the equilibrium of a market deeply engaged in the world market. These necessities, vital to the Swiss people, are reflected in the 20 halls of the Lausanne Fair; this fair and that of Basle share the honour of being the two principal official economic events of the country.

1920-1954. Thirty-five years of fruitful activity and persevering effort have combined to enable the Lausanne Fair to present a very complete picture of Swiss production to the people of Switzerland as well as to visitors from abroad. Agriculture occupies an important place, is divided into many different branches and even organises cattle shows and market of small and large live-stock including horses. Craftwork, and particularly specialised craftwork, so characteristic of Swiss workmanship, displays there its main products in many different fields, while industry participates on a large scale with products ranging from agricultural machinery to machinery tools, from wood- and metal-working machinery to the products of the building trade and those of watchmaking and precision mechanics. The Fair covers a total area of 1,160,000 square feet; it is strong in the individual or collective participation of some 2,300 exhibitors from the whole of the territory of the Confederation.

The next Lausanne Fair will be taking place from September 11th to 26th, 1954. In addition to its traditional exhibition of Swiss products, and while remaining fundamentally national in character, it will be presenting a pavilion of modern India; in fact, one of the characteristics of this fair is that it invites a single foreign country to participate each year. This is a gesture of international good will, and at the same time an opportunity to strengthen the ties already linking Switzerland and other countries with complementary economics and to cement even more firmly the close relations existing between them. Under the auspices of the Indian Trade Department in New Delhi and the Indian Ambassador at Berne, India will therefore be displaying its economic resources in a pavilion specially set aside for the purpose at the main entrance of the Fair.

THE SWISS TRADE UNIONS AND MR. EISENHOWER'S DECISION

Mr. Eisenhower's decision to increase the Customs duties on watches has aroused an agitation in Switzerland which is still a long way off from calming down. In trade union circles, there has also been a vigorous reaction and the Trade Union of Watchmakers more particularly, has published a declaration in which it states that President Eisenhower's decision has caused great consternation among Swiss workers, who had hoped right up to the last minute, that the partisans of liberalism would triumph over the wave of protectionism sweeping over the United States. "The increase in customs tariff rates on Swiss watches," this declaration goes on to say, "will have a disastrous effect on the families of 60,000 workers and employees. This is a very hard blow to our economy"

This Trade Union deplores the contradiction which exists between the theory and the practice of the commercial policy of the United States and regrets that President Eisenhower should have given way to internal political pressure, "in defiance of his previous declarations regarding the necessity of stimulating international trade, in the interests of Western democracies and of world peace."

In the same circles, homage is paid to the big American Trade Unions, which took a categorical stand against the increase in Customs duties and in favour of liberty of trade.

OUR FATHERLAND

Continuation.

GRAUBUNDEN (third part). Many a "blessed wind" may blow you to the Grisons, whether it be to one of the well-known resorts like St. Moritz, or Klosters or Arosa, clustered besides its two small lakes and with superb skiing terrain all around, or maybe to some quite small place like Fetan, which looks down on the spa at Scuol-Tarasp from its perch across the valley. At Zillis which lies on the road from Thusis to Splügen you will find, in the small very simply built village church, a whole series of one hundred and fifty-three 12th century ceiling paintings, the oldest and most complete series of its kind in the world. Another striking feature may be found in the large number of beautifully adorned carved altars from late Gothic times in the valley churches along the Rhine and Albula rivers. The dwelling houses found in the upper Albula and in the Engadine are peculiar to the districts. As a protection against the cold the windows are very small and narrowed like loopholes towards the interior. The back of the houses have high

circular openings ornamentally panelled with boards and serving as haybarns and accessible through the broad front doors of the houses.

Today the greatest ski-ing centre is Davos, formerly known much more as a health resort. The popularity has chiefly been achieved since the opening of the railway up to Weissfluhjoch, some 8000 ft. high. But not the great ski-fields with the splendid Parsenn-Derby run helped to make this place one of the great sports centres, equally well Davos caters for its curlers, skaters or ice hockey enthusiasts. Klosters, only twenty minutes on the train from Davos, is a favourite resort for those who wish to profit from the excellent skiing in Davos and yet prefer a smaller place in which to stay. In the spring beautiful trips can be made from here up the Vereina glacier and all year around the mountains near this lovely village provide walks to suit every taste.

Arosa is another very popular resort, particularly for the Swiss themselves. All during the winter season, one can hear enthusiasts arguing over the comparative merits of their favourite localities—St. Moritz, Davos, Klosters, Arosa, etc.—and each one claims that his favourite spot has the most sun and the best ski runs. But in reality it is a matter of individual taste, and there is no doubt that the Graubunden has beautiful and never to be forgotten attractions.

GASTRONOMY: If you are lucky enough to visit Hanselmann's tea-rooms in St. Moritz any afternoon when the counters are laden with every imaginable variety of delicious cakes and pastry, it will not seem strange that the pastrycooks of the Grisons are known throughout the world. Apart from such specialties as the "Churer Kuchen," the "Tuorta da Nusch Engiadinaisa," the famous "Birnbrot" is the best known. This is made from pears, washed and cut into fine pieces, to which hazel nuts, almonds, sultana raisins and seasonings—cloves, cinnamon, and nutmeg are mixed into a paste which somewhat resembles the filling of American mince pie, and is then baked in long, oval cakes made by rolling a special kind of bread-like mixture around the paste. "Birnbrot" keeps very well and is delicious served in thin, buttered slices.

In most cities and in many hotels, travellers can get the specialties of the Grisons, particularly the tremendously popular "Bundnerfleisch," which is a dried meat, cut in paper-thin slices and delicious when eaten with bread or potato salads, the whole accompanied by the red "Veltliner" wine of the Grisons. "Salsiz" sausages, which are a kind of small, flat, salami sausage, are also a Grison specialty and very practical for picnics. Other specialties are "Liver-sausages," the "Engadiner-wurst," and several others.

A favourite meat dish of the Grison is made as follows: 100 grams of raw veal and 100 grams of raw pork are mixed with 50 grams of finely cut bacon fat and two pieces of bread from which

the crust has been removed and which has been soaked in milk or broth. A paste is made of 220 grams of flour, 175 grams of butter, one quarter of a glass of milk and the yolk of an egg. This paste is then rolled out and two-thirds of it is used to fill a pie form. The mixture of meat is then spread in the pie form, the rest of the paste is rolled very thin and used to cover the whole and the yolk of an egg is brushed over it. The pie is then baked in a fairly hot oven for about an hour and is served hot with an accompanying dish of apple sauce.

The bread in the Grison is mostly made of corn and barley and is baked in most districts by the farmers themselves. In Puschlav, for instance, the bread is baked in the form of a ring and kept on a wooden stick in some airy place for many months.

As for wines, in addition to the extremely popular and universally drunk Veltliner, there are many brands of excellent white and light red wines produced, mostly around Chur. One of the most delicious of the latter is the "Maienfelder."

(To be continued.)

FARM EXPORTS DECLINED IN 1953

Final figures now available show that during 1953 milk production in Switzerland was higher by 4.4 per cent. than in the preceding 12 months. This surplus was absorbed partly through direct consumption and partly through the manufacture of yoghurt, butter and cheese.

Cheese production rose nearly 7 per cent. in comparison with the previous year. Exports of cheese, however, declined to a considerable extent, whereas those of condensed milk increased by 4.4 per cent. Viewed as a whole, exports of agricultural produce fell 2 per cent. from the 1952 level.

On the other hand, imports of produce for the use of agriculture, such as fertilizers, seeds, fodder and machines, increased. They amounted, for the whole of 1953, to the sum of S. Fr. 260,000,000, exceeding the figure for the previous year by approximately S. Fr. 30,000,000.

TOURISM IS VITAL TO ECONOMY 6

The importance of the foreign tourist to the economy of Switzerland may be judged by the facts that the country usually imports about 500,000,000 francs more than it exports and that the income from tourists averages each year about that amount.

Take the normal year 1952. The trade deficit was S. Fr. 457,000,000, and the earnings from the tourist trade were S. Fr. 480,000,000. Last year earnings from tourists were 500,000,000.

These figures are not complete, for the tourist earnings which get into the statistics books are