

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1922)
Heft: 38

Artikel: Les relations économiques entre la Grande-Bretagne et la Suisse
Autor: Waldvogel, William
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687471>

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 10.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

has been opened by Federal Councillor M. Chuard, Minister of the Interior. The exhibition has been organised by States Councillor Merz (Berne), the editor of the Pestalozzi Almanac, and will remain open until March 19th.

* * *

The administrators of the Aluminium Industrie A.G. Endowment Fund for the encouragement of studies in national economics and applied electricity, and particularly for study and research in electro-chemical and electro-metallurgical science, express their surprise in the Swiss press that in view of the prevailing industrial crisis more applications for financial aid have not been received.

During 1921 only 14,500 frs. were distributed in subsidising various scientific works, although the available funds permit expenditure of far greater amounts.

* * *

The Belgian Football Association having declined to fall in with the views of the Swiss Union (as mentioned in our last issue), the match between Belgium and Switzerland, which should have taken place in Lausanne next May, has been called off by the latter.

NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The correspondent of the *Westminster Gazette* (Feb. 14th) describes in detail the mountaineering ventures of the new Pope, and says that it is difficult to imagine "how" with his love for the mountains he can ever be content "with the orthodox walk about the Vatican Gardens, beautiful as these are."

Much activity is being displayed again in British industrial circles with reference to the Rhine Navigation scheme, probably due to some allusions made in a paper read by Sir Joseph Broodbank on February 10th at the "London Society." An influential deputation was received on February 15th by Sir William Mitchell Thomson of the Board of Trade, when the importance of the maintenance and improvement of the Upper Rhine to British export trade was insisted upon.

* * *

In an article on "Anglo-Swiss Trade" in the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* (Feb. 9th) stress is laid on the antiquated methods which British manufacturers are still pursuing in endeavouring to introduce their goods to the Swiss market. Catalogues printed in English, with British measures and weights and f.o.b. quotations in sterling are practically useless, but occasionally shortsightedness attains a limit, as the following example will illustrate:—"A large British firm had secured by tender an order from the Swiss Post Office, admittedly the best organised in Europe, and the department of which Switzerland has special reason to be proud. Yet the firm in question insisted on payment before delivery."

* * *

The *British Medical Journal* (Feb. 11th) contains the following appeal from Sir Martin Conway, who says that the interferences with free travel during the last seven years, owing to passport restrictions, have had a disastrous effect upon the alpine treatment of TUBERCULOSIS:—

"The British Davos Sanatorium, built under the patronage and name of Queen Alexandra, after vain appeals in your columns by the late Lord Balfour of Burleigh and others, has recently been sold by its committee to the Cantons of Schaffhausen and Thurgau. In spite of the efforts of Lord Balfour, Dr. Mitchell Bruce, Sir William Willcox, and several others who tried in vain to save it for the nation, this institution,

which the Queen Mother had fostered and which had been a great blessing to so many English patients of moderate means, has been disposed of at a very low figure to the Swiss authorities.

During the war consumptive sanatoriums sprang up in England in all directions to meet urgent military necessities, and the treatment of tuberculosis in this damp and sunless climate grew rapidly.

I believe that I was the first English writer to call attention to the remarkable plateau of Montana. This place, with Villars sur Ollon and Leysin on the north side of the Rhone Valley, furnish unique conditions for the treatment of this terrible disease. Some very influential representatives of the medical profession, including Dr. Mitchell Bruce, Sir Humphrey Rolleston, Sir William Willcox, Sir John Broadbent, Sir Charlton Briscoe, and others whose names are known throughout the medical world, visited Switzerland last summer as guests of the Swiss Government, to inspect the Swiss health resorts. As a result of these visits several articles appeared in the "Lancet," "British Medical Journal," and the "Journal of Tuberculosis," in which the writers testified that the climate and other conditions of the north side of the Rhone Valley are of great value in dealing with the disease.

From time immemorial the dryness of the climate in the Valais on the north side of the Rhone has been so great that former generations have constructed what would be called in India huge "tanks" or small lakes for the irrigation of the vineyards which stretch along the whole of that side of the Valais. The long duration of sun produces wines almost as strong as the Italian wines. On the shortest day in winter these alpine slopes enjoy two hours more sunshine than the alpine lung resorts in German Switzerland.

I venture to suggest in your columns that the funds from the sale of the Queen Alexandra Sanatorium now in the hands of the committee might well be supplemented by some generous donor or donors for the purpose of re-establishing in French Switzerland the work carried on in Queen Alexandra's name with such benefit to our countrymen.

I am supported by the best medical opinion in saying that recoveries are more probable and more rapid in an institution situated in such a district as I have described than can be hoped for, under any circumstances, within the range of the British Isles."

The Queen Alexandra Sanatorium for British consumptives was opened at Davos in 1909 and received patients for about 6s. per day. A proposal to acquire the sanatorium for frs. 800,000 has been rejected on the 19th inst. by the voters of the canton of Thurgau.

* * *

The fact of Chaliapin, the great Russian singer, having recently partaken of "Vacherin" prompts the *Daily News* (Feb. 14th) to publish a eulogy on this Swiss cheese which no doubt will rouse the farmers of the Jura mountains to ecstasies. After pointing out that the atmosphere of the place in which a cheese is made has a great deal to do with its peculiar virtues, the glorification culminates in the following recapitulation:—"Vacherin is creamier than Brie; more thrilling than Gorgonzola; provocative of deeper emotions than Stilton; and effecting a reconciliation to life more complete than Gruyère. Above all, it is guaranteed not to produce nightmares."

LES RELATIONS ECONOMIQUES ENTRE LA GRANDE-BRETAGNE ET LA SUISSE *

par William Waldvogel (Neuveville, W. Henry, 1922.)

The author of this excellent work has rendered a great service to men of business in Great Britain and Switzerland. He has produced in a concise and very readable form a complete history of the economic relations of the two countries. From the bibliography included in this volume we can judge of the number of authorities which the author has had to consult, and from the fact that we can find no

*288 p.p., crown 4to (price 7/-, by post 7/4), from "Swiss Observer," 21, Garlick Hill, London, E.C. 4.

work of a similar character to the present it is clear that he has supplied a long-felt want.

Mr. Waldvogel gives in the first part of his book an interesting historical sketch of Anglo-Swiss relations, political, literary and economic, which forms an important introduction to the study of conditions governing the two countries at the present day. The many interesting statistical tables included in this part of the book give a pleasant picture of the pre-war condition of Anglo-Swiss trade—the good old days before the advent of chaotic exchanges and prohibition tariffs.

In a table of exports from Switzerland to England (given on page 141) we see the enormous increase in the figures for all commodities exported between 1892 and 1912. Mr. Waldvogel is of the opinion that this remarkable progress in business with Great Britain during the twenty years preceding the war was due chiefly to the Free Trade policy of the English, particularly as during this period other countries were adopting an exaggerated policy of protection.

Interesting as is this historical sketch, the concluding section of Mr. Waldvogel's book dealing with the economic relations of Great Britain and Switzerland during and after the war will be found to be the most important part of the whole work. It must have been a difficult task to dive into the mass of archives—official and otherwise—in order to obtain an idea of the effects of the war on the economic conditions of the two countries. We are thankful to have had such a competent author as Mr. Waldvogel to spare us this task! Mr. Waldvogel deals at length, but without ever becoming wearisome, on the war measures affecting the commercial relations of Switzerland and Great Britain. He shows the disastrous effects of the modifications in the English tariff system (which practically put an end to the regime of Free Trade) on the Swiss export business. Speaking, for instance, of the duty on watches, the author states that in the watchmaking centres the greatest consternation reigned on receipt of the news of its introduction and the *ad valorem* duties on motor-cars and their accessories, musical instruments and other goods were equally serious in their effects. Instead of improving, these conditions grew worse apparently—"certificates of origin and interest," "contingents d'exportation"—every kind of stumbling block in the way of Anglo-Swiss trade: it must have appeared that an edifice which had taken so many years to erect was to be destroyed for ever.

In September, 1918, Great Britain imposed a prohibition on the import of "articles de luxe"—ce qui provoqua une crise très grave dans les centres industriels zurichois et saint-gallois. Swiss manufacturers were menaced with the total loss of their English clientèle, and a situation was created which recalled in many aspects that of the blockade of the Continent by Napoleon a hundred years before. It was not until after the signing of the Armistice that a gradual suppression of these war measures occurred.

The author treats of this difficult period of Anglo-Swiss relationship in a very sympathetic manner, realizing, no doubt, the unprecedented conditions with which the two countries had to contend at that time. He gives a section of the book to the "S.S.S." (Société Suisse de surveillance économique), and another of great interest deals with the imports into Great Britain of aniline dyes from Switzerland during the war. Dealing with this subject, the President of the Bradford Dyers Association said in 1916, "Had it not been for the dye we received from the Swiss makers, I dare not contemplate what our position would have been during the past eighteen months. They

have placed this country under a great obligation, which may in some degree be met by giving them after the war what they have so fully earned—our continual support and encouragement."

Mr. Waldvogel does not omit from his work an account of the conditions of what may be considered as an important industry—the tourist traffic in Switzerland. He gives us figures which show us the sad falling-off in the number of English travellers from 1913 to 1920. English summer visitors to Lucerne, for example, numbered in 1913 20,318, in 1918 only 364, and in 1920 4,759. With the renewed facilities for travel which have been introduced recently, and the abolition of petty and vexatious formalities, such as passport visas, "permis de séjour," etc., we may hope to see more normal conditions in the near future.

A section of this book which will greatly interest Swiss residents in England deals with the activities of the Swiss Colony and of the important part it has played in the economic relations of the two countries, the various Swiss Clubs and Societies, and the Anglo-Swiss press have rendered such valuable assistance to the business relationship of the two countries that they well deserve the detailed notice which they receive in this volume.

After dealing with the important question of the opening up of the Rhine for purposes of transit for English and Swiss goods, Mr. Waldvogel devotes his concluding section to the future prospects for business between Great Britain and Switzerland, and gives advice which should be of value to both British and Swiss merchants in their business relationships.

To sum up—this is a book which in its lucid exposition of important and complicated questions should prove indispensable not only to men of business in England and Switzerland, but also to all who hold the interests of the two countries at heart.

LA NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE

Pending preparation of a full report by the N.S.H. Secretariat, we are publishing in the meantime the impressions gathered at the meeting by one of our correspondents:—

General assemblies are more wont to be of a gloomy than of an inspiring nature, but last Friday's Annual Meeting of the N.S.H. was an exception from the rule. Two special factors brought about this happy result: the uplifting spirit of the presidential report and the satisfactory character of the balance sheet. The aims of our Society are idealistic-patriotic, but neither idealism nor patriotism can stand in the air. Like every other human institution they have material wants, and empty treasuries are bad conductors for their evolution. Owing to the great change in the general economic prosperity Committee and Council had to devote a good deal of last year's work to the problem how to make both ends meet. They were guided by the principle that the coat must be cut according to the cloth, and drastic retrenchments were carried out. The effort was crowned with success, because the previous deficit has been wiped out, and the account closes with a small balance left in hand. On the other side care was taken not to impair the efficiency of the Secretariat in its propaganda service.

In some quarters of our colony it has been argued that this work was useful during the war, but that there is no reason for it to be continued now. Mr. Baer's report should have refuted these contentions; or can anyone who has listened to the analysis of the activities during the last twelve months doubt that the Secretariat has anew established its *raison d'être*?

As several members of the old Council, amongst them Mr. Ritter and Mr. Wüthrich, who had done excellent service to the Society since its foundation, declined re-election the Council had to be "rejuvenated." It consists now of the following gentlemen:—J. Baer, F. Beyli, C. Campart, A. L. Despond, F. M. Gamper, Rev. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, H. Joss, P. Preisig, Theo. Schaerer, A. Secrétan, A. J. Strahlé, A. F. Suter, Dr. W. Weibel.

BY.