

Swiss News

Objekttyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): **- (1969)**

Heft 1580

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.

Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.

Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, www.library.ethz.ch

<http://www.e-periodica.ch>

For 1968, the 81.7 million of this aid was allotted in the following way: technical co-operation 34.3 million, university grants 1.7 million, financial help (loans) 9.4 million, gifts of food 17.4 million, humanitarian help (Palestine refugees, Vietnam, Biafra, etc.) 18.9 million.

The Federal Council has reserved a credit of 230 million francs for the three years starting in 1970. 180 million of this will be development aid and 50 million humanitarian aid. This is a 50% increase on the previous three-year credit, ending this year, but still a negligible proportion of (Swiss) national product. Federal Councillor Spühler, who, as head of the Political Department, was responsible for the country's foreign aid programme, said that he was well aware of the smallness of this effort, but that it only tallied with Switzerland's policy of helping underdeveloped countries by private means.

About two-thirds of the official aid is managed by international organisations, mainly the subsidiary bodies of the United Nations, the other third going into individual projects sponsored directly by the Confederation. Some 120 Swiss specialists work in development help for the Confederation, 80 of them are volunteers who have left their jobs at home for varying periods. Another 180 Swiss do the same work under international auspices.

Many Swiss strongly feel that what their country is doing in favour of the Third World is definitely insufficient. Such is the case of those 1,080 citizens who, last December, signed their "Declaration of Berne" and pledged to devote 3% of their income for three years for the benefit of poorer countries. Such is equally the case of the "IG 3" movement in Zurich, which has recently been claiming a 220-million francs annual aid contribution by the Confederation, that is, a three-fold increase. It also wants the *official* aid to amount to 1% of the national product by 1972.

There are possible explanations to the smallness of our Federal aid to the Third World, the first one that comes to mind being that public money is less centralised in Switzerland than it is in other countries and that the means of the Confederation are proportionately smaller. The fact remains that, although there is plenty of good-will in all circles, and although Swiss development aid is judiciously apportioned and expertly managed, in quantitative terms, it is unworthy of one of the world's wealthiest countries. Private help, just one outlet for our booming industry and thriving banking business, must continue. Our microscopic public aid, that which shows to what degree we as Swiss sacrifice our comfort, must be greatly increased. At any rate, no one ought to be misled by the 1.49% figure, let alone trumpet over it.

(P.M.B.)

SWISS NEWS

FEDERAL COUNCILLORS SCHAFFNER AND SPUHLER STEP BACK

The news of Mr. Schaffner's departure hit the two chambers as they were beginning the third week of the present session. At the time of writing, the only reasons known for this retirement were those given by Mr. Schaffner himself: he had worked sufficiently long in the service of the Confederation and felt it was time for him to retire. It is possible that he will be active in private industry. His succession is now open and the object of numerous speculations.

Federal Councillor Hans Schaffner, Swiss "Minister for economy", will be 61 on December 16th. He was elected to the Federal Council in June 1961 and was President of the Confederation during 1966. He studied law in Berne and qualified as a lawyer in that town in 1934, beginning his career as secretary of the supreme court of the Canton of Berne. He was then appointed as adjunct to the Union for Commerce and Industry and in 1938 became the jurist of the Federal Office of Industry and Labour and was charged with preparing the necessary measures of war economy. In 1941 he was called to lead the central office of war economy. After the war, Mr. Schaffner was the delegate of the Federal Council to commercial conferences and became head of the commercial division of the Federal Department of Public Economy in 1954. He was a member of the O.E.C.D. directory from 1953 to 1961.

His distinctive qualities were a great working power, a flexible and pragmatic mind, a realistic understanding of economy, and diplomacy. He succeeded to resigning Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre, and was elected by a 175 to 49 majority in the first round.

The resignation of Federal Councillor Spühler was announced just a day after that of Mr. Schaffner but hardly came as a surprise. Indeed, intensive rumours were circulating in the Federal Palace on this matter. Mr. Spühler was head of the Political Department. In British terms, he was the Swiss Minister for foreign affairs. He was a down-to-earth socialist, excellent administrator and well known for his great personal distinction. His Zurich constituents maliciously but affectionately called him the "lord of Aussersihl".

He became national councillor in 1938 and succeeded to Emile Kloeti at the State Council. Before being elected as Federal Councillor, he was head of the Department of Transport, Communications and Energy.

The socialist group in the Federal chambers met to decide on the candidate to put forward in replacement of Mr. Spühler. The socialists insist on

having a double representation in the Federal Council. They have decided to present Mr. Pierre Graber, councillor of State and national councillor of the Canton of Vaud. Mr. André Chavanne, councillor of State and national councillor of Geneva was also a possibility, but he obtained only four votes, as against Mr. Pierre Graber's 27.

(A.T.S.)

ITALIAN CHILDREN KEPT IN HIDING

At least 500 children of Italian parents living in Geneva have either had to be brought outside the country or kept hidden at home, said M. Tebaldi, executive member of the Federation of Italian Colonies in Switzerland, in a recent press conference. A solution to this problem had to be found and it could not consist in sending back the children one after the other.

These children either belonged to seasonal working people or to parents not satisfying the conditions fixed by the Swiss-Italian agreements. These were satisfactory living conditions, a sufficient salary and a stable household. But who decides whether a particular accommodation is adequate, and how could an Italian worker find such a thing when no policy for the building of popular lodgings existed?

For the Federation, the problem of reuniting Italian families was closely linked to the status of seasonal workers, which prevented them from bringing their families with them. There were definite regulations on the implementation of the Italo-Swiss agreement, said M. Tebaldi, but these were known only to the immigration police. The secrecy in which these regulations were held conferred the solution of human problems to administrative organs, and in many cases these problems surpassed their competence. The Federation wants the publication of these regulations, so that competent tribunals would henceforth be the sole organs entitled to rule on cases involving the civil and penal responsibilities of immigrant workers.

Mr. Tebaldi has further indicated that the Federation of Italian colonies would like a revision of the Italo-Swiss agreements and the inclusion therein of precise provisions guaranteeing home life for immigrants. This would prevent a worsening of an already taut situation, not least due to xenophobe initiatives.

(A.T.S.)

LONZA TAKES OVER AN AMERICAN COMPANY

The Swiss company "Lonza A.G." has acquired the majority of the equity of "Baird Chemical Industries Inc.", an American company located in New York with a turnover of 3.5 million pounds. Its production conveniently completes the production range of Lonza.

A HOPELESS CASE

After having already been condemned 14 times, mainly for larcenies a 38 year-old Zurich employee has had to answer for renewed charges of 32 offences. Hardly had he left the prison of Deregendorf, than he committed a larceny, whereupon he left for Belgium. A few months later he returned to Switzerland and "specialised" in garage burglaries, with proceeds amounting to 33,600 francs. He has been condemned to three years of reclusion, minus 305 days of preventive detention, and deprivation of civil rights for ten years.

FINANCIAL SCANDAL IN ZURICH

It has been found that the "Christen A.G." real estate company was overdrawn to the tune of three million francs. Mr. Walter Urs Christen, principal shareholder and manager of the company has been arrested and detained.

A penal enquiry has been ordered by the district attorney of Zurich into the firm's transactions, especially those of its main subsidiary, the "A.G. vormalis Schweizerischen Creditorenverband". The expertise is to be entrusted to the "Fides" firm of auditors in Zurich and will shed light on the state of the company's books, as closed on 31st December 1967. The attorney has equally asked for an estimate of its realty holdings. Mr. Walter Urs Christen had stakes in at least three companies in Zurich other than "Christen A.G.". The latter was chiefly concerned with the sale, rental and management of buildings. It had run into difficulties following the sale of new villas. (A.T.S.)

THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF PRIVATE TRANSPORT COMPANIES

According to the yearly report of the association of Swiss transport concerns, the financial situation of tramway companies has partially improved during 1968, that of mountain railroads slightly worsened and that of long distance railways remained stationary.

Out of 24 tramways or urban railways, eight cleared a total profit of 2.8 million francs, 16 a loss of 18.5 million. Out of the 20 mountain railway companies belonging to the afore-said association, seven made a profit, whose sum is 17 million francs, and three a loss amounting to 0.1 million. Six pleasure-shipping companies made a profit of 0.5 million francs and six others lost 0.8 million.

The bad loss-makers among the tramways were those of Basle (-7.7 million francs) and Geneva (-4.4 million). The trams of Zurich, after losing 9.8 million francs in 1967, made a 1.2 million franc profit last year thanks to increased fares and reduced expenses.

Out of 63 private railway companies, 15 totalled a profit of 15.4 million francs and 48 a loss of 34.1 millions. Out of the 20 land transport services, nine made a total profit of 0.6 million and 11 a loss of a million francs. The most profitable railway is the B.L.S. with 5.4 million francs profit, the Brig-Visp-Zermatt railway with 3.2 millions and the Rhätish railway with 2.8 million. The Lautenbrunnen-Mürren, the Sierre-Montana-Crans, the Südostbahn, the Bodensee-Toggenburg,

the Waldenburg, the Lugano-Ponte-Tresa and the Zurich-Uetliberg railway all produced over 50,000 francs' profit. The great loss-makers were the Gürbetal - Bern - Schwarzenburg (-2.5 million), the Furka-Oberalp (-1 million). Among the road passenger services, those who had recently made the switch from the railroad made the best profits. They are the Steffisberg-Thun-Interlaken (+400,000 francs) and the Zurich Oberland (+170,000) services. (A.T.S.)

TWO NEW COMMUNES HAVE ACCEPTED THE WOMENS RIGHT TO VOTE IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

The citizens of Greifensee have accepted, during a communal assembly, to give their women the right to vote by an 84-to-6 majority. At the same time, the men of Dietikon were voting on the same issue with a 90-to-0 majority.

The commune of Greifensee had taken this decision after a hundred female citizens had followed a five-evening course of civil formation given by the mayor. 19 communes in Zurich have given the communal right of say to women since this possibility was decided on the cantonal level in August. (A.T.S.)

THE WAY IS CLEAR FOR A REFERENDUM ON SUGAR LEGISLATION

In a communiqué, the Federal Chancery announced that the initiative launched by the "Independant Alliance" against the order on sugar of 27th June had gathered 53,359 signatures. These



SWISS BANK CORPORATION

(a Company limited by shares, incorporated in Switzerland)

Principal London Office
99 GRESHAM STREET,
P.O. Box No. 114,
LONDON E.C.2
Tel. 01-606 4000

West End Branch
SWISS CENTRE
1 NEW COVENTRY STREET
LONDON W.1.
Tel. 01-734 0767

(Savings Account facilities available)

SOCIÉTÉ DE BANQUE SUISSE
SCHWEIZERISCHER BANKVEREIN
SOCIETÀ DI BANCA SVIZZERA

Offices throughout Switzerland
in New York and San Francisco

had been sent to the Federal statistical office to be controlled.

According to this new order, the constant deficit of sugar refineries was to be balanced by Federal subventions, by a tax on imported sugar and by a contribution from the beet producers.

As the present order on sugar is to expire, the Federal Council has already decided to make transitory proposals to the two chambers regarding the beet harvest of 1969.

The date of the vote will be fixed by the Chancery when it will have officially established at the outcome of the initiative.

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE "THIRD FORCE" OF THE JURA

In a recent communiqué, the "Movement for the unity of the Jura" (i.e. the third force) had made known that, under the chairmanship of Willy Jeanneret, mayor of Tramelan, the study-group had examined the most recent developments in the Jura, as well as possible basis for the movement's future activity, during a great number of sessions. According to the communiqué, having examined the new situation brought about by the Great Council's acceptance of the right of self-determination for the Jura, the study-group was satisfied that its activity had drawn attention to the dangers of a split Jura, which was apprehended by the vast majority of Jurassians.

The declaration of the Government of Berne concerning its readiness to implement statute of autonomy for the Jura had been recorded. The movement remained opposed to a consultation of Jurassians which would be organised prior to a votation on the most important points of the future statute of autonomy. The Federal Commission on the Jura should continue its mediatory rôle and devise a workable statute of autonomy".

The communiqué further declares that the four "wise men" Commission could be enlarged. The "third force" study-group would call an assembly before the end of the year to fix the movement's own statutes. (A.T.S.)

A SWISS SPY STORY

Nothing could have made the Sulzer management suspect that the irreproachable, efficient 46-year old engineer Alfred Frauenknecht, who had collaborated with the company for 17 years and was heading the important technical department of the jet reactor division, could be involved in espionage. On "grounds of conviction", he lifted all the plans necessary for the construction of the Swiss built Mirage IIIS reactors and sold them to Israel. The princely remuneration he received for his efforts, 86,000 pounds, must greatly have strengthened his "conviction".

Frauenknecht was in an ideal position to get hold of the blueprints. These were, as planned, sent back to

Sulzer from sub-contractors working on the Mirage reactors. They were to be microfilmed and then destroyed. It was after the microfilming that Frauenknecht intervened. The cases of blueprints were to be transported by a Sulzer vehicle to a garage, where they were stored. From there they were to be carried by a lorry to an incineration factory. Frauenknecht hired a lorry, transported the cases from the garage to the depot of a small firm called Rotzinger in Kaisergaust, where a relative of Frauenknecht's was a long-time employee. There, the case of blueprints were locked up in a warehouse and quickly replaced by other ones containing harmless blueprints, which found their way to the incinerator.

The plan worked beautifully. Frauenknecht's relative was resident in nearby Germany and in charge of the customs problems of the Rotzinger factory. He therefore did not arouse any suspicion on the part of the lodge-keeper, when he came on Saturday mornings, the factory being closed, to open the warehouse and drive off with a bootful of cases. He had no problems at the customs either, since blueprints are exempt from all customs duties.

Unfortunately, something went wrong. As he was hurriedly slapping some of the last remaining cases in the boot of his car, in what would probably have been his next-to-last shipment, the Hotzinger brothers, owners of the business happened to be on the tarmac of the factory and were intrigued by their employee's unusual ways. They saw him rush away with his car, and went to examine the remaining cases lying in the warehouse. They found that their contents had nothing to do with the firm's affairs so they contacted the employee and asked him for explanations. He said that he was acting "under the highest authority and that he could be trusted as one of their oldest employees". This did not quite convince the two brothers, who had a closer look at the cases and soon found that they had rather hot contents.

From then on, Frauenknecht was very quickly arrested. His relative was promptly discharged from Hotzinger's, but he managed to drive out of Switzerland in time and has not been heard of since. He leaves behind him a villa visibly above his purchasing means, which he had recently bought. As for Frauenknecht, he had only used a small slice of the 860,000 francs (received in a standard bank transfer) to buy a plot of ground on which he planned to build a house.

It was later proved that both the former and the present Israeli military-attaché had been involved in this affair. The present one was declared "persona non grata". As he happened to reside in Rome, where he is equally military-attaché, little was seen or heard of him. A protest was naturally filed to the Israeli ambassador, but the Israelis only mentioned the affair on their radio some

four days later and refrained from all comments. Frauenknecht had been approached in September of last year and had pursued his illegal activities unimpeded from then on to his arrest at the end of last month.

He will now have to be tried. The charges he will have to answer and the criteria by which he will be judged are unprecedented. Switzerland is not at war with Israel and therefore his crime pertains more to industrial espionage than to anything else.

The irony of this affair is that Frauenknecht almost succeeded in his venture. No one would have suspected anything (until, perhaps, a few years later, when the Israelis would be astonishing the world by building their own Mirages and spares). Had his accomplice managed to remain more composed when his employers surprised him on the factory grounds that fatal weekend, he would now be peacefully enjoying his prize money.

A STUDENT WHO TOOK LSD ON SCIENTIFIC GROUNDS

A Magistrates Court in Basle has had to make up its mind on a rather problematical case. The 23-year old psychology student summoned for smoking and possessing drugs made the best of impressions, at least, a better one than the shaggy-haired population usually associated with the use of drugs.

He was in his third year of university. Two years earlier, he had accepted to try some LSD offered to him on a social occasion. He was not alone to have enjoyed the drug that day, but his motivations were not pleasure, just scientific interest. He admits having brought some of the drug home and having studied its varied effects on himself. At the beginning, everything glowed with a strange beauty. Later, some hallucinatory effects made themselves felt. The same scientific curiosity spurred him to try hashish some while later. He smoked the exotic powder with fellow students in the office of the Student-Journal. He repeated the smoking-sessions a number of times until he was detained a whole day by the police, on which occasion he readily explained that the purpose of his misdemeanour was purely scientific.

Well did he know that there was a law which forbade indulging in drugs, but, in view of the purity of his intentions, he did not recognise any personal fault. Having searched his diggings, the police found abundant literature on narcotics and even a small personal thesis on the subject, with reference to various scientists.

The student balked at the magistrate's fine of 150 francs. He protested that he had harmed no one by his experimentations. Mainly in consideration of his financial position, the court reduced the fine to 80 francs. The case was not too serious since he had neither sold, given away or imported the forbidden product. He was dis-

charged with a stern admonishment by the magistrate, who reminded him that, as a student, he should be particularly conscious of his responsibilities.

(Basler Nachrichten)

A CODE OF HONOUR FOR JOURNALISTS

The assembly of the Zurich press has decided by an important majority to lay down a code of honour for journalists and editors. The discussion lasted for more than two hours, the details of the future code will be fixed in the next assembly in November.

The project of creating a code of honour had been submitted to the assembly by the central committee of the Swiss press. Its aim was to order standards of professional ethics for the journalistic profession. The delegates have also accepted a convention on the professional recycling of journalists and editors.

CIBA TAKES OVER ILFORD

I.C.I. and "Ciba U.K. Ltd." have simultaneously announced that Ciba would absorb, as from the 1st of November 1969, the photographic company "Ilford Ltd." This take-over follows the obtaining of the necessary authorisation to conform to the "Exchange Control Act". I.C.I. gives away its shares at seven shillings each, the price the company had paid for them in 1967.

This step follows a survey undertaken jointly by I.C.I. and Ciba in order to assess the future long-term development of Ilford. The two firms have

agreed that this future could be better guaranteed within the international activities of Ciba, which already embraced those of the photochemical "Société Lumière" in France.

DURRENMATT LEAVES THE BASLE STAGE

The management of the Theatre of Basle has made known that it was losing the collaboration of the playwright Friedrich Dürrenmatt. He had decided to drop his engagements and had done so in agreement with the management of the theatre. The staff took the opportunity of warmly thanking him for his contribution to the life of the theatre.

It has not yet been possible to know exactly when Friedrich Dürrenmatt would leave the Basle Theatre and whether he would complete the staging of Max Frisch's play "Biederman and the Incendiaries" and his own comedy, "The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi". (A.T.S.)

ZURICH'S SCHAUSPIELHAUS HAS PROBLEMS

Two radical communal councillors have filed an "interpellation" to the town council, asking it whether the present management of the Schauspielhaus was competent enough to pursue the task of making the theatre a cultural institution, and not a political one.

This year's season at the Schauspielhaus has had an unhappy start. The first two performances were greatly

contested and must be considered as a fiasco. The third had to be cancelled in rather unusual circumstances.

During the fourth, a good part of the audience left the theatre in protest against an evident lack of taste. "Other spheres of the theatre-going public are also irritated" underlines the interpellation, "it seems clear that the actual management of the Schauspielhaus is more interested in pursuing political goals than in performing its cultural duty".

The "interpellators" would like to know what the town government intends to do so that the theatre can once again accomplish its cultural mission.

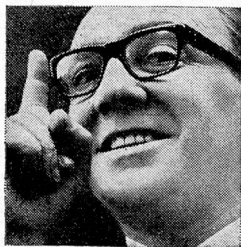
OMEGA RETIRES FROM OLYMPIC TIME-KEEPING

Omega has been the official time-keeper for 12 Winter and Summer Olympics since 1932 and for all the Summer Olympics except those of Tokyo. Official time-keeping at the Olympic games is the object of a competition, which "Omega" has so frequently won and which, as the games in Mexico have shown, represents a tremendous advertising value. Still, the firm has found that this publicity was no longer worth all the efforts and expenses needed to keep it up and was therefore not laying its candidature for the next Olympics. The following communiqué was issued:

"Between the 80 chronographs used at the Los Angeles Games of 1932 and the million dollars spent in Mexico, expenses linked with Olympic time-



**I've always had
a straight
answer
from the
Union Bank
of Switzerland**



UNION BANK OF SWITZERLAND

SCHWEIZERISCHE BANKGESELLSCHAFT
UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES
UNIONE DI BANCHE SVIZZERE

117 Old Broad Street, London, E. C. 2



THESE VEHICLES



TRAVEL TWICE MONTHLY TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND AND ENGLAND

Providing DOOR TO DOOR SERVICES
with vans specially equipped to carry

- Household Removals. — Exhibition Goods.
- Works of Art. — Machinery.

For full information contact

In Switzerland

KEHRLI + OELER,
Nachf. A. Oeler,
3001 Berne,
Bubenberglplatz 9.
Tel. 031 22 00 22.

In England

NEALE & WILKINSON LTD.,
1 and 2 Rangoon Street,
London, E.C.3.
Tel. 01-480 6351, ext. 51 or 56.

keeping have increased in a gigantic way. The firm believes, agreeing with the president of the World Olympic Committee, Mr. Avery Brundage, that the spirit in which amateur sport is practised is no longer the same. This change is felt in the ever-increasing exigencies of time-keeping asked of the company and which do not find their compensation in the degree of acknowledgement received.

In the beginning of the year, the European Broadcasting Union went so far as to ask its members to obliterate all Omega identification in their sports programmes. A similar position was adopted at the May meeting of the International Federation of Amateur Athletics in London this year.

Under such circumstances, Omega feels that the time has come to revise its position. The company will remember with pride its close participation in the Winter and Summer Olympics of recent years. It will continue however to offer its advisory services to international sports organisations".

AND LONGINES TAKE OVER

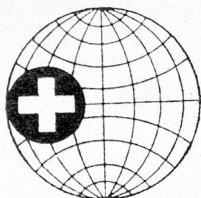
Strong with 60 years' experience of time-keeping in both international and Olympic events, the "Longines" Watch Company at St. Imier has offered its candidature as official time-keeper at the Summer Olympics of Munich in 1972.

The Longines dossier has been officially remitted to the Munich Games organising committee by one of the directors of the firm. The Federal Authorities have approved without reserve a candidature which will represent the Swiss watch industry at the Olympic Games of 1972.

The total cost of the operation is estimated at 3 million francs, some of which would be covered by a financial contribution from the Olympic Games Committee.

The "Longines" company employs 1,300 persons and has achieved a turnover of 69 million francs in 1968.

(A.T.S.)



EMIGRATION: GAIN OR LOSS FOR SWITZERLAND?

For many years, it has been customary for a member of the Swiss Government to address the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad on a subject connected with the main theme of the conference. At this year's gathering at Montreux at the end of August, it was Federal Councillor Dr. H. Schaffner who spoke on "Emigration: Gain or Loss?" He began his address by conveying greetings and best wishes from the Government. He said that it was an honour for him to take part in the Assembly and to make contact with his compatriots from abroad. The organisers had suggested the subject by way of an introduction to the symposium which was to follow on "the Swiss abroad and Swiss economy."

"The question of whether emigration is of benefit or disadvantage cannot be answered by simple book keeping methods. There is too much of the intangible, too many economic imponderables would have to be evaluated to find a pointer to a convincing answer. The originally very meagre and poor economic conditions of the small Alpine country shut away from the sea, are well known. As ample mineral wealth is completely lacking, the Swiss have always been forced to procure the missing goods through hard work, both mental and physical. By the same token, the Swiss have always been obliged to find a good part of their economic sphere outside the political boundaries of Switzerland. In spite of intensive land cultivation, it was impossible to feed the Swiss population from the fruits of limited arable land. Thus the fact that numerous Swiss have to earn their living abroad is almost as old as the history of the Swiss Confederation. Right to the end of the 18th century, the Swiss movement of population showed considerable emigration losses. In the 16th century, it was the Reisläufen (mercenaries), the oldest Swiss service industry, which absorbed almost completely any increase in the Swiss population. At that time, the population was hardly larger than in the previous 100 years—about 1.1 million inhabitants. Mercenary service abroad absorbed about two-thirds of population increase in the 17th and roughly half in the 18th century. It was only in the course of the 19th century that the loss in population decreased in the wake of an astonishing early industrialisation, and finally turned into a gain of numbers, which resulted in a large increase in foreign inhabitants in Switzerland up to the first world war. In those days, the percentage of foreigners in the whole of Switzerland was about 15."

"In spite of unfavourable geographic conditions, limited number of inhabitants and the smallness of the country, Switzerland today is amongst the most pros-

perous countries in the world with a standard of living surpassed by few only. Amongst trader nations she takes 12th place in absolute figures. The annual productivity per head of population is one of the highest in the world. This unique progress was achieved by the Swiss people who were not spoilt by nature and therefore trained for work. The natural disadvantages of Switzerland were outweighed by human achievements." Amongst these were—Federal Councillor Schaffner expressed the hope that they would remain in the future—above all willingness to work, application, proficiency in one's job, ability, enterprise and adaptability.

The speaker warned his audience about resting on one's laurels, especially in these days of rapid technical development. He said that Switzerland no longer held a monopoly for good quality; former strong competitors had made extremely big efforts, not forgetting some of the newly industrialised nations; competition had become very keen. *"In the long run, Swiss economy can no longer succeed abroad with quality and precision work alone. In order to remain competitive, it has to be creative. It has to assert itself ever anew by novel products and developments, and above all by progressive labour- and expense-saving production methods. For this purpose, new ways have to be found in joint efforts of research and development in order to manufacture even more efficient machines, instruments and apparatus, yet more modern watches, better chemicals and drugs and even more beautiful textiles, just to give a few examples. To fulfil this task, Switzerland needs qualified research workers, engineers, technologists and technicians, draftsmen, chemists, skilled experts, and above all efficient teachers at all levels of instruction. Precisely in this field, the considerable experience of Swiss emigrants is of greatest value to the country."*

The speaker then referred to the markets which emigrants had secured in many parts of the world already at the beginning of industrialisation, especially where it was not easy for Swiss economy to make itself felt. He mentioned overseas markets where Swiss merchants had been able to establish connections—a remarkably early world-wide relationship. He praised the large number of able emigrants who had returned and put their extensive knowledge and experience at the disposal of Swiss economy. He said that the achievements of some of these industrial pioneers filled an important and impressive chapter in the history of Swiss industrialisation. There were no limits to exchange within the framework of a liberal economic order. Talented

THE PERSONAL TOUCH

—that's what counts

FOR ALL TRAVELS
—by Land, Sea and Air

let **A. GANDON** make
your reservations

TICKETS issued at STATION PRICES
NO BOOKING FEE

HOWSHIP
TRAVEL AGENCY

188, UXBRIDGE ROAD
Shepherds Bush W.12

Telephones: 01 - 743 6268/9 and 1898