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than any other Swiss industrial branch, the chemical industry has been able to maintain its position with regard to exports, and it ranks today, in this connection, among the most prominent industrial branches. Nearly 1/5 of the country's total exports belong to this industry.

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TRAINING OF SWISS GUIDES.

The training of the young contingent of Swiss Alpine guides lies foremost in the hands of the Swiss Alpine Club who arranges all necessary courses with the respective cantonal authorities. Generally only Swiss citizens of high reputation and physical fitness for the Army are admitted. Aspirants for a guide's license have in addition to furnish a certificate that they have acted for two years as carriers to patented guides, also a doctor's certificate, qualifying them for the strenuous duties of a guide. It is up to a guide to conduct his clients not only to the summits of mountains under fair weather conditions, but to also bring them back safely under adverse circumstances. Before getting his guide's certificate a candidate has to pass a final intensive theoretical and practical course of 14-21 days.

Precautionary measures and rescue work receive special attention in such a course.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Import duty on Petrol has been reduced by the Customs authorities, to counteract the increased price caused through the devaluation of the Franc. The selling price to the consumer remains at 43 cents per litre.

The election of the Cantonal Government (Staatsrat) in Geneva resulted in a decided defeat of the Socialists who were in power the last three years. The past President Nicole was internationally known as an extreme agitator and did much to damage the good name of our proud capital of the League of Nations.

Financial assistance to the extent of Frs. 250,000 has been reserved by the Government for the purpose of assisting needy Swiss who have returned from foreign parts, particularly from Spain. The subsidy intended for the assistance of Swiss residing in foreign countries, amounting to Frs. 350,000 last year, has been increased to 410,000 on account of the altered rate of exchange.

The following new coinage will be issued in 1937 :-

845,000	Five Franc pieces,	250,000	Two Franc pieces
1,000,000	One "	500,000	Fifty Cent pieces
1,000,000	Ten Cent "	50,000	Two "
700,000	One "		

Training dogs for ambulance service has proved such a success that the Federal Government has appropriated 4,000 Frs. for this purpose.

The spinning wheel is coming into its own again. Twenty-five girls in Obwalden are taught the art by a cantonal society for fostering of home industries.

At the beginning of every year since 1913, Switzerland issues a new set of "Pro Inventute" Stamps, the design of which is always a source of great interest to philatelists all over the world. The place of honour in the latest issue rests with the 5 cts stamp, which has the picture of the well-known composer of folk songs, Hans Georg Nageli, who died in

1936. The other three stamps of 10 cts, 20 cts and 30 cts depict girls of Neuchatel, Schwyz and the "Wehntal" in their respective national costumes. They are by far the best set of all the various assortments of present day Swiss stamps.

Trade with foreign countries during October 1936 has shown a marked increase. For a considerable time imports have diminished or remained stationary, but during October last an increase of 11,4 Millions against October 1935 is shown. Imports have increased due to higher prices, but exports also indicate an upward tendency. The export figure for the period January-October amounted to 691 Millions against 644 last year.

Textile Industries exported 11,4 Mill., against 10,1 in October 1935, the increase being chiefly due to the expansion in the silk trade. The metal industry was able to raise last year's total of 26 Mill., to 31 Million.

Electrification of the popular Pilatus railway near Lucerne is rapidly progressing and new cars which spell the last word in comfort are now being built. The line will be ready for electric traction by June 1st.next. Mount Pilatus, rich in legend and folklore, has an altitude of 7,000 feet. An excellent hotel near the terminal of the railway enables visitors to enjoy the sublime spectacle of a sunset and a sunrise from a point of vantage which is unique for its panorama. Well built and carefully protected rock promenades lead from the hotel to several magnificent points on the mountain top.

Contrary to popular opinion that Switzerland is principally an agricultural country, she is a highly developed industrial nation. She manufactures the smallest watch and builds the largest locomotive. She does the most delicate handiwork and also constructs the heaviest electric power equipment. Milk is still delivered in urban localities by dog cart; yet she has one of the most famous electrified railroad systems in the world. The Swiss proudly cling to their traditions and picturesque costumes of the various cantons, still Switzerland manufactures wearing apparel for the style centers of the world.

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A D V E R T I S E M E N T S.

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Mr. P. Cattin, Te Kauwhata. "Scintilla" Wine, Fruit & Honey.

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