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Switzerland grows more and more to be a body confined to their own aims and interests. At a congress of Germans living outside of their Homeland, which took place at Stuttgart, Mr. Bohle, a party official, stated that every German in foreign parts is a messenger of propaganda for Nazi-ism. Of course these assertions reflect on Italy as well as on Germany.

There is a law in Switzerland which forbids foreign propaganda, but nevertheless it would be an act of gross carelessness not to proceed systematically with a suitable assimilation policy. In several instances, foreigners in Switzerland have been prevented by their Home authorities from obtaining naturalization, although a return to their native land would be very doubtful. Therefore an independent naturalization policy is desirable. A country like Switzerland overstocked with foreigners will suffer sooner or later if the faculty of assimilation is weakened. This is of the utmost importance especially for that contingent of 140,000 whose existence is insolubly bound up with our country.

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SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

The Swiss Alpine Club celebrated in Olten the 75th Anniversary. In 1861 Professor Dr. Theodor Simler proposed to form an Alpine Society. During 1862 he was busy trying to interest mountaineers in his object. The official inauguration took place in Olten on 19th April 1863 in the presence of 35 enthusiasts who recognized the economic importance of solving the innumerable riddles of our Alpine world. 50 years later the Swiss Alpine Club (S.A.C.) numbered 13,154 members. Today there are 84 sections with a total of over 31,000 members. A wonderful achievement. 115 Alpine club huts, continuous explorations of the Swiss Alps, a very progressive guide system, surveys and the many topographical charts are everlasting monuments of the club's activity. Other achievements worth mentioning are their Relief system, their accident insurance, Juvenile organisation. The Alpine Museum shows proofs of its scientific and touristic activities.

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S. B. C. ITEMS :

Circulars which have been sent by us to a number of members of our Society who had overlooked their obligation last year have brought surprisingly good results. A great majority have most willingly paid up and we are hoping that others will yet do the same. While appreciating the ready spirit of these members who have simply overlooked their obligation, we would like to ask the remainder also to toe the mark. Retaining our old members is an attribution to our efforts and will help us to enroll new ones. So far the subscriptions have come to hand fairly well, and we hope, with your help, to pass the 100 mark this year.

Through the Ausland Sekretariat the following books may be obtained :-

"Schweizer im Ausland"	frs. 3,60	and frs. 5,75
"Unsereschweizer Heimat"	"	3
"Dieschweiz" Year book issued by the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft		frs. .6, -
"Du Bist Eldgenosse"		frs. 5; -
"Die Schweiz in Europa" by Naf		frs. 2,25
"Von Der Alten Eidgenossenschaft" by Feller)		frs. 1,30
"Die Lebendige Schweiz" (Switzerland in pictures)		frs. 3,75
"General Wille"		frs. -,50

The prices do not include exchange, which must be added. Our Secretary, Mr. W. Ungemuth, will be pleased to receive and forward orders accompanied with the necessary cash.

We welcome articles for the "Helvetia", but wish to draw attention to the fact that they must only concern themselves with Switzerland and its people.

IMPORTANT:

The Auslandschweizer Sekretariat wishes to notify all fellow-countrymen intending to visit our country this year, that the Auslandschweizertag of 1939 will take place in the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich from July 29th to August 1st.

Please arrange your trip so as to be able to attend.

The 1939 Excursion Groups for young Swiss from foreign parts will take place from July 26th. to August 6th.

Please arrange your plans accordingly.

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INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND (continued)

(a) SILKS AND RIBBONS:

The silk industry plays one of the most important roles in the textile branch. Established in Switzerland some centuries ago, all phases of production from spinning to weaving of the most perfect materials are performed.

Weaving is the main branch of the Swiss silk industry. Located mainly in the canton of Zurich, this industry occupies an important rank on the world market. Annual production of silk materials, which amounted some years ago to a value of Frs. 200 millions, of which four-fifths at least were made for export, has suffered, as in the case of other silk-manufacturing centres, a marked restriction due to the fall in raw material and to the obstacles of every kind with which sales abroad meet.

Apart from the silk textiles, properly so called, mention must be made of the "bolted gauzes" (gazes à bluter) for they are a Swiss speciality whose annual production amounts to a value of Frs. 8 to Frs. 10 millions.

Swiss weaving is seconded by a powerful "finishing" industry (industrie de perfectionnement) - dyeing, preparing, printing, etc. It relies upon a foreign market. Silks for sewing and embroidering should also be mentioned, for this branch has been in existence for several centuries also, and its reputation crossed the Swiss frontier a long time ago. The same is true in the case of silks and rayons (crepes, grenadines, fancy weaves, etc.)

Finally, the trend taken during recent years by the rayon industry (viscose) is one of the most remarkable. The number of workers employed in this branch is about 4,000 and annual production is estimated at 5 million kilogrammes.

Swiss viscose is exported to all countries.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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ADVERTISEMENTS.

MR. P. CATTIN, Te Kauwhata, "Scintilla" Wine, Fruit and Honey.

MR. G. KERLER, 477, Karangahape Rd. Auckland, Prams, Wickerwork, Toys, etc.

MR. E. CATTIN, 19, Willis St. Wellington, Jeweller and Watchmaker.

JOHN STEINER Junr., Tahuna Rd., Morrinsville, for 1st. class Clover Honey.

TONY'S SWISS CAKE SHOP, 205, Fendalton Rd., Christchurch, (T. Komminoth) has something quite different in cakes. Basler Leckerli a speciality. 2/- a lb. TRY THEM!

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CORRESPONDENCE: Please address to the Secretary, W. UNGEMUTH, Clarence Rd., Northcote, AUCKLAND, N.4.