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NEW MEMBERS:-

It is our pleasant duty to welcome into our midst the following new members : -

Mr.T.Rieti, c/o John Steiner, Eastport Rd., Waihou.

Mr.Max Builisaner, Wellington.

We very much appreciate the efforts of fellow members to interest other countrymen in our Society.

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INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND (contd)

FASHION'S CAPRICES.

"Schappe" Weaving.

In the silk industry ribbons occupy a special place. The centre of this industry is at Basle. The ribbon trade has suffered especially from the caprices of fashion, without speaking of the other difficulties with which export trade of every kind has to cope. This, though, has not prevented the Basle ribbon industry from preserving its old reputation and it continues to play an important part in the international market.

Basle is also the main seat of the "schappe"-weaving industry, whose home has been for a long time in Switzerland. The consumption of "schappe" in the production of velvet having greatly fallen off during recent years, this industry has turned, with success, to the making of mixed and special threads for novelties.

(b) COTTONS:

Cotton spinning and weaving were introduced into Switzerland in the seventeenth century and attained their full development in the second half of the nineteenth. For the last twenty years or so they have lost a certain amount of importance, but nevertheless represent one of the essential branches of the country's industrial activity. About 20,000 hands are employed.

Whereas 1,300,000 spindles are installed in the spinning mills, retwisting mills employ 150,000. They are mainly established in the cantons of Zurich, Glaris and St. Gall. The great part of the production is absorbed in Switzerland itself by the consumption industries of weaving, knitting, hosiery and embroidery. The value of production of cotton threads amounts today to at least 100 million francs. It is interesting to note that Switzerland is the only country in the world whose cotton mills use more Egyptian cotton than American.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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