

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 5 (1939-1940)
Heft: 2

Artikel: Switzerland's trade with the British Empire
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943240>

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Switzerland's Trade with the British Empire.

Great Britain is Switzerland's second-best customer. In 1938 her purchases attained 148,1 million francs, representing 11,2% of Switzerland's total exports. Of that total 94,3% consisted of manufactured goods, including chiefly: watches (30,9 million francs), machines (16,9), pure aluminium (16,6), instruments and apparatus (8,0), silk fabrics (7,1), cotton embroidery (3,5), silk ribbons (3,1), pharmaceutical products (3,0).

Switzerland's imports from Great Britain during the same year amounted to 95 million francs. Great Britain ranks fifth among the countries from which Switzerland draws her supplies; of the goods delivered, 33,9% consisted of raw materials and 56,7% of manufactured articles, the chief items being: coal (8,7 million francs), sugar (7,4), machines (7,2), woolen fabrics (6,4), cotton fabrics (4,5), leather (3,7).

The trade balance between Switzerland and Canada is in favour of the latter country. While Switzerland's purchases from Canada amounted, in 1938, to 24,1 million francs, her exports to Canada only attained 14,7 million. The goods supplied by Switzerland comprise: watches (5,5 million francs), machines (2,1), (of which electric dynamos represent half), and aniline dyes. Switzerland, in turn, placed a large wheat order with Canada which constituted 80% of her purchases from that country; smaller items included rye, oats, barley, copper and copper wires.

Switzerland's exports to Australia attained 17,3 million francs in 1938, her imports of Australian goods amounting to 9,8 million francs. Australia provides a market for Swiss watches (7,0 million francs), machines (2,2), silk fabrics (1,4), instruments and apparatus (1,3), cotton embroidery (1,2), and finds, in return, in Switzerland an outlet for her raw wool (8,8 million francs).

Switzerland's relations with New Zealand are less important. Her exports attained 3,4 million francs against imports amounting to 1,3 million francs, the former consisting mainly of watches and the latter of fresh fruit and wool.

Exports from Switzerland to the Union of South Africa reached a total of 14,4 million francs in 1938, against imported South African goods amounting to 2,4 million francs. The Swiss products supplied to the Union include: watches and clocks (5,1 million francs), machines (4,1), textiles mainly of embroidery,

silk fabrics, hosiery, clothing, as also footwear and instruments.

Switzerland's purchases from South Africa comprised raw wool (1,0 million francs), copper (0,4), maize (0,3), extracts of tanning substances and fruit. Mention should be made of the fact that many South African products are bought direct from London and are not, therefore, included in statistics of trade exchanges between the two countries.

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A Swiss Ball was held at Te Aroha in the Catholic Hall on September 5th. 1939, which was hailed as one of the outstanding events of the season. There was a very large attendance of dancers, many of whom came long distances.

The hall, and not to forget the supper tables, were beautifully decorated, the supper being served by a ladies' committee under the guidance of Mrs. W. Revell.

A considerable number of dancers wore Swiss costumes, which made the gay scene very picturesque. The orchestra played Swiss airs as well as modern numbers.

Among the Swiss present were - Mesdames O. Werder, A. Elmiger, R. Steiner, Schicker (Putaruru); Misses R. Giesler, W. Steiner (Paterangi) J. Steiner (Matamata) Freda Steiner (Putaruru) Hilda Steiner (Matu-maho) Hilda Steiner (Putaruru) Rita Schicker (Putaruru) Ludwig, K. Camenzind, F. Steiner, Rita Steiner, Zita Steiner, P. Steiner, L. Steiner, Ethel Steiner (Ohaupo) F. Steiner, Lena Steiner (Putaruru) Tessie Schumacher, M. Schumacher, F. Widmer, A. Mathis, B. Schumacher, I. Widmer, G. Cattin (Te Kauwhata), B. Werder, G. Mathis.

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A Swiss illustrated calender, "DIE HEIMAT" for 1940, which is published in French, German and English, can be ordered from the Swiss Consulate in Wellington. If you desire one, do not delay in sending 6/- to the Swiss Consulate, P.O. Box 386, Wellington. The price, of course, includes packing and postage to New Zealand. 6/- is at the present time the equivalent of 4.- Swiss francs. The Consulate will be pleased to forward such orders to the Auslandschweizer Secretariat of the N.H.G. Bundesgasse 36, Berne.

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Nominations for Committee members which have come to hand, do not alter the personnel of the Executive, with the exception of Bay of Plenty, where a new member must be elected in place of Mr. R. Meyer, who has resigned. The following members have been nominated for this position :-

Mr. Carl Gebert, Opotiki,
Mr. Robert Fischer, Whakatane,
Mr. J. J. Sax, Kutarere, Whakatane.

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SWITZERLAND AS AN INDUSTRIAL AND EXPORTING COUNTRY (continued)

FOOD PRODUCTS: This is a very flourishing branch. The chocolate industry, which had its origin in the years 1810-1820, can now boast of thirty factories. Swiss chocolate enjoys a world-wide reputation, but ever-increasing restrictions on the free movement of goods have seriously affected exports. After 1865, for a long period of years, the manufacture of condensed and powdered milk achieved great importance as a Swiss export. The cheese exported by the Swiss Cheese Trade Union and marked "Made in Switzerland" - which guarantees its origin and its quality - deserves special mention. The meat, vegetable and fruit preserving industry has greatly developed and its products enjoy a high reputation.

(To be continued)

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