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to pre-war prices. This abnormal evolution cannot but have dangerous repercussions on the branches which are directly concerned, as well as on the Swiss economy in general. This rise in prices does nothing to contribute towards a reduction in the cost of building and certain contractors have even given up using wood, as a material. The sawmills already see themselves threatened with unemployment and the timber industry has addressed a request to the Federal Council asking that something be done to remedy the situation.

"IT HAPPENS ONLY FOUR TIMES IN A CENTURY"

Vevey, Switzerland: This gay historic city and lakeside resort, conveniently reached from Geneva, Lausanne and Montreux either by rail, road or pleasure steamer, for the first time became conscious of its importance as one of Europe's wine-growing capitals in 1706 when the annual grape harvest parade spontaneously developed into an all-round celebration of Bacchus, the jovial god of the vineyards. It was Vevey's first "Fete des Vignerons," or dramatised version of grape-harvest festival originally designed for the distribution of awards to the most efficient local wine-growers. Only eleven large-scale festivals of this type have since been held here, with intervals of up to a quarter of a century in between them.

Since it was back in 1927 when natives and visitors of Vevey last danced in the streets and cheered thousands of paraders and performers of a festival play glorifying "the rhythm of the four seasons and the treasures of the cherished soil," the local celebrities concluded that it was high time to launch another artistically staged vintage and harvest thanksgiving festival in 1955.

The thorough preparations have advanced so well that the Vevey festival committee is in a position to announce practically all the details of the 1955 "Fete des Vignerons," to be held from August 1-14. In accordance with an old tradition the Festival Play which is to feature among other world-famous stars the entire ballet troupe of the Paris Opera and some 3000 singers, musicians and extras, will open in an "early-bird" premiere at 8.00 a.m. on the Swiss Independence Day, August 1st, 1955. Ten more morning, afternoon and evening performances will follow, each expected to fill the 16,000-seat amphitheatre to capacity. Historic parades and Venetian fireworks on the Lake of Geneva will be among the other lavish attractions to be offered to visitors from all over the world on an equally lavish budget of close to 333,000 Lg. It will be one of the most expensive festivals ever held in Europe—"but it only happens four times in a century," happy-go-lucky Vevey citizens explain apologetically.

Vevey 1955 Festival tickets are on sale at travel agencies throughout the United Kingdom.

Many British travel agents plan to include Vevey and its unique celebration of jovial Bacchus, or nearby Swiss cities and resorts, in their summer tours of Europe.

SWITZERLAND AND THE ENGLISH- SPEAKING NATIONS

(Continued)

Let us now briefly enumerate a few of the innumerable Swiss citizens who have lived in England and the United States and risen to eminent positions there. The list includes men and women of all professions: students (certain grants and scholarships have been open to Swiss students at Oxford and Cambridge since the sixteenth century), tutors and professors, doctors, clergymen, soldiers, financiers, businessmen. Some artists of whom Switzerland has reason to be proud—Holbein, Petitot, Fuseli, for instance—made their careers in England. The founder of the Royal Academy, G. M. Moser, was also a Swiss, while another of his countrymen, Sir Francis Bourgeois, bequeathed his magnificent collection of paintings to Dulwich College. Madame Tussaud, too, it is interesting to note, was of Swiss extraction. In the ranks of the scholars and scientists, we find such names as these: A. de Lolme, famed for his juridical writings; Sir Samuel Romilly, the reformer of laws; Sir Arnold Theiler, the famous veterinary surgeon; Sir Joseph Petavel of the National Physical Laboratory; Dr. Peter Mark Roget, author of the famous "Thesaurus." Many of the Swiss who settled in England acquired British nationality and occupied high official positions. Canada had two governors of Swiss origin in the eighteenth century, Sir Frederick Haldimand, a Vaudois, and Sir George Prevost, a Genevan; in the present century, Sir Gordon Guggisberg, also of Swiss extraction, was Governor of Nigeria and later British Guiana. Another Swiss, Sir Everard Imthun, became Governor of the Fiji Islands and High Commissioner of the Western Pacific.

In the New World, many Swiss citizens shared in the struggles of pioneering days; the famous General Sutter of Sacramento for instance, and before him, Colonel Bouquet, who crushed the Indian Rebellion of Pontiac. Then, in the world of science and research, we have men like Louis Agassiz, eminent geologist and zoologist, and professor at Harvard; Ferdinand Rudolf Hassler, mathematician and astronomer, who made the first coastal surveys of the United States; Arnold-Henri Guyot, the great geographer, one of the founders of the Smithsonian Institute; Adolf Bandelier, an authority on Indian history and languages; J. H. Kruesi, inventor, and assistant to Edison; Dr. Henry Banga, the well-known surgeon who introduced the use of antiseptics in Chicago and the Western States. Many eminent doctors of the present day are of Swiss extraction.

In the annals of American trade and industry, we find the names of Jean-Pierre de Pury, Jacques Huber, Robert J. F. Schwarzenbach, all three pioneers of the American silk industry. Othmar H. Ammann, an eminent engineer and builder of some of America's most famous bridges, is known as an authority on modern bridge construction. Several leaders of the automobile industry, too, trace their descent from Swiss ancestors: Louis Chevrolet, Studebaker and Rickenbaker.

Again, in the field of politics we find Albert Gallatin, a naturalized American citizen, of Geneva origin, whose outstanding services both as a Secretary of the Treasury (1801-1813) during a highly critical period and, later, as a successful diplomat, have earned him a lasting place in American history.

Finally, strange to relate, Switzerland, that small country which has no sea coast and, consequently, no sea-going fleet until recently, has nevertheless produced several well-known sailors, among whom must be mentioned Admiral Eberle, Commander-in-Chief of the United States fleet during the 'twenties and Bernard H. Bieri, Fleet Commander in the Mediterranean during World War II.

There are so many links and ties of affinity between Switzerland and the English-speaking nations, they have so many interests in common, despite their territorial disparities, that there can be no reason for misunderstanding between them, but only constant and friendly intercourse. Their friendship is an ancient one, well-tried and tested through the centuries, and must be handed on as a precious heritage through the generations.

SWISS FOREIGN TRADE IN 1954

Swiss Foreign Trade in 1954

With a total of nearly eleven thousand million francs, Swiss foreign trade in 1954 attained a record figure. As regards imports the figures for the last year have never been surpassed in regard to quantity, and only once, in 1951, in regard to value. As for exports, the figures are the highest registered up to now.

The total value of imports increased by 10 per cent. since the previous year, and that of exports by 2 per cent. Thus, the Swiss trade balance is once more unfavourable, to the amount of 320 million francs, whereas for the preceding year, it was, quite exceptionally, favourable to the tune of 94 million francs. Insofar as imports are concerned, the increase is particularly noticeable in respect of raw materials, amounting as it does to 15 per cent., and in that of manufactured products, where it has gone up by 12 per cent. On the other hand, imports of foodstuffs, beverages and fodder have remained practically stationary.

In regard to exports, the increase is due essentially to the machine industry, to that specialising in instruments and apparatus, and, especially, to the chemical industry. There is practically no change to be observed in regard to exports of foodstuffs, whilst those of cheese and of condensed milk show a slight increase, and exports of chocolate have declined. Taken as a whole, exports of textiles are going down. This tendency is particularly marked in respect of cotton threads and of natural silk and rayon fabrics, whilst, on the other hand, certain branches as for instance those manufacturing embroideries and silk ribbons show a distinct advance.

During the year under review, Western Germany was Switzerland's chief supplier, and at the same time, her best customer. She was followed, in respect of both imports and exports, by the United States. France came third, in the ranks of suppliers, before Italy and Great Britain. On the other hand, France only occupied the fourth place among Switzerland's customers and was preceded by Italy.

NOTICE TO EVERY MEMBER

Our next Annual General Meeting of the S.B.S. will be held on Saturday, July 2nd, at 1 p.m., at the home of our Vice-President, Mr. W. Risi, in Ngaruawahia.

The farm of Mr. Risi is opposite the Hopuhopu Military Camp on the Main Highway between Huntly and Ngaruawahia.

Would anyone who is intending to come please write to the Secretary. We would like to see as many members as possible.

NOTICE

A farming family of ten (two grown-up sons) will arrive in this country in August and require employment and accommodation on a farm. Any assistance would be very welcome. Please contact the Secretary, S.B.S.

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