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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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