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● SWISS EVENTS.—

ONE SWISS IN FIVE WOULD LIKE TO LIVE ABROAD

One Swiss in five would emigrate if he had the opportunity. Such was the startling result of a poll organised among about a thousand persons across the country. The exact proportion of would-be emigrants was 21 per cent, showing a tendency higher in Switzerland than in most other countries. Similar polls conducted elsewhere showed the following proportion of people wishing to emigrate in other countries: United States ten per cent, Spain 13 per cent, Australia 13 per cent, Canada 15 per cent, Great Britain 39 per cent and Uruguay 41 per cent.

The poll did not say whether this desire to live elsewhere reflects dissatisfaction, or whether it was related to a tradition for seeking a new life overseas. This could well be the case of the Swiss, who not so long ago were *compelled* to emigrate. To the question "where would you like to settle down?", 13 per cent of would-be emigrants said they would like to go to the United States, 12 per cent to Australia, 5 per cent to South Africa, 5 per cent to Great Britain, 5 per cent to Israel, 5 per cent to Brazil, 5 per cent to Spain, 3 per cent to Sweden, New Zealand, France, Egypt, West Germany and Italy.

Of note is the fact that more Swiss would like to live in Britain than in neighbouring France, Italy or Germany.

THE SWISS GETTING USED TO SLOW DRIVING

The results of the 100 km/h speed ban are entirely positive. Such are the intermediate conclusions of the federal study group assessing the effects of the regulations enforced since the beginning of last year for an experimental period of three years. These conclusions, which are not particularly surprising, confirm and recap results which had been published last October. The main facts are that the number of road accidents in 1973 had dropped by 9 per cent (or 6,632), the number of injuries by 12 per cent and the number of deaths by 16 per cent (so that 272 lives have been saved in 1973). The report by the federal study group also indicates that three in four Swiss are in favour of speed restrictions, that is, a much higher proportion than before their introduction. Enquiries at the end of 1972 showed that only 55 per cent of the Swiss viewed new speed limits favourably. The temporary regulations introduced last year made driving above 100 km/h forbidden on all roads with the exception of motorways. Amendments introduced on 16th March last now put a 130 km/h limit on motorway speeds.