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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The Archbishop of Canterbury has accepted an invitation to preach a sermon at the Genevese Cathedral on Sunday, September 3rd, which precedes the opening of the third session of the League of Nations.

\* \* \*

At the invitation of the Swiss Government, who acts as host, the Council of the International Labour Bureau (Geneva) has opened its 13th session in the Kursaal at Interlaken on the 25th instant.

The International Labour Bureau is represented by its Director, Minister Albert Thomas, and 24 functionaries.

The assembly further comprises 75 participants (16 of whom are ladies), delegated to the session by the governments of the following countries:—

Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Japan, Poland, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

\* \* \*

The President of the Reich, Herr Ebert, received last week the members of the Mixed Commission for Upper Silesia and its President, ex-Federal Councillor F. Calonder, in the presence of the German Chancellor, the Swiss Minister, the Prussian Premier and a number of Under-Secretaries of State.

President Ebert pointed out that M. Calonder, as head of the Germano-Polish Commission, had exercised a lofty conception of duty during the difficult negotiations, greatly facilitating completion of the agreement which was eventually reached by the two States through his just and conciliatory attitude.

In reply, M. Calonder thanked the President of the Reich for his kindly words and expressed his confidence that the members of his Commission would succeed in justifying the trust reposed in them by removing existing differences in Upper Silesia and restoring order, peace and goodwill to that country.

\* \* \*

The Swiss Federal Railways are gradually improving their position in regard to revenue and expenditure, although the acute industrial crisis continues but little abated, and the number of passengers still lags behind the figures of the previous year.

The recovery is mainly due to a slight increase in goods traffic and to the rigorous cutting down of expenditure. While for the months of January and February of

this year expenditure still exceeded receipts by 5.79 and 3.76 million francs respectively, the subsequent months produced a surplus over expenditure, viz.:—

March	...	...	2.36	million francs.
April	...	...	1.96	" "
May	...	...	2.80	" "
June	...	...	4.16	" "

\* \* \*

The following table illustrates the export development of the Swiss watch industry since 1891:—

		Watches and movements (Pieces)	Export value in Frs.
1891	...	4,347,316	103,397,053
1911	...	12,057,929	164,026,760
1913	...	13,815,727	183,049,199
1914	...	10 019 005	120,813,099
1915	...	13 877,456	136,607,936
1916	...	17,998,775	207,576,764
1917	...	16 821,782	210,946,819
1918	...	15,395,542	215,270,887
1919	...	16,865,132	314,787,644
1920	...	13 729,870	325,582,350
1921	...	7 853,240	169,131,000

It will be seen that the record exports of 1913 were considerably lowered in the following year, when the Great War intervened, only to rise from 1916 onwards, until in 1920 the value of exports was more than treble that of 1891, while, on the other hand, the critical year of 1921 again reveals a drop of nearly 50 per cent. compared with the boom year of 1920.

To what extent the value of the goods exported fluctuates, is clearly demonstrated when the number of pieces is compared with the export value figures.

How universal the trade depression has become is also evident from a glance at the figures which follow the names of those countries who, during and after the war, proved the best customers of Switzerland's watch industry:

	1920	1921
United States of America	68.3	35.1
Great Britain ... ..	32.7	18.6
British India ... ..	21.0	5.0
Spain ... ..	19.0	7.4
Japan ... ..	18.3	15.7
Argentina ... ..	14.0	4.8
China ... ..	11.5	7.8
France ... ..	10.2	5.2

Germany, who was the biggest customer in pre-war days (32.6 millions in 1913), has only absorbed 6.8 millions worth of watches in 1921.

\* \* \*

Owing to Major Gerber's inability to take part in the balloon race for the Gordon-Bennett Cup at Geneva, Switzerland will now be represented by the following aeronauts:—

Balloon "Helvetia"—Pilot: Capt. Armbruster;  
Asst. Pilot: Dr. Bachmann.