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According to a recent census the population of the following cantons is as follows: Appenzell a.Rh.: 48,019 (1941: 44,756); St. Gall: 308,462 (1941: 286,201); Basle-Town: 196,658 (1941: 169,958); Zug: 42,336 (1941: 36,643); Thurgau: 149,360 (1941: 138,122); Ticino: 175,486 (1941: 161,882); Aargau: 300,442 (1941: 270,463); Appenzell i. Rh.: 13,448 (1941: 13,383); Fribourg: 160,000; Berne: 797,500 (1941: 728,916). [A.T.S.]

Mr. and Mrs. R. Chavannes, of Vevey, have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. [A.T.S.]

The Swiss people decided in a referendum that extraordinary war time taxes, levied by the Federal Government since 1940, should become constitutional and continue for the next four years.

Two coaches with pneumatic tyres are now in use on the Swiss State Railways. They will be used for tours at first, and later they will be run in trains of light steel coaches. Both coaches were built in Switzerland; one is of steel construction, has seating for 76 passengers, and weighs only 5.1 tons. The other is a 46-seater whose light alloy coachwork weighs only 3,250 kilograms, a reduction of 68 per cent. on the normal weight of a light steel coach.

The Swiss Government clamped down on all exports likely to aid any country's war machine. Lead, zinc, tin, aluminium, scrap iron, glycerine, bones, skins, cotton, and wool waste are banned. Export licences will be needed for petrol, rubber, wool, and many drugs. These include penicillin and streptomycin, which Russia has been buying in large quantities.

A Swiss banking group has founded the S.I.M.A. (Swiss Immobile-Property-Investment) Trust. Purpose is to acquire properties in Switzerland in order to take advantage of the rising price levels of property in the country.

Switzerland's imports during the first nine months of 1950 amounted to 3,026.7 million francs, an increase

of nearly 220 million francs compared with the same period of 1949. Exports amounted to 2,643.1 million francs, an increase of more than 147 million francs. Switzerland's principal customers during this period were Italy (339.2 million francs), the United States (337 million francs), France (263.3 million francs), Germany (239.4 million francs), Belgium-Luxemburg Union (200.9 million francs) and Great Britain (69.9 million francs). Her principal sources of supply were the United States (425.9 million francs), France (330.8 million francs), Germany (325.4 million francs), Great Britain (261.5 million francs), Italy (235.9 million francs), Belgium-Luxembourg Union (154 million francs), the Netherlands (110.2 million francs), and Argentina (96.1 million francs).

## COMMUNIQUE.

### SWISS INTERESTS IN RUMANIA.

By a notice dated February 16th, 1949, Swiss nationals resident in the United Kingdom were invited to register, as a precautionary measure, any asset (such as Government loans, debentures, cash vouchers, mortgage certificates, land charge notes, participation in nationalized industries, real estate in whatever form, etc., etc.) they might have in Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia.

As negotiations will begin between *Switzerland and Rumania* in February, 1951, a last opportunity of registering any claim is given to those Swiss nationals who have not yet notified their claim either to the Swiss Compensation Office in Zurich or the Federal Political Department in Berne or the Swiss Legation in London. Any Swiss national concerned should approach without delay the Swiss Legation in London, 18, Montagu Place, W.1, who will be glad to furnish the necessary forms and to give all information regarding the procedure to be followed.

This communique concerns also nationals of the Principality of Liechtenstein who may be resident in Great Britain.

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