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the position and aims of small business policy to-day. The association's principal task, he said, was the maintenance advancement and strengthening of independent craftsmanship, retail trade and services as well as medium and small manufacturing. Craftsmanship still has an economic task, both at present and in the future, which nobody else can fulfil. This programme can be realised above all by measures calculated to raise the professional standard of the individual craftsman. The speaker stressed that the Swiss Association of Craftsmen and Independent Businessmen is in full agreement with the principles of free enterprise which are one of the corner stones of Swiss economic life.

#### **Annual Congress of the International Union of Railways.**

The International Union of Railways, which was founded in 1922 for the purpose of improving and unifying conditions in international railway traffic, has already achieved quite considerable results. Most European countries and many Swiss states in the near and far east are members of the organization.

This year's congress, which by the way coincides with the 50th anniversary of the Swiss Federal Railways, was held at Lausanne between May 26th and June 7th. More than 300 delegates attended. In view of the great number of member states, it is comparatively seldom that the Union is able to hold its annual meeting in Switzerland.

#### **Anniversary of Steelmaking Concern.**

This year, the Steelworks Georg Fischer Ltd., of Schaffhausen, are celebrating the 150th anniversary of

their foundation. On this occasion, the firm has made a contribution of one million francs towards the pension fund for its employees. A similar sum was made available to the firm's relief fund. Total contributions in favour of social welfare thus have reached nearly 9 million francs this year. Apart from this, the firm in 1952 will pay its 7,000 employees an amount of 2 million francs in bonuses, half a million francs will go to various public institutions, and 200,000 francs will be spent on professional training of children of employees.

#### **Imports under General Global Quotas.**

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the House of Commons on the occasion of the budget speech that it would be necessary to withdraw Open General Licences for a further list of imports from certain foreign countries, implementation had to be made by the Board of Trade. In "Notice to Importers No. 497" the Board of Trade has now announced what quotas have been established for imports in the second half of 1952. Textiles and Cheese are the items on the list in which Swiss exporters are most interested.

#### **SWISS SPORTS AND GARDEN PARTY.**

We are informed that the participation in the various sporting events is very good, and thus this Sports Festival promises to be a very interesting affair.

It is hoped that many of our compatriots will turn up on Saturday, June 21st, at the Polytechnic Stadium, Chiswick.

## **Looking Ahead...**

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