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slight decrease noticed since the end of February was caused by a seasonal decline in the price of certain foodstuffs. The wholesale price index remained the same as it was in the previous month.

### The Rôle of Insurance in Switzerland.

Total outlays of the Swiss population for insurance purposes reached the amount of 2,403 million francs in 1951. This sum represents about 12% of the national income, estimated at 20 billion francs. In other words, the average Swiss spends each year the income of one and a half months or 44 days on insurance.

### War Damage, Business Claims (Payment).

When the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Budget proposals for 1953/54 to the House of Commons on April 14th, he declared that the Government had decided to authorize the payment this year of all outstanding claims in respect of war damage to business chattels under Part II of the War Damage Act, 1943. According to explanations given by the President of the Board of Trade it is proposed to pay the claims with accrued interest less tax, on October 1st, 1953.

### Trade between Switzerland and Czechoslovakia.

A Swiss and a Czechoslovak delegation met in Prague between April 15th and April 25th to discuss questions concerning the exchange of goods between the two countries for the period from April 1st, 1953, to the end of March 1954. An agreed minute was

signed. The Swiss import quotas had to be adapted to the existing Czechoslovak export possibilities whilst the structure of Swiss exports to Czechoslovakia remains broadly speaking the same as during the period 1952/53.

### WHY DO THE ENGLISH NOT READ MORE SWISS LITERATURE?

This is the theme of the next N.S.H. lecture to be held at the Swiss Club "Schweizerbund" on Thursday, May 21st. It will be given by Prof. L. W. Forster of the University of London. Having spent some years in Switzerland, part of which as lecturer at the University of Basle, Prof. Forster has an intimate knowledge of Swiss literature and the few existing translations of some of our masterpieces. Prof. Forster, by the way, has very personal ties with our country. His wife is a daughter of Dr. Billeter of Basle and he speaks the dialect of that town as well as a native, at least so far as a "Zürihegel" can judge. It is to be hoped that all Swiss with some literary interest will make a special effort not to miss this lecture and subsequent discussion.

H.E.

### FETE SUISSE.

A full report of the "Fête Suisse" celebrations which took place on Thursday, May, 7th, 1953, at Central Hall, Westminster, will appear in our issue of May 29th, 1953.

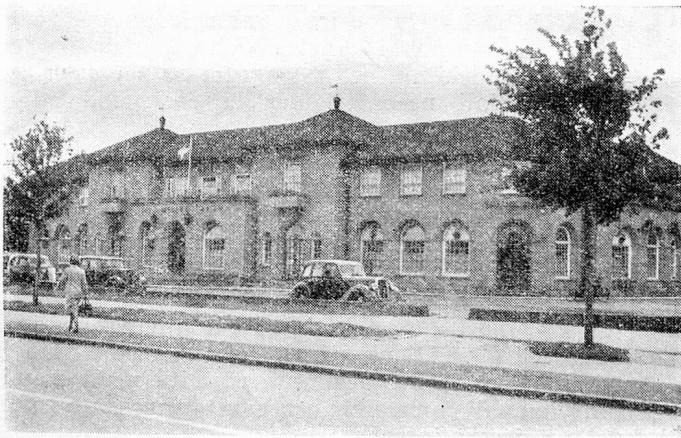
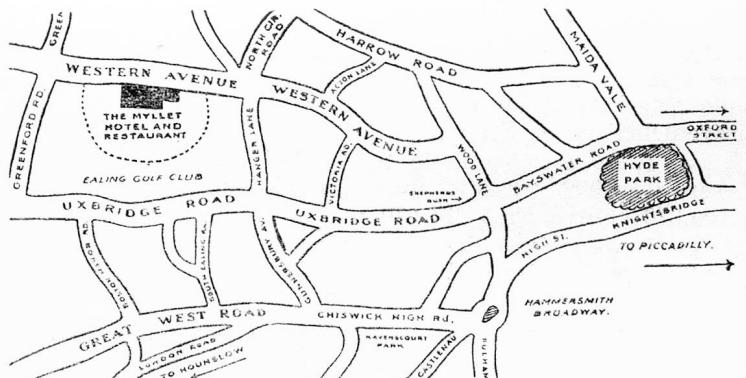
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