

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1954)

Heft: 1241

Rubrik: Commercial news

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. [Mehr erfahren](#)

Conditions d'utilisation

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. [En savoir plus](#)

Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. [Find out more](#)

Download PDF: 01.08.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>

COMMERCIAL NEWS

Switzerland's economic relations with Ethiopia.

The visit to Switzerland of His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie the First, Emperor of Ethiopia, draws attention to this vast African country, the origins of which go back to times immemorial. This interest is not only felt in political circles, but also in economic ones, where Ethiopia is regarded as being an immense territory, with possibilities of development which have hardly been touched upon as yet.

To be frank, trade between Switzerland and Abyssinia is still on a modest scale, and this, moreover, almost entirely one-sided. In 1953, for example, Switzerland bought goods from Ethiopia to the value of nearly seven million francs, whilst only selling her own products to the value of 725,000 francs.

Trade since the last World War, has remained pretty stable. There have not been any spectacular increases, either on one side or the other. Of what do these imports consist? About three-quarters of the purchases made by Switzerland in Ethiopia are in respect of foodstuffs: beans, lentils and coffee. Coffee, more especially, represents approximately 50 per cent of Swiss imports from that country. The remainder consist of raw leather and skins, oleaginous grain and fruits, malt germs, pharmaceutical raw materials and beeswax.

As for our exports, 40 per cent of them are composed of articles from the watchmaking industry, 15 per cent of chemical and pharmaceutical products, and the remainder of chocolate, cheese, cattle for breeding and machinery. The part played by machinery in these exports is not very important, in fact it hardly attains 6 per cent of the total.

It is thought in Swiss competent circles that trade between our country and Ethiopia could be considerably developed in the future. Indeed, Ethiopia is only at the beginning of her economic development. She possesses large mining resources, which, up to the present, have hardly been exploited at all. Agriculture, also, can be developed by means of the introduction of modern methods. There is practically everything to be done still for the mechanical

and industrial equipment of the country. A useful and important role could be played there by the countries of Western Europe. Switzerland, more particularly, in addition to the consumer goods which she supplies already, could deliver machinery for the equipment of the food producing industries, for the extraction and the refinement of oil and for the equipment of electric plants.

The relatively small part occupied by Swiss exports in the foreign trade of Ethiopia as a whole, is to be attributed to a large extent, for the time being, to the currency régime which is in force in that country. It is to be hoped, however, that these obstacles are only of a transitory nature. As the economic development of the country progresses, Swiss exports to Ethiopia of consumer goods, such as foodstuffs, watches and pharmaceutical products are also capable of expanding in the long run. Moreover, exports from Ethiopia will not fail to benefit from this, also.

Treasured the world over

Panda
REGD.
ribbons

Everyone adores them they're so so gay and colourful in a variety of designs:— stripes, spots, checks and tartans. Also self colours in satins, taffetas, failles and petershams. Ask for "Panda" and know you are buying the best.



Regd. Trade Mark

SELECTUS LIMITED
BIDDULPH · STOKE-ON-TRENT
Telephone: Biddulph 3316-7. Telegrams: Selectus,
Stoke-on-Trent. WHOLESALE & SHIPPING

**SHIPPING
FORWARDING
INSURANCE
PACKING**

ALLIED HOUSE:
SWISS SHIPPING Co. Ltd.,
RITTERGASSE 20,
BASLE.

COMPTON'S

LIMITED

**12a & 13, WELL COURT,
BOW LANE, LONDON, E.C.4**

SPECIAL SERVICES TO SWITZERLAND
by TRAIN FERRY (the ALL RAIL Route)
by RHINE CRAFT (the ALL WATER Route)

**SEA
LAND
AIR
RHINE**

ALLIED HOUSE:
JOHN IM OBERSTEG & Co. Ltd.,
AESCHENGRABEN 24/28,
BASLE.

CONTINENTAL FREIGHT AGENTS TO THE BRITISH RAILWAYS

Tel.: CITY 4053

Cables: COMNAVIR