

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: - (1956)

Heft: 1282

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: 09.01.2026

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

COMMERCIAL NEWS

The Swiss Capital Market.

During a long time, and right up to two years ago, the Swiss Money and Capital Market was characterised by a very great liquidity. Since then, this tendency has become modified, and during the first half of this year, a certain tension even was to be observed on the money market, with, as a result, an increase in the rates of interest. This movement affects not only long term investments, but also Swiss short term bonds and debentures, of which the average rate of interest has gone up to about 3.5 per cent.

Hungry Switzerland.

The Swiss people will soon be called upon to express their opinion by means of a vote, on the new constitutional statute of the Wheat Order. The problem in question is a very important one as Switzerland herself only produces half of the wheat required for the feeding of the population. Thus, the importation of wheat is a primary element of this new Swiss Wheat Order, which provides, in particular, for the constitution of considerable reserves. At the present moment, Switzerland already maintains reserves amounting to 400,000 tons, that is to say, sufficient for the provisioning of the country during ten months. The Swiss Government will take it upon itself to see to the proper care and the repartition of these stocks, while at the same time taking all necessary measures for the maintenance of prices at a stable level. The new Wheat Statute will also enable the Swiss Government to ensure the marketing of the home-grown wheat at a price which will guarantee production, and also to regulate imports should the provisioning of the country with wheat be menaced.

Interesting Swiss realisation in the chemical field.

During the course of the last war, the Soviet scientists succeeded in isolating a new antibiotic, which was used successfully as an external disinfectant for wounds and as a stimulant for the regeneration of tissues. This antibiotic, the name of which is Gramicidine, had not been, until now, accessible for synthesis. Lengthy research work, which was undertaken by an important firm, belonging to the Swiss chemical industry, has now opened the way to the exploration of this domain, and an important practical result has just been achieved in that the

synthesis of this Gramicidine has now been realised. This achievement would seem to give promise of interesting therapeutical prospects.

Swiss emigration.

During the last few years, emigration from Switzerland to overseas countries has been on a very small scale, and it is only since the beginning of this year that there has been a slight, but perceptible increase in departures. During the seven first months of the year, more than 1,550 persons, of whom 650 were women, have left for abroad, this figure being 15% higher than that for the corresponding period in 1955.

Switzerland's external balance.

The figures for Switzerland's external balance, for 1955, have just been published; these are based partly on firmly established figures, and, partly, on estimates. The credit side of Switzerland's balance of payments amounts to more than 660 million francs for 1955, which represents a decline of nearly forty per cent in comparison with previous years. This decline may be imputed to a large extent to Switzerland's unfavourable trade balance, which increased considerably, last year. The most important favourable items in the balance of payments are constituted by tourist traffic, which attains nearly 600 million francs, and the yield from capital invested abroad. Other services rendered, such as insurance, transit trade and goods transport, also contribute towards compensating the traditionally unfavourable trade balance of this country.



Shoes by **Bally**
THE LONDON SHOE CO. LTD. *of Switzerland*
116/7 New Bond St. W.1: 260 Regent St. W.1: 21/22 Sloane St. S.W.1

Telegrams and Cables: TRANCOSMOS LONDON.

COSMOS FREIGHTWAYS

INTERNATIONAL FREIGHT FORWARDERS

By Road, Rail Sea and Air

1, CATHEDRAL STREET,
LONDON BRIDGE, LONDON, S.E.1.

REGULAR GROUPAGE SERVICES WITH

SWITZERLAND

ANGLO-SWISS CUSTOMS EXPERTS.

Agents: WELTIFURRER INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT CO. Ltd., Zurich, Basle, Buchs, Schaffhausen, Geneva, St. Gall.

Telephone: HOP 4433 (8 Lines).

AGENCY
LIMITED.

OFFICIAL FREIGHT AND
PASSENGER AGENTS FOR
SWISSAIR AND ALL AIR LINES
TO SWITZERLAND AND ALL
PARTS OF THE WORLD.