

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: - (1959)
Heft: 1343

Artikel: News from home
Autor: Nef, Max
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690018>

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: 08.07.2025

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

NEWS FROM HOME.

By MAX NEF.

A survey of the development that has occurred in the Swiss economy and of the present situation of the "boom" — which has been rendered possible by the recent publication of an official report — shows us that the slight retrogression which was to be observed last year has now come to a standstill and, in certain branches of trade, has given way to a new upward swing. As a result, the value of exports has once more gone up slightly, in comparison with the preceding year. At the same time, a further decline is to be noted in respect of the figure (in value) for exports from the watchmaking, textile and footwear industries — all industries which play a considerable role in the economy of the country. A slight increase in imports was also perceptible at the turn of the year. This signifies that the rate of progress in the reduction of stocks has slowed down; in other words, that an increase in the number of orders received for the near future allows one to anticipate greater possibilities of production.

Prospects in the building trade for the erection of new houses would appear to be still favourable and increased employment is also to be expected in respect of public buildings. Trade and industry, on the other hand, continue to show a certain reserve in regard to building investments.

The development that has just been described has exercised a favourable effect on the Labour Market. No marked changes have occurred in the level of wage rates, so that the demand for consumer goods has become more or less stabilised, and this — when viewed as a whole — at a satisfactory stand, even if certain differences and slight fluctuations are perceptible in regard to the various categories of goods.

All these facts are reflected in the Money and Capital Market. After a temporary, but considerable, shortage of funds, the flow of money into the banks and other possibilities for utilisation has now, once more, become stronger. This greater liquidity of the Money and Capital Market is due partly to the higher proceeds obtained by trade with foreign countries. Moreover, in consequence of the afore-mentioned reduction in stocks, industry has had a smaller need for credit. The Confederation has repaid a loan and there are only a few new capital loans, of a domestic order, being issued. A certain counterbalance to this is provided by foreign applications for capital and the need for funds to satisfy the credits required for building purposes. The lowering of the Swiss bank-rate, which has just been decided upon by the Swiss National Bank, is also bound up with this new liquidity on the Money and Capital Market, the effects of which have resulted in a decline in the rates of interest and the yield from investments. The Management of the Issuing Bank declares, however, that the step it has taken must not be looked upon as being a signal for any easier granting of credits or support for trade. In the general interests of the country and the maintenance of a continued peaceful and steady development of the present satisfactory economic situation on a high level of employment, it would seem to be far more desirable that the banks should employ the ample funds which they have at their disposal with the greatest circumspection and the careful consideration, from an economic standpoint, of the real requirements of the case.

THE ANGLO-SWISS INSURANCE & REINSURANCE AGENCY LTD

29/30, High Holborn, London, W.C.1

Telephone: CHAncery 8554

draw the attention of merchants, forwarding agents and firms connected with Switzerland engaged in the import and export trades to the fact that the SCHWEIZ ALLGEMEINE VERSICHERUNGS-AKTIEN-GESELLSCHAFT, Zurich, have a British subsidiary company the **Switzerland General Insurance Co. (London) Ltd.**, offering the facilities of a first class British insurance company backed by the Swiss company and a world-wide agency organisation. Insurances can be effected at very competitive rates with personal service and advice given where required. We have special facilities for arranging insurances with this company and welcome enquiries.

Insist on KUNZLE



Art Dessert

CHOCOLATE ASSORTMENT

... like Kunzle Cakes — a compliment to Good Taste

C. KUNZLE LTD. BIRMINGHAM

Two other events have just aroused considerable interest and should therefore be mentioned, although they belong to quite another domain. In view of the fact that next year will be the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Henry Dunant, who was the founder of the Red Cross, and because in five years' time it will be the hundredth anniversary of the day on which was founded the world-embracing humanitarian idea, which was conceived by Swiss citizens and born on Swiss territory, and because these events must be recalled in a solemn and fitting manner, an Honorary Committee has been set up, with the President of the Swiss Confederation at its head, the aim of which is to erect a monument in Geneva, the native town and birthplace of both Henry Dunant and the Red Cross. Another monument is to be set up in the village of Heiden, in the Canton of Appenzell, in which Henry Dunant spent the last twenty years of his life, and where he died. A widespread collection is to be organised for the purpose of obtaining the necessary money, an appeal being addressed to the entire nation for its generous contribution. The whole of the Swiss people feel that they are closely bound to the Red Cross idea and they are proud of the fact that the central International Organisation is to be found in Geneva, so that its home is on Swiss soil.

N.S.H. HONOUR A. STAUFFER.

Fred Stauffer has now been connected with the "Swiss Observer" for three decades and of those has occupied the editor's chair for a quarter of a century. Such long service warrants celebration in any case, but particularly so when it is connected with the Colony's "own newspaper". It was therefore a very appropriate decision of the Council of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique to entertain Mr. and Mrs. Stauffer, to enable members of the society and others to say "THANK YOU".

The party took place on 19th May at the Swiss Hostel for Girls. The proceedings were opened with a simple supper (which, as usual, did honour to the management of the hostel). Afterwards, over a cup of coffee, the President, Mr. W. Renz, opened the official part of the evening. He briefly explained the purpose of their meeting and offered a hearty welcome to the guests of honour. In a few words he told us, what of course we already knew, of the work of Mr. Stauffer, first as contributor, then for twenty-five years as editor, of the "Swiss Observer". He then called on H.E. our Ambassador Dr. Daeniker, to offer the main eulogy of the evening.

Dr. Daeniker spoke of the zeal and skill with which the "Swiss Observer" had been and was being edited. The founder of the paper, the late Mr. P. F.



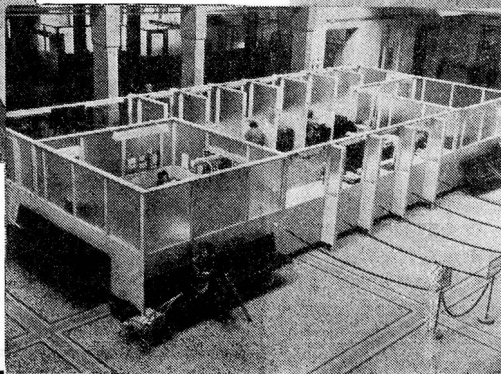
**They can be dismantled
and re-erected to suit
any change of plan**

ACROW

STEEL PARTITIONS

For all purposes

IN HEIGHTS
FROM
7ft. TO 23ft.



Send for full details NOW! to:-

ACROW (ENGINEERS) LTD.
SOUTH WHARF, LONDON, W.2

Telephone : AMBassador 3456 (20 lines)

Branches at : BIRMINGHAM · BRISTOL · CARDIFF
GLASGOW · LEEDS · LIVERPOOL · MANCHESTER
NEWCASTLE · SAFFRON WALDEN · SOUTHAMPTON