

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: - (1960)

Heft: 1356

Rubrik: Letter from Switzerland

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: 13.08.2025

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

LETTER FROM SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland and Nuclear Energy

At the end of last year, the Swiss Parliament voted a "law governing atomic energy and protection against radiation", which completes Swiss legislation in this field. Thus, in spite of the newness and complexity of these problems, the Swiss government has succeeded, in a comparatively short time, in laying down the legal basis for the production and use of this new source of energy.

However, Switzerland had not waited for this law before taking an active part in nuclear work on an international level. The establishment of CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) in Geneva is eloquent proof of this. The Confederation has also joined the European Agency for Nuclear Energy set up by OEEC. It takes part therefore in Eurochemic at Moll, in Belgium, and in the construction as well as the running of experimental reactors at Halden (Norway) and in Great Britain. Finally, Switzerland belongs to the International Agency of Atomic Energy in Vienna. Let us also mention the bilateral agreements concluded with several countries or at present in the course of preparation.

Meanwhile the country's economic circles, in permanent contact with the government, have prepared themselves for the advent of the new atomic era. A group of industrialists under the name of *Réacteur S.A.* have set up a research and experimental centre possessing two reactors. They have also formed two consortiums with a view to the construction of experimental reactors of entirely Swiss manufacture. Other projects are under study.

Switzerland has therefore already done great work in the atomic field. She is primarily interested in it because of her own needs. At present, the Swiss

economy consumes 78,000 million kWh of gross energy per year — three-quarters of this amount coming from abroad, representing an increase of 33,000 million units in the short space of ten years. This energy is accounted for as follows: 45% by liquid fuels, 23% by coal, 22% by electricity, 7% by wood and peat and, finally, 3% by gas. With regard to electricity, the country produces 99% of its requirements from its own numerous hydraulic resources. When, fifteen years from now, all the likely possibilities have been made full use of, the total output of hydro-electric energy will amount to 34,000 million kWh. Any needs beyond this ceiling — and consumption is increasing by 4 to 5% each year — will have to be supplied by thermal power stations, and use will certainly be made of fissile materials.

In order to satisfy home demand, the Swiss machinery industry will be required to manufacture the plant for the nuclear power stations within the country. But working as it does chiefly for export, it will naturally also look for outlets for its new products to other countries, especially as numerous countries now being developed cannot possibly think of constructing big hydro-electric installations, which require complicated and expensive substructures and a vast transport set-up which they do not possess as yet. Better than any other source of power, nuclear energy will make it possible to develop those parts of the world that are not yet fully equipped and are still difficult to reach. At present exporting some 60% of its steam boilers and electrical appliances, and as much as 75% of its steam turbines, Swiss industry is getting ready to supply the production goods and complete plant that will be required for nuclear power stations during the next few decades.

SCHWEIZERBUND

(SWISS CLUB)

74, CHARLOTTE STREET, W.I

Tel. MUSEUM 2660 and 0036

NOW OPEN FOR LUNCH

FROM 12 NOON TO 3 P.M.

licensed from 11.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m.

A LA CARTE

UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF

M. & Mme. F. VUISTINER (Chef de Cuisine)

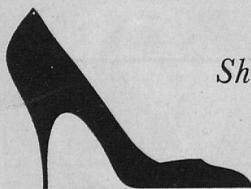
For Banquets up to 150 persons or any special arrangements,
e.g. Theatre Parties, Weddings, etc., please telephone MUS 0036



Better off in Switzerland

Please tell your friends over here how much more they get for their money in Switzerland. They get better value in Swiss hotels—full board and lodging can be theirs from only 25/- per day. They get cheaper travel in our adorable country—Holiday Tickets—Regional and Local Season Tickets—children travel free up to the age of six and half rate up to sixteen on railways, steamers and Alpine Postal Coaches. Travel Agents can offer them a fortnight's holiday, including the fare from London, for as little as £30.0.0. Switzerland with its magnificent alpine scenery, lidos on the lovely lakes, carefree gaiety of the resorts, splendid food and wine, offers the most successful recipe for a happy holiday. Tell them to consult their TRAVEL AGENT today, or write for general information to the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458 Strand, London, W.C.2.

Switzerland



Shoes by



of Switzerland

THE LONDON SHOE CO. LTD.
116/7 New Bond St. W.1: 260 Regent St. W.1: 21/22 Sloane St. S.W.1

At this point it should be made clear that the production of nuclear energy is governed by very strict conditions concerning quality and the new technical questions it raises. However Swiss industry is quite used to solving a wide range of difficult problems of manufacture; the standard of training of its specialists and its traditions of good workmanship have always been its strong point; finally, as atomic constructions do not involve mass-production in any way, the part played by manpower is greater than that played by raw materials. All the reasons that have encouraged Swiss industries to develop the manufacture of turbines, generators, alternators, etc., still apply to-day in the nuclear field, which enters into their traditional line of activity.

SP OSEC — January 1960.

CRONACA NOSTRANA.

L'annata economica 1959 presenta per il Canton Ticino un bilancio, per molti aspetti, positivo. L'agricoltura anzitutto non ha conosciuto particolari avversità climatiche nella produzione vegetale e neppure epizoozie che, di tempo in tempo, colpiscono il patrimonio zootecnico cantonale con conseguenze nefaste soprattutto quando queste si verificano durante la stagione d'alpeggiatura. Ne consegue che la stagione ha dato risultati più che soddisfacenti nel campo delle coltivazioni, raggiungendo punte eccezionali nel settore vinicolo. Qui basti dire che la vendemmia 1959 ha registrato, nella sola produzione del vino, un reddito primato e che, per la prima volta, nella storia cantonale, ha raggiunto i 10 milioni di franchi corrispondenti ad un reddito medio per viticoltore di Fr 763, contro i Fr 542 del 1958 ed i Fr 310 del 1957. Buoni pure i risultati d'alpeggiatura, mentre piuttosto fermo il commercio del bestiame dove, d'anno in anno, le già rinomate fiere ed i mercati periodici vanno perdendo d'importanza. Parallelamente al miglioramento quantitativo e qualitativo della produzione agricola è continuata, a ritmo sostenuto, l'azione in favore delle migliorie fondiarie, sotto forma di bonifiche, raggruppamenti di terreni e costruzioni di strade che consentono di avvalorare aree di terreno anche in zone fuori mano in modo da poter compensare, almeno parzialmente, le sempre più vaste superfici che vengono sottratte all'agricoltura dallo sviluppo edilizio che alla periferia dei centri urbani e nelle stesse località di campagna ha raggiunto proporzioni imponenti. Nel settore delle costruzioni è continuata a ritmo intenso, la costruzione di nuovi alloggi, favorita anche da alcuni fra i più lungimiranti Comuni del Cantone che offrono, a chi costruisce, allettanti condizioni. Nel settore commerciale infine è stata viepiù sentita l'azione dei grandi complessi commerciali che restringono il campo riservato al commercio indigeno. E' da rilevare poi che il commercio al minuto risente della concorrenza indiretta dei mercati italiani delle zone contigue (Como, Varese, Luino, Cannobio) largamente frequentate dai ticinesi. Nel settore della produzione delle paste alimentari in particolare, si assiste al preoccupante fenomeno dell'invasione del prodotto italiano, che per le particolari condizioni in cui è fabbricato, è in grado di battere largamente quello indigeno. Senza un congruo inasprimento delle tariffe doganali, questa nostra industria, che ebbe già notevole sviluppo ed importanza, è destinata a contrarsi viepiù ed a scomparire.