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The evolution of the different branches of industry will not undergo any appreciable change. Activity will grow more intense however in civil engineering and the building trade. The growth will probably be high again in the chemical industry, the machinery and apparatuses industry and in the graphic arts. Watchmaking on the other hand will be up against very keen world competition. The present growth in services may be expected to continue in 1969. It should also be noted that the satisfaction of the needs of the leisure sector will offer more and more scope for industry.

Threat to the stability of prices

The predicted rate of growth of the gross national product, amounting to 3 to 4%, seems satisfactory. However, overemployment will undoubtedly become more marked and will lead everywhere to an increase in wages exceeding the improvement in productivity. Consequently the period of comparative stability of prices might come to an end this year. As a result of the increase in imports, the balance of revenues will approach equilibrium. A similar trend in the balance of payments will depend on the movements of capital, which are unpredictable in periods of monetary insecurity. The Economic Research Committee considers, finally, that it should be possible to cope more effectively with the recurring inflationary trends. At present, however, the government and the National Bank are not sufficiently prepared to ward off these threats.

(Swiss Office for Development
of Trade = O.S.E.C.)

ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

Ambassador H. A. F. Hohler, British diplomatic representative to Switzerland, gave a clarification of the Swiss attitude to Rhodesian economic sanctions at a lunch of the English-Speaking Club in Lausanne. Mr. Hohler has Swiss connections, his family having come from the Aargau.

The British Leyland Motor Corporation Ltd. intends, for the first time, to take up a loan (5½%) of 60 million Swiss francs.

The new British Consul-General in Geneva is Mr. Laurence James Evans, who replaces Miss Cornelia J. Polak.

Sir Dudley Cunliffe Owen is the new President of the Cresta Club at St. Moritz, in succession to Lord Derek Brabazon of Tara.

Swiss painters and architects were very well represented at a retrospective exhibition at the Royal Academy in London, called "50 Years Bauhaus".

The Swiss pianist Fernande Kaeser was awarded the Beethoven Medal of the International Harriet Cohen Prize in London.

British European Airways will be introducing a new "Businessmen's" flight between Basle and London, beginning 1st April. A "Trident" will do daily return flights from Basle, allowing Swiss businessmen a day in London.

As was announced in our last issue, the ratification instruments of the Anglo-Swiss agreement on Social Security were exchanged in London on 19th February, a year after signing it.

The Agreement extends those of 1953 and 1959. Newly included are the Swiss Invalidity Insurance and the corresponding benefits of the British sickness insurance Scheme and family allowances. It improves the present ruling regarding the change-over from the health insurance scheme of one country to that of the other.

(A.T.S., "Pro Helvetia" and
"Weekly Tribune".)

SWISS VOTERS DECIDED . . .

. . . in the Grisons to elect the Liberal Jakob Schutz as new member of the government.

. . . in the Canton of Neuchâtel that the minimum age for cantonal parliamentary candidates should be lowered from 25 to 20 years, that a new law for school accident insurance should be introduced.

. . . in the Canton of Aargau where the fifth seat in the Government had to be filled, to elect *Oberrichter* Dr. Joerg Ursprung (BGB Party) which will leave the Party representation as before (two Social Democrats, one each Liberal, BGB and Conservative Christian Socialist).

. . . in Zurich to spend 18.5 million francs on improving the water supplies on the left bank of the Limmat, to raise the fine of one to three francs for not collecting voting papers, to grant a loan of 9m. to the Foundation "Krankenhaus Sanitas" Kilchberg and to give a one-time allowance to old-age pensioners and citizens entitled to assistance.

. . . at Wetzikon, Gossau, Sursee, Ruettenen (So) and Egg (Zch) to have new schools. The project at Steffisburg was rejected, as was the plan to have a learners' swimming pool at the Duebendorf school Hoegler.

. . . at Wetzikon, Gossau, Aadorf (TG), Schattenhalb (a small Bernese village with only 940 inhabitants), and at Uster, to have various projects to improve water supplies and waste-water disposal arrangements.

. . . at Netstal (GL), to reject the scheme to have a garbage incineration plant on the Commune's territory.

. . . in three more Solothurn Communes to grant women (R.C. communities) the vote in Church matters.

. . . at Auvernier (NE) not to grant permission to have a dance hall.

(By courtesy of Agence
Télégraphique Suisse.)

DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples have recently celebrated their Diamond Weddings: Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Sophie Haas-Pfulg, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz and Antonia Zuercher-Binas and Mr. and Mrs. Rudolf and Marie Arnold-Bernhard, all three couples in Basle. Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Perrette (Nyon), Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich and Anna Luethi-Probst (Schlieren), Mr. and Mrs. Heinrich and Frieda Meier-Hassler (Oberglatt), Mr. and Mrs. Otto and Lina Hutterli-Wuethrich (Illnau) and Mr. and Mrs. Franz and Anna Stierli-Wick (Wil, SG) were also able to look back on 60 years of married life.

The Iron Wedding was celebrated at Herisau by Mr. and Mrs. Jakob and Frieda Schoch-Mueller.

("Basler Nachrichten" and A.T.S.)