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37th Lausanne National Fair



This important trade fair representing the Swiss economy as a whole will be opening its gates at Lausanne from September 8th to 23rd this year. Some 2,300 exhibitors will be displaying their products in the 22 halls of the Fair's huge premises, which cover over 1,200,000 square feet and each year attract more than 800,000 visitors.

During the course of this century, after having been the cradle of a number of fine, luxury industries, Switzerland has become one of the most industrial and industrialised countries in the world, its ancestral and modern trades both being equipped with the best that modern technique has to offer. This balance between its original activities and its more recent resources, the existence side by side of industry, trade, agriculture and craftwork, is shown most eloquently by the synthesis of the national production achieved at the Lausanne Fair. It is the embodiment of the spirit and labour of a people, their endeavours, their achievements, and the constantly new trends of an economy closely bound up with the world market.

With regard to the textile industry, not only is it a very important factor in Switzerland's foreign trade but it is at the same time a perfect example of Swiss labour and manpower used to transform foreign raw materials into finished products. Pure silk, raw cotton and, to a very large extent, raw wool and woollen yarns all have to be imported from countries like Egypt, the Sudan, the United States, Great Britain, Mexico, Peru, Syria, Para-

guay, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, South Africa, the East Indies, China, Japan and Italy. And each year Switzerland's 1,238 textile concerns export to countries all over the world artificial silks and silk fabrics, cotton yarns and fabrics, embroidery, knitwear and hosiery, amounting to a total value of almost 901 million francs.

Owing to keen world competition, the Swiss textile industry cannot afford to overlook any commercial outlet; that is why this industry takes part regularly—and to an ever increasing extent—in the Lausanne Fair, where its main exhibits consist of articles in wool and linen.

