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The 38th Lausanne National Autumn Fair and the Textile Industry

The 38th National Autumn Fair will be taking place in Lausanne this year from September 7th to 22nd. More than 2,300 exhibitors take part in this fair each year with displays of the latest products from all economic sectors of the country, and it is only lack of space that prevents the number from being even greater. This is irrefutable proof of the important part played in the Swiss economy by the Lausanne Fair, which covers an area of 1,300,000 sq. feet, over 700,000 sq. feet of which is taken up by exhibition stands. Divided into 22 sectors each occupying its own hall, Swiss industry, craftwork, agriculture and trade make this fair the focal point of the Swiss economy for a period of a fortnight. If further proof were required, the figure of over 800,000 visitors recorded annually during the last few years would also bear witness to the great importance of the Lausanne Fair.

Switzerland's textile industry — an important factor in her foreign trade — providing employment in its various branches for some 80,000 men and women, is dependent on other countries for its supplies of raw materials. Egypt and the Sudan, the United States, Peru, Brazil and the Congo, among others, supply the raw cotton it needs; raw silk comes from Japan, China and Italy; numerous countries, including France, Australia, South Africa, South America and Great Britain, provide raw wool and wool yarns. These materials are worked on in Switzerland and exported to countries all over the world in the form of silk and rayon fabrics, cotton yarns and fabrics, embroideries, hosiery and knitwear. In 1956 Switzerland's exports of textiles, which amounted to approximately 946 million Swiss francs, represented 15 % of the country's total exports.

Anxious to acquire new markets at home too, the Swiss textile industry is well represented — mainly by linen and wool — at the Lausanne Fair where it occupies a large part of one of the biggest halls. This year, in a slightly altered form, with stands arranged in a more rational



manner, it will be presenting the whole range of household linen, from the simplest for everyday use to the finest for special occasions, as well as the constantly improved products of the wool textile industry.



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