

Industrial activities in Switzerland silks and ribbons [continued]

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We welcome articles for the "Helvetia", but wish to draw attention to the fact that they must only concern themselves with Switzerland and its people.

I M P O R T A N T !

The Auslandschweizer Sekretariat wishes to notify all fellow-countrymen intending to visit our country this year, that the Auslandschweizertag of 1939 will take place in the Swiss National Exhibition in Zurich from July 29th to August 1st.

Please arrange your trip so as to be able to attend.

The 1939 Excursion Groups for young Swiss from foreign parts will take place from July 26th. to August 6th.

Please arrange your plans accordingly.

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INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND (continued)

(a) SILKS AND RIBBONS:

The silk industry plays one of the most important roles in the textile branch. Established in Switzerland some centuries ago, all phases of production from spinning to weaving of the most perfect materials are performed.

Weaving is the main branch of the Swiss silk industry. Located mainly in the canton of Zurich, this industry occupies an important rank on the world market. Annual production of silk materials, which amounted some years ago to a value of Frs. 200 millions, of which four-fifths at least were made for export, has suffered, as in the case of other silk-manufacturing centres, a marked restriction due to the fall in raw material and to the obstacles of every kind with which sales abroad meet.

Apart from the silk textiles, properly so called, mention must be made of the "bolted gauzes" (gazes à bluter) for they are a Swiss speciality whose annual production amounts to a value of Frs. 8 to Frs. 10 millions.

Swiss weaving is seconded by a powerful "finishing" industry (industrie de perfectionnement) - dyeing, preparing, printing, etc. It relies upon a foreign market. Silks for sewing and embroidering should also be mentioned, for this branch has been in existence for several centuries also, and its reputation crossed the Swiss frontier a long time ago. The same is true in the case of silks and rayons (crepes, grenadines, fancy weaves, etc.)

Finally, the trend taken during recent years by the rayon industry (viscose) is one of the most remarkable. The number of workers employed in this branch is about 4,000 and annual production is estimated at 5 million kilogrammes. Swiss viscose is exported to all countries.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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