

Industrial activities in Switzerland [continued]

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NEWS IN BRIEF:

100 years ago. Foot and mouth disease of cattle appears to be of no recent origin. An article appeared in the "Appenzeller Zeitung" dated 12th December, 1838, which indicates that this dreaded plague was well known even 100 years ago. It says:

"The cantonal Government of St. Gall has on account of the presence of Foot and Mouth disease prohibited cattle sales in the circuits of St. Gall, Tablat, Rorschach, Rheintal, Toggenburg, Wil and Gossau. Public prayers and processions were held in the Canton of Unterwalden for a termination of this scourge."

Faithful Servants: The Hotel "Schwanen Und Rigi" in Lucerne has in its personnel a considerable number of old servants. Fridolin Jnderbitzen has served this Hotel for 52 years and Miss Maria Schmid for 49 years. The "Concierge" has had 33 years of service, the Chef 22, the Headwaiter 14 and the porter 10 years.

Such faithfulness is an honour as well as a credit to the employers, as also to the employees.

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INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITIES IN SWITZERLAND (contd)

PRODUCTION VALUE.

Wide Range.

Cotton weaving, whose seat is also in the north-west of Switzerland, employs about 21,000 mechanical looms distributed among 100 enterprises. The total average production today amounts to 100 million francs.

Cotton production covers all articles in demand, notably muslins, voiles and the finest chiffons. These latter are a speciality of the Toggenburg and Zurich Oberland districts which, alone with England, nowadays produce weaves of so perfect a quality. "Bobinet" (bobbin) weaves and featherstitch-heavies, crosses, plucked and quilted, multi-coloured and "faconnés," etc., are equally sought after.

Mention should also be made of the weaving of coloured textiles, dyeing and cotton prints. All these branches of the cotton textiles industry have their main seat in the northern and eastern parts of Switzerland.

(c) Embroideries -

Embroidery is one of the characteristic branches of the Swiss cotton industry. It has reached a great stage of development in the cantons of St. Gall, Thurgovia and Appenzell, the town of St. Gall being the very centre of the industry. Hand embroidery (needlework) of the Appenzell workrooms is always renowned.

There are about 1,590 shuttle looms and 2,900 hand looms. Thanks to the persevering efforts of the merchants, Swiss embroideries have been able to maintain the high international reputation which they have always enjoyed. Manufacturers have, indeed, preserved the excellent habit of following fashion very closely and of maintaining constant relations with the great centres, such as Paris, so that new models are always being created and products adapted to the continually changing demands from consumers.

Embroidery has again come very much in favour. The trend of feminine fashions is for materials ornamented by embroidery in rich and original designs for use as blouses, dresses, evening gowns and underwear.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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