

The threat of unemployment is still slight

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Switzerland provides proof of this astonishing productive activity at the annual Swiss Industries Fair in Basle where, on an exhibition area of roughly 1 million square feet, there are almost 2,300 exhibitors. This means that the Basle Fair provides the foreign buyer with a panoramic display of the resources of this little country which maintains extremely active commercial relations with the whole world. We can quote as a demonstration of this fact that Switzerland is bound at present by 56 commercial treaties with foreign countries.

ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN SWITZERLAND AND GREAT BRITAIN

Economic negotiations have been taking place between Switzerland and Great Britain, first of all in London, then in Berne, in order to come to an agreement on the arrangements under which future exchanges of goods and payments will be made with the sterling area. An agreement has been concluded and details will be published as soon as it has been signed. The individual allowance for English tourists will remain unchanged at £50, making it possible for some 130,000 British tourists to come and spend their holidays in Switzerland.

THE THREAT OF UNEMPLOYMENT IS STILL SLIGHT.

The year 1949 showed a slight falling off in the figures for unemployment, aggravated in January and February by an extension of the winter unemployment period. However, various measures and circumstances have lessened the effects of this economic depression. First of all, as changes in the situation permitted, firms continued to dismiss their foreign labour and engaged only a limited number of new foreign workers. On the other hand, a great number of people who in normal times do not belong to the ranks of wage-earners have again left the economic circuit, having temporarily entered it during the post-war boom period. These facts have made it possible to maintain relatively favourable conditions in the labour market. For every thousand wage-earners, there were five wholly unemployed in 1949, as against two in 1948 and thirty-five in 1938.

O B I T U A R Y

It is with great regret that we have to publish the passing away of our member, Josef Daniel FELLER. He died of ulcerous stomach hemorrhage at the Auckland General Hospital.

Mr. Feller came out to New Zealand in the late 'twenties and had the misfortune to lose his wife at childbirth in 1933. We find that Mr. Feller had few friends among the Swiss community, being of rather shy and retiring disposition. The Swiss Benevolent Society was represented at the funeral and a wreath was donated. Mr. Feller's father, aged 86, is living in Bellinzona, and it will be sad news for him to hear of his son's sudden death. We extend our deepest sympathy.

NEW MEMBERS

We are very glad to announce that the following friends have joined our Society in recent months :

- Miss Lina Benz, c/o Dr. Gordon, Page Street, STRATFORD.
- Mrs. A. Gobubvic " " " STRATFORD.
- Rev. H.A. Gould, 7, Andrew Street, NAPIER
- Mr. Max Fuhrer, c/- Dale Field Co-op. CARTERTON
- Mr. Anton Tresch, c/o Steff Chateau, TONGARIRO
- Mr. Niklaus Oetiker, c/O N.Z. Dairy Co. Hostel,)
- Metangi) HAMILTON
- Mr. Ernest Friedli, do, do, HAMILTON.
