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17th YEAR.

MARCH, 1953.

AUCKLAND.

NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

Switzerland and the Schuman Plan.

It is expected that the European Coal and Steel Community will not remain without influence upon Switzerland's economy, although the extent of possible repercussions cannot be estimated with any accuracy at the moment. The Swiss Government has therefore suggested to the Community's High Authority in Luxembourg to accredit a Swiss delegation. Its task would be to discuss with the High Authority all questions involving Swiss interests, in particular questions of imports, prices, and transportation of coal and steel.

The Swiss Pavilion at the International Industries Fair, Frankfurt.

Switzerland had her own pavilion at the International Industries Fair in Frankfurt, Germany. Two hundred Swiss companies displayed their goods, 75 of these in the different halls, and 125 in the pavilion organised by the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade. All the most important Swiss exporting industries were represented at the Fair.

High Exports of Swiss Chocolate in 1952.

The high quality and variety of Swiss chocolate products are known all over the world. This explains why last year, despite the considerable difficulties which still hamper chocolate imports in many countries, Switzerland has exported about 21 million francs' worth of this product.

Tourist Trade Exhibition in Switzerland, 1954.

Representatives of the Swiss tourist trade have taken steps to organise an exhibition in the spring of 1954 in Bern. The show will cover an area of 150,000 square meters and will be divided into eight sections devoted to tourism, cooking, restaurants and hotels, household problems, etc. It will be the largest show of its kind which has

ever been held in Switzerland or in any other country.

Slight Price Decrease in Switzerland.

Retail prices in Switzerland have been remarkably stable during the last year and this period of stability will probably extend well into 1953. The cost of living index in January was at 169.9, 0.6 per cent. below the level of last December. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices of meat, eggs, clothing and coal. Wholesale prices also have declined 1 per cent. and now stand at 215.5, August 1939 = 100.

The following are the final results of Switzerland's latest Census of Manufactures, for September, 1952, which have just been released by the Swiss Office of Industry and Labour. As compared with September, 1951, manufacturing establishments have increased by about 100, bringing the total number up to 11,600. At the same time the number of workers protected by the Factory Act has increased from 545,800 to 548,300. This is the highest number registered so far in the country's history. If white collar workers are included, the total number of employees in Swiss manufacturing is brought to about 640,000. This is almost one-fourth of all gainfully employed in Switzerland.

Fashion Show at the Kloten Airport.

Exports of the Swiss clothing industry last year amounted to 63 million francs, 2 million francs more than in 1951. Approximately 20 million francs are accounted for by exports of overcoats and ready-made dresses. Belgium-Luxembourg is one of the main buyers of Swiss clothing, and in 1952 exports to that country were no less than 11 million francs. Recently a group of Belgian fashion editors on transit in Switzerland have attended a fashion show at the Zurich-Kloten airport. The foreign guests have been impressed by the remarkable variety, the high quality and elegant design of Swiss ready-made clothing.