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## Problems and prospects

Although she imports over 6 million tons of petroleum products annually, Switzerland has no tankers of her own. This deficiency is a result of the structure of the petroleum market, since the big foreign companies which supply the Swiss market are organisations handling all operations right through from the initial prospecting to the final refining. Under these circumstances, the Swiss importer, forming an integral part of the chain, has no part to play in the field of transport.

The future of Swiss shipping is to a large extent bound up with the development of both national and world trade, since Swiss ship-owners also work for foreign principals. With Switzerland's trade steadily growing and world trade expanding considerably, the Swiss merchant navy's prospects are exceedingly promising.

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## Laugh a little . . .

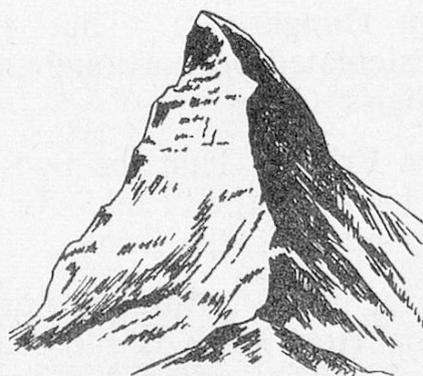
Americans and Englishmen like to tease one another. Ships which pass the Rock of Gibraltar have to communicate their arrival to the fortress. When the world's largest atom-powered warship, the "Enterprise", passed through the strait, the English radioed: "What ship?" As an answer the reply was "What rock?"

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