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FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Trade Returns.

The trade returns for the final quarter of 1921 are at last available, and it is now possible to obtain a comprehensive survey of the effects of the trade conditions of 1921 of the country's exports and imports. Thus the total imports for 1921 amounted to 2,296.29 million francs, as compared with 4,242.82 millions in 1920, while exports fell from 3,277.10 millions in 1920 to 2,140.2 millions last year.

The highest quarterly figures reached during the boom period were those of the second quarter of 1920, when the imports were valued at 1,096 million francs, and exports at 898 millions. Against this, imports had fallen in the third quarter of 1921 to 408 millions (to rise in the last quarter to 552 millions) and exports to 500 millions in the last quarter.

The following table shows the values of imports and exports to and from Switzerland for the last two years (in millions of francs):—

		Imports		Exports		
		1920	1921	1920	1921	
1st	Quarter	 1043.14	782.63	866.39	495.9	
2nd	.,	 1096.27	553.14	898.66	513.1	
3rd	,,,	 1068.85	408.22	820.41	630.5	
4th	,,	 1034.55	552.30	691.64	500.7	
	Total	 4242.82	2296.29	3277.10	2140.2	

The export figures include the export of gold bars, which amounted for the whole year to 376,200,000 frs. and included the considerable figure of 211,400,000 frs. in the third quarter.

It will be seen that the effects of the trade slump have not been uniform upon imports and exports, though in the fourth quarter a certain balance has been arrived at.

The apparent increase of imports in the last quarter as compared with the preceding period is to be accounted for to some extent by the fact that in the third quarter's returns many items were only valued provisionally, since the new Customs tariff was then of too recent date to make accurate accounting possible. Thus there were many outstanding entries to be added to the final quarter's accounts. The effect of the new tariff is illustrated by the Customs receipts which showed an increase from 28.58 million francs in the third quarter to 52.17 million francs in the last. And the effect stands out still more clearly when the whole year's total receipts of 117 millions and those of the preceding year, amounting to 98.03 millions, are compared with the corresponding value of commodities imported in the two

The value of Switzerland's exports of the principal national products and manufactures were as follows:-

for strict two and for the second		In mil	lion of	francs.	
	1921		1920		1919
Watches, Clocks, etc	184		344		328
Embroidery	126		392		410
Silk goods	181		399	·	427
Machinery	244		306		252
Cotton goods	174		222		296
Dyestuffs	58	,	196		124

These figures are eloquent of the way in which Swiss industries have been affected by the general trade depression.

Coming Canton of Geneva Loan.

The Canton of Geneva is making preliminary arrangements for the issue of a 30 million francs loan, the object of which will be to consolidate the existing floating debt, which at the end of 1920 amounted to 25,700,000 frs. The new loan will probably be issued at 95% and be for a term of 12 years. It is understood that the Association of Swiss

Banks has agreed to underwrite firm two thirds of the whole issue of 20 million francs. The offer of the new loan for public subscription will probably be made at the beginning

Cantonal Bank of Neuchâtel.

The Neuchâtel Cantonal Bank had a net profit of 3,025,000 frs. for 1921 (3,013,164 frs. in 1920).

Liquidation of the Bank in St. Gall.

At a general meeting of shareholders held in St. Gall it was unanimously agreed to accept the directors' proposals and to go into liquidation.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

Bonds.			Mar.	13th	Mar	. 20th
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903			73.7	75%	73	5.00%
	oan	5%		75%		1.30%
Federal Railways A-K 3½%				35%		5.25%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921				00%		1.85%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892		·	68.6	63%	69	35%
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909				13%	100	0.17%
SHARES.						
Crédit Suisse			615	frs.	573	frs.
Union de Banques Suisses			541	frs.	588	frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation			600	frs.	608	frs.
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sando	Z		1140	frs.	1100	frs.
C. F. Bally S.A			612	frs.	628	frs.
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon			400	frs.	400	frs.
Enterprises Sulzer			425	frs.	433	frs.
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)			235	frs.	23	frs.
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed M		Co.	238	frs.	23	frs.
Chocolats Suisses Peter-Cailler-K			141	frs.	129	frs.
Compagnie de Navig'n sur le Lac	Lém	nan	482	frs.	48	frs.
	bound for					

The Swiss Bank Corporation have acquired the freehold of the extensive corner premises situate in Coleman Street and Gresham Street, which will be entirely rebuilt to suit the purposes of the Bank.

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