Zeitschrift:	The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber:	Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band:	- (1927)
Heft:	289
Rubrik:	Financial and commercial news from Switzerland

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FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND

The speech made by the Chairman, Mr. Leopold Dubois, at the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Bank Corporation held in Basle on of the Swiss Bank Corporation held in Basle on February 25th, dealt with a question which has for some time past been exercising the minds of the financial world in Switzerland, namely the issue of foreign loans in Switzerland. Speaking as the representative of what may be considered the most international of the Swiss banks, Mr. Dubois is well qualified to voice an opinion unprejudiced by any of the narrower national interests which have at times been allowed to obscure the horizon when

the matter has come up for discussion. Before the war, the number of foreign issues made directly in Switzerland was relatively few, but quite a number of foreign securities had been introduced on the Swiss Stock Exchanges through introduced on the Swiss Stock Exchanges through the medium of the banks. Great losses were in many cases sustained by the holders of such se-curities as a result of the war, though the other side of the picture must not be overlooked, and it is only right to bear in mind the gains recorded in North and South American securities. The peculiar circumstances of the war led to au exaggerated tendency to nationalisation of capital, and since the end of the war this has persisted. Swiss borrowers, the peasant class in particular and persons borrowing on mortgage, have blamed and persons borrowing on mortgage, have blamed capital export for the fact that interest rates have not fallen again to the pre-war level. Even the Federal Finance Department has looked somewhat askance at foreign issues.

askance at foreign issues. The objections raised are twofold. In the first place it is argued that the exchange is affected. This, in the light of the events of 1926, is an entire fallacy, since the banks have had and still have a stock of foreign exchange sufficient to still have a stock of foreign exchange sufficient to counterbalance any payments they may have to make to pay for securities issued in Switzerland. Moreover, it is important to notice that the Swiss markets have become international in character. The majority of subscribers to issues made in Switzerland are probably foreigners, who are pay-ing in foreign currency.

Switzerland are probably foreigners, who are pay-ing in foreign currency. The second objection refers to the rate of interest, but here Switzerland is only under the influence of factors which are world wide and the general rise in prices in every branch of com-merce must naturally also be felt when the com-modity in question happens to be money. The advantages of foreign issues in Switzer-land, on the other hand, are great. They give occupation in Stock Exchange and banking circles, lasting profits are secured for the country and an annual income in foreign exchanges is assured. In conclusion, Mr. Dubois urges that there should be due discrimination in selecting the type of foreign issue. Such discrimination may well be worth more than any legislation. OUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS	STOCK	EXCH.	ANGES.
Bonds.	Feb. 28		Mar. 8
Confederation 3% 1903 5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln Federal Railways 3½% A-K 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	82.25		82.50 101.75 84.25 102.50
SHARBS.	Nom	Feb. 28	Mar. 8
Swiss Bank Corporation Crédit Suisse Société pour l'Industrie Chimique Fabrique Chimique ei-dev. Sandoz Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe S.A. Brown Boveri C. F. Bally	Frs, 500 500 1000 1000 1000 350 1000 200 1000 500	Frs. 775 815 674 2603 4290 2825 565 1270 719 1071 1071	$1265 \\ 704 \\ 1052$
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	$500 \\ 100 \\ 500$	568 101 730	$555 \\ 102 \\ 725$



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