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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

SWISS TARIFF REVISIONS.

The Swiss Federal Council issued an Order on February 26 providing for various modifications in the Swiss Customs Tariff in conjunction with the measures for the further limitation of imports. This Order, which came into force on March 1, provides for an increase in the duty on a number of articles, the majority of which, however, are of no particular interest to British exporters. At the same time the following items, which are manufactured in Great Britain, will be affected to some extent: Various categories of paper, bitumen-coated cardboard and felt, aluminium ware, gramophones, cinematograph apparatus, electro-magnets and veneers. With regard to the limitation of imports, Great Britain will be less affected than a number of other countries; yet, in addition to motorcycles (which are subject to quotas), import licences will be required for certain rubber goods (including hot-water bottles), tools and footwear. Imports licences on footwear have been introduced because the higher rates of duty have not proved sufficiently effective to safeguard the interests of the local industry.

SWISS BANKS AND KREUGER INTERESTS.

The important Swiss commercial banks are understood to have no direct interests in the Kreuger group, and any effects of the present movements which may be felt in Switzerland will be experienced only through the holdings of private investors. There can be no question of the present difficulties having caused a withdrawal of funds away from the Swiss franc. A certain international movement of funds is always in progress.

SWISS IMPORTS OF MOTOR-CARS.

Swiss imports of motor-cars considerably increased last year, the increase being ascribed to the fall in prices. In all 10,427 cars were imported, against 9,823 in 1930, but the value fell from 65,000,000 to 62,000,000 francs. A good half of the imports from the United States, which maintains its place as the chief exporter of cars to Switzerland, but a remarkable thing is that Germany was able to increase her share, sending more than twice as many as in 1930. The other important supplying countries suffered a decline in export of cars to Switzerland.

SWISS ELECTRICAL EXPORTS.

The appended table shows the value of the exports of electrical machinery, apparatus, and cognate goods from Switzerland during last year as compared with 1930. It will be seen that except for slight increases in the case of accumulators and insulators, all the items show a decline, the gross decrease for 1931 amounting to £898,600, or over 25 per cent. as compared with the preceding year.

	1930.	1931.
	£	£
Electrical machinery	1,495,240	1,090,080
Electric locomotives	105,080	25,200
Electric apparatus and instruments	1,576,440	1,246,040
Telephonic and radio apparatus	79,480	47,320
Incandescent lamps	166,080	138,640
Copper cables	72,880	44,220
Electrodes	33,520	37,720
Accumulators	31,380	37,500
Porcelain insulators	20,820	15,600
Totals	£3,580,920	£2,682,320

NESTLE & ANGLO-SWISS CONDENSED MILK COMPANY.

Although earnings of the well-known Nestlé and Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company again show a decrease, shareholders are to receive a final payment on the Ordinary shares of 11 per

cent., making the total distribution once more 16 per cent. for the year.

The net profit for 1931 amounted to 21,277,371 francs (about £851,000 at par), against 26,382,777 francs (about £1,055,300) for 1930.

SWISS PARLIAMENTARY SESSION.

On the 7th inst., the two Chambers met in Session; in the State Council (Ständerat) the Credit of 750,000f. which the Federal Council has asked, for the acquiring of three houses in London for housing the Legation, was unanimously voted.

STATE AID FOR FOOTBALL.

For the first time in the history of Swiss football the Swiss Government has intervened officially to put an end to the long series of defeats sustained by the Swiss national team in international matches. During a consultation with the heads of the Swiss Football Association, the Military Department, which makes an annual subvention of £2,000 to the association, demanded that the national team should undergo better preparation for its matches, and that when playing abroad should travel with more time at its disposal than hitherto. The Department promised to use its influence with employers to secure the necessary leave for players.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The Zürcher Sechschläuten will take place on Monday, April 18th; on the previous day a great children's procession will take place.

The death is reported from Winterthur of Dr. ing. h. c. Jules Weber at the age of 84, the deceased was for many years President of the Board of the Schweiz. Lokomotiv Maschinenfabrik Winterthur, and was formerly chief engineer at the company's works.

The budget of the town of Winterthur for 1931 closes with a deficit of 197,000f., the budget was estimated to show a deficit of 687,440f.

BERNE.

Once again death has deprived the town of Burgdorf of one of their distinguished citizens. Dr. med. Hans Schöni, has died at the early age of 43 from a fatal attack of influenza.

The town fathers of Bern have decided to name the former Waisenhausstrasse in future, Ferdinand Hodler Strasse.

SCHWYZ.

The Hotel Bellevue, one of the best known hotels in Brunnen was partly destroyed by fire. The proprietor, M. Murmann had a narrow escape from being trapped by the flames. The damage is considerable, and no clue as to how the fire started has yet been found.

SOLOTHURN.

The accounts of the Canton Schaffhausen for 1931 close with a credit balance of 5,286f. instead of a deficit which was estimated at 13,040f.

GENEVA.

Only five British manufacturers are exhibiting their cars at the annual "Salon de L'Automobile," which is being held from March 11 to 20 in Geneva. Nearly two hundred foreign motor-car manufacturers are displaying their various makes.

This Geneva Motor Exhibition has become a yearly feature of the car market of Central Europe. Its value to manufacturers is not questioned, and as the present moment is peculiarly favourable to British exporters, surprise is expressed here that more British firms have not seized this opportunity of expanding their sales.

APPENZELL.

The keeper of the Sântis Observatory has just been re-elected by an aeroplane.

He is spending the winter alone on the top of the mountain at a height of 8,215ft., from which he telephones his meteorological observations. Recently being short of food and unable to descend owing to ill-health he telephoned for food and medicine.

One hour later an aeroplane from Zurich flew over the mountain top and dropped two bags of food, which landed safely near his hut. This feat is all the more remarkable as the top of Sântis is by no means large and is surrounded by deep precipices.

APPENZELL A.RH.

The deficit in the accounts for the year 1931 amounts to 204,056f.

THURGAU.

M. H. Schmid, Editor of the "Thurgauer Zeitung" has died in Frauenfeld at the age of 62.

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The former Manager of the Malzfabrik & Hafermühle Solothurn, M. Emil Brunner has, on the occasion of his 70th birthday anniversary, made a donation of 100,000f. to the town of Solothurn for various charitable institutions.

VAUD.

From Lausanne comes the news of the death of M. A. Manuel, Member of the Lausanne Bank Commission of the National Bank and a director of the "Feuille d'Avis" and other industrial concerns.

A credit of 560,000f. has been voted by the town authorities at Vevey for the re-construction of the Quai which in the year of 1877 fell into the lake.

FOOTBALL.

SWISS CUP ... SEMI-FINAL, 13th March.

In Basel: Basel1 Grasshoppers ...8
In Bern: Lausanne-Sports ...1 Urania2

I shall no more put my initials to forecasts of football results! With a heavy heart I write these notes. First, on Saturday, my old friends of the Bridge in whom I had once more placed full confidence, let me down for the umpteenth time and on Sunday Lausanne-Sports, who were also my fancy, succumb by an identical score, and all first half goals too! Well, well, and on my birthday to boot.

The new idea of playing the semi-finals on neutral grounds proved a financial fiasco in Bern, where only about 3,000 spectators attended. Anyhow, Grasshoppers made no mistake. I wonder how they managed to think eight times in 90 minutes that goals count! And Basel so proud of their famous goalkeeper too; imported, of course.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Half the games had to be postponed on account of unfavourable weather conditions:

Young Fellows0 Zurich2
Servette3 Carouge1
Biel5 Old Boys2

With this win over their nearest rivals Zurich have made sure of the championship in Groupe 1. Servette continue strong in adversity, registering their third consecutive win and thereby taking their first step, up the ladder again, forcing Etoile into last place. Old Boys, in spite of four gift-points from Servette are seventh with only 1 point advantage over Servette, who have a game in hand. (Well now, I almost started prophesying again!)

FIRST LEAGUE.

Cantonal9 Fribourg1
Locarno4 Black Stars0
Oerlikon3 Chiasso0

Here too snow stopped three games. Cantonal swamped Fribourg and go to third place. The tailend remains: Fribourg 9 points, Stade Lausanne 7 points and Monthey 4 points, all three having played 12 games.

In Groupe 2, Locarno displace Brühl at second place with 17 points against 15, but the St. Gallois have 2 games in hand. Oerlikon advanced to fourth place and get away from the other relegation candidates. (No, I won't tell you my opinion.)

INTERNATIONAL MATCH V. FRANCE.

This game will be played on the 20th inst., in Bern. The Swiss team has been chosen as follows:— Séchéhaye; Minelli, Weiler I; Hintermann, Imhof, Gilardoni; Tschirren, Abegglen III (Trello) Schärer, Abegglen II (Xam) and Jaeck.

All the defence remains the same as against Germany and Italy. In the forward line only Trello and Jaeck keep their places. Strs sign that at home too they know where more punch is needed. By the way, there will be no broadcast of this match.

M.G.

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