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The Stock Exchange of Zurich

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THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH. (By Leu & Co.'s Bank Limited, Zurich).

Zurich, 3rd May, 1937.

Zurich, 3rd May, 1937. Since the devaluation of the Swiss Franc the Zurich stock Exchange enjoyed an almost con-tinuous upward trend. Especially in the early part of April prices ranged highest and sagged only immaterially till last week, when the market suffered a more pronounced set-back. Fortun-ately however, same was by far not as severe as the relapse that took place in other centres such as Wall Street, London or Paris, where selling was almost panic like. A sudden break in com-modity-prices served as a fire-spark to cause this abrupt change. Evidently international specula-tion had over-estimated the capacity of world production. It needed therefore a very small shock only to make quotations tumble down. From where the first move came was difficult to say. Was it President Roosevelt's declaration of effective measures against exagerated priceeffective measures against exagenated price-expansion, or had the rumours of a possible change of the gold purchase policy of the United States and the fear for unpleasant consequences upon other currencies, brought this alteration about? Or was it that the world began to get too about? Or was it that the world began to get too familiar with the idea of peace which would put a halt to excessive armament, a possibility, the reality of which is still to be met with consider-able doubt? Or was the decided fall of the gilt-edged securities in the United States, England and elsewhere not to be considered as signs for a dry up of the wells that had so freely given credits? Anyway there seems to have been enough reason for a set-back and considerable nervousness about the future. Meanwhile, how-ever, prices are beginning to recover again and although the outlook is still clouded, the shake up is believed to have been beneficial for the market condition. market condition.

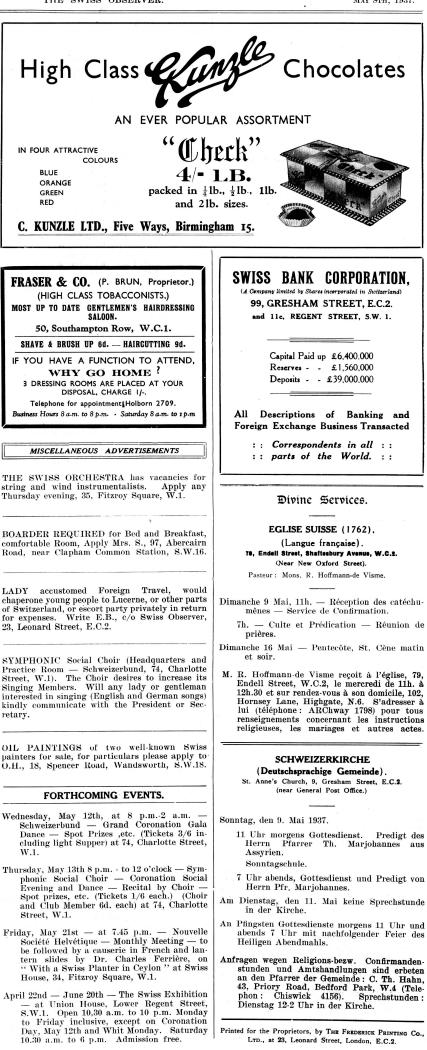
Bank shares as a rule maintained their level although daily fluctuations of 1 - 10 Frances were common. Considerably more agitated was the market with the Swiss Trust companies where losses are predominating. The share with the biggest activity was Motor-Columbus and second-ly Saeg. Other stocks, however, such as Elektro-bank, Indelec, Metallwerte, Italo-Suisse, Böhler-stahl and Soc. Genérale pour l'Industrie électr. lost more ground. Insurance-stock kept very well and the few alterations are of minor impor-tance. Swiss Industrials have fallen on the whole considerably below the prices a month ago. There are only very few exceptions with some gains, namely Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon and Fischer-stahl, both with gains of 20 Fr. up to 538 resp. 560. All the rest range lower according to the following list : Bank shares as a rule maintained their level following list :

	31st March	30th April
Aluminium-Industrie	2,760	2,680
A. G. Adolph Saurer	328	300
Brown Boveri	232	218
Lonza	125	117
Nestlé	1,123	1,073
Sulzer	765	753

It is needless to emphasize the fact that the international stocks such as Hispano, Royal Dutch, Baltimore and Pennsylvania were especi-ally vulnerable during the last few very weak days. Signs of recovery made them gain back some of their prior strength, without full success however.

however. As far as the bond market is concerned, Swiss gilt-edged securities varied little and all in all their average yield still remains close to $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ in spite of the unwillingness of the public to subscribe for new bond issues with interest rates as low as $3\frac{1}{2}\%$. Public opinion grew very selective in this regard and several new issues proved to be failures. Foreign bonds are looked upon with great scepticism. While German bonds maintain their already low level fairly well, French securi-ties were dropping and reached bottom prices. The bond market in total, however, is not very animated as the desirable securities already while most others are looked upon as second or even third class investments.





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