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32nd SWISS NATIONAL FAIR IN LAUSANNE.

Because of her poverty in raw materials, Switzerland is probably more tightly geared into the world's economy than any other country. In 1950 Switzerland imported over £369,975,530 worth of food, raw materials, and manufactured products, and her exports came to over £318,996,737. In her trade with Great Britain, Switzerland's imports amounted to £30,146,822, while exports to Great Britain totalled £11,141,925, leaving a balance of trade of £19,004,897 in favour of Great Britain.

As a result of Switzerland's close relationship to foreign markets, her great official industrial and trade fairs have assumed a distinctly national character. These fairs, one in Basle in the spring and one in Lausanne in the fall, offer the only opportunities to see the full score of Switzerland's national production which provides specialities to fulfil the specific needs of large, medium and small business firms.

The Swiss National Autumn Fair in Lausanne will be held, this year, from September 8th to 23rd. With a total of 2,200 participating firms, or an average of nearly 100 for each canton in the Helvetian Republic, the fair will offer a complete picture of Switzerland's economic life, including agriculture, specialized industry, and export trade. The fair itself provides an appropriate backdrop for the presentation of all new products developed during the year. Each of the fair's sixteen halls will be dedicated to different categories of the commodities and services which foreign visitors come to seek in Switzerland.

Staged in an environment rich in folklore and national tradition, the Lausanne Fair has developed the courteous custom to inviting the official participation of a different foreign country each year. Such guests of honour in the past have included France, Belgium, Holland and Italy. This year, for the first time since World War II, a non-European country is to be represented in a booth arranged by the Government of Morocco.

Foreign visitors will be able to take advantage of the considerable reductions offered by the Swiss Federal Railways to persons attending the Fair. Further information may be obtained from Swiss Legation and Consulates and other official representatives of Switzerland in Great Britain.

GALA DANCE AT "86, DUKE STREET".

To celebrate the Swiss National Day, a Gala Dance was held on Saturday, 28th July, at the Swiss Youth Club in Duke Street, W.1. As on previous occasions, a merry crowd of more than two hundred Confederates with their friends gathered in the club rooms, which were elaborately decorated with all sorts of flags and garlands. A large supply of fancy headdresses, in addition to scores of balloons and somewhat noisy flutes created the happy and festive atmosphere which was to prevail to the very end. The specially augmented band was at its best, and "M.C." George mastered the situation with his usual brilliance. It was an evening enjoyed by all, and our warmest thanks go to Mrs. and Mr. Bachofen who were responsible for the splendid organization.

E.A.

SWISS ABROAD AND THE FUND FOR AVALANCHE VICTIMS IN SWITZERLAND.

The collection made for the above Fund in the various Swiss Colonies abroad has so far reached the respectable amount of Frs.372,149.45.

This is a shining example of the deep attachment to their homeland shown by our compatriots living beyond its frontiers.

We have much pleasure in publishing below provisional figures of the various amounts collected.

As can be seen the Swiss Colony in Great Britain occupies 4th place, a really remarkable result, when one considers that the Colony in this country is, as far as numbers are concerned, one of the smaller ones, much smaller than *f.i.* the Colonies in Germany, France, Italy and the U.S.A.

Belgium	Frs.18,847.36
Bulgaria	" 20.—
Denmark	" 1,942.62
Germany	" 56,182.45
GREAT BRITAIN	" 41,268.30
Finland	" 210.38
France	" 89,661.65
Greece	" 1,540.—
Holland	" 2,905.40
Italy	" 53,697.40
Yugoslavia	" 300.—
Luxembourg	" 2,586.47
Norway	" 10.—
Austria	" 30.—
Poland	" 120.—
Portugal	" 3,110.97
Russia	" 50.—
Sweden	" 1,320.—
Spain	" 3,320.55
Czechoslovakia	" 250.—
Hungary	" 355.—
U.S.A.	" 22,233.80
Canada	" 862.91
South America	" 30,010.35
Africa	" 25,707.79
Asia	" 13,668.90
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Total Frs.372,149.45

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