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worth 524.4m. (May 1950 : 307.1) and exports amounted to 383.6m. (May 1950 : 285.9). Taking 1938 as basic year for a weight index (=100), we see that this index reaches the unprecedented height of 181 during the first 5 months of the year. Compared with a year ago, foodstuffs and fodder are stationary at 116, whereas raw materials and manufactures went up to 166 (112) and 224 (150). (Applied to exports, the index stands at 170, with manufactures in the lead with 182).

#### Negotiations between Switzerland and France.

The trade agreement at present in force will end in August, 31st. Comprehensive negotiations for a renewal will not take place in time because of the general election that has been held in France. An extension of the present agreement of three or four months will therefore be necessary.

#### Smaller Consumption of Alcoholic Drinks in Switzerland.

In 1900 the yearly average consumption of wine was 80 litres a head. At present it is 35 litres. The same trend is to be found for beer (62 l. in 1900 and 42 l. in 1950) and for brandy (7 l. in 1900 and 3 l. in 1950). This is good news from a social and health point of view. On the other hand new devices have to be evolved for the adequate utilisation of agricultural surpluses, and the sad plight of the Swiss wine growers is common knowledge. Finally, the fiscal authorities have to tap new sources to make up for the fall in revenue derived from taxes on alcoholic beverages.

#### A DEPARTURE.

We greatly regret to announce the approaching departure from London of Mr. F. Dormann, Manager for U.K. and Eire, of the Swiss Air Transport Company Ltd., of 126, Regent Street, London, W.1.

Mr. Dormann took up his appointment in London some four years ago during which time he has not only rendered great service to Swissair in particular, but also to the Swiss Colony in general. By his fact, great ability and friendly co-operation he has made many friends in the Metropolis who will sadly miss him.

Our departing friend will take up a similar position with Swissair in Germany and we wish him the best of success in his new sphere of activity.

#### VORTRAG Dr. AGENOR KRAFFT.

In der "Grotius Society" hielt Herr Dr. Agénor Krafft, aus Lausanne, einen Vortrag über "The Present Position of the Red Cross Geneva Conventions", worin er die Bedeutung der Ratifizierung der Genfer Rotkreuz Konventionen, die an der diplomatischen Konferenz des Jahres 1949 ausgearbeitet worden sind, unterstrich. Bis jetzt haben erst 10 Länder die Konventionen ratifiziert. Die Veranstaltung, an der Lord Schuster, ein Vertreter des Foreign Office, und namhafte Anwälte Londons teilnahmen, stand unter dem Präsidium Sir Harold Duncan's.

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