

**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:** - (1953)

**Heft:** 1218

**Rubrik:** Commercial news

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# COMMERCIAL NEWS

## Avoidance of Double Taxation.

Following a series of discussions in London and Berne over the last eighteen months between the Board of Inland Revenue and the Swiss Federal Tax Administration, agreement has now been reached at the official level on a proposed convention between the United Kingdom and Switzerland for the avoidance of double taxation in relation to taxes on income. Preliminary negotiations have also taken place for a convention relating to taxes on the estates of deceased persons.

## The Chemical Industry in America demand protective measures.

The Manufacturing Chemist's Association who claim to represent 90% of the United States chemical industry have submitted to the Commission for foreign trade policy (Randall-Commission) a demand for protective measures against the increasing competition by the Japanese and European chemical industries. The Association is not expressly asking for higher duties on chemicals, but they warn against the serious consequences of a further increase in the sale of foreign chemical products in the U.S.A.

They say that the home industry has not been suffering particularly so far from foreign competition and that the insufficiency of the customs duties on chemicals at present in force has therefore not yet been proved. Japan and Europe had during the last few years not only rebuilt their chemical industries but had even created a production capacity exceeding their own requirements.

Therefore the position of the American chemical industry is becoming more and more precarious and precautionary measures should be taken in time in order to protect the American manufacturers if the need arises.

## Proposals for increased British import duties on certain fresh and preserved fruit and vegetables.

After full consideration of the evidence put forward by the National Farmers' Union in an application for increased protection in respect of a wide range of horticultural products, Her Majesty's Government have been satisfied that the existing duties would not provide adequate protection for certain fruits and vegetables; and, having followed

where necessary the procedures recently approved by the Contracting Parties to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in connection with the incidental changes in the margins of preference, they have decided that the duties should be increased in the appropriate season on the following products:—

### *Fresh Fruits.*

Cherries, Currants, Gooseberries, Grapes (hot-house), Strawberries.

### *Fresh Vegetables.*

Asparagus, Broccolo & Cauliflowers, Carrots, Chicory (salad), Cucumbers, Dry-bulb onions & shallots, Green peas, unshelled, Lettuce & endive, Mushrooms, New Potatoes, Tomatoes.

### *Preserved fruit.*

Unsweetened preserved fruit, (including fruit pulp).

### *Preserved Vegetables.*

Cauliflowers preserved in brine.

With effect from 1st December, 1953 imports from particular countries and territories, including Switzerland, of the afore mentioned products hitherto subject to quantitative restrictions will be permitted

## CITY SWISS CLUB

Will members kindly note that the next

### MONTHLY MEETING

will take place on **Tuesday, January 12th, 1954**, at **6.30 p.m. for 7 p.m.** at the **Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1.**

The Dinner will be followed by a game of Jass, Bridge or Canasta.

Members wishing to be present should send their card to the Manager of the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, W.1. to reach him not later than, Monday, January 11th, 1954.

Ch. GYSIN

Hon. Secretary.

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under Open General Licence. As from the same date, the Open General Licence relating to certain fresh vegetables, will no longer be liable to suspension at certain periods of the year and the seasonal restrictions in force on cauliflowers and broccoli will be lifted.

#### Austro-Swiss Economic Negotiations.

The economic negotiations between Austria and Switzerland which recently took place in Berne, resulted in the prolongation of the present agreement until April 30th, 1954. Should it not be possible to conclude a new agreement before that date, another extension to July 31st, may be agreed upon.

In the first ten months of this year Switzerland imported 76m. francs worth of Austrian products, against 81.2m. over the same period last year. Swiss exports to Austria increased from 88.2m. to 94.6m. francs. Switzerland's credit balance has thus grown from 7m. francs to 18.6m. francs.

#### Prolongation of Commercial Agreement between Switzerland and Denmark.

The agreement on commercial exchanges between Switzerland and Denmark of September 15th, 1951, has been prolonged for another year as from October 1st, 1953. Existing import and export quotas are being maintained without changes for the new contractual period, with the exception of course of those products which have meanwhile been liberated.



### Nouvelle Société Helvétique

in conjunction with the  
ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Monday, January 18th, 1954, at 7 p.m.

**MR. EGMOND d'ARZES,**

President International Union of Alpinism,

will speak (in English) on:

**" ZERMATT AND THE GERVIN "**

with coloured slides and Films

AT LONDONDERRY HOUSE, PARK LANE, W.1.

No Charge. All Swiss and Friends are welcome.

### Nouvelle Société Helvétique

in conjunction with the  
ANGLO-SWISS SOCIETY

Saturday, January 16th, 1954 from 3-5.30

**CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT.**

(Films, Conjuror, Songs, Corale Ticinese)

AT LONDONDERRY HOUSE, PARK LANE, W.1.

No charge. All Swiss and English friends, Children and Parents, heartily welcome.

### Left-overs-in-ASPIC...

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