

# News in brief

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than any other Swiss industrial branch, the chemical industry has been able to maintain its position with regard to exports, and it ranks today, in this connection, among the most prominent industrial branches. Nearly 1/5 of the country's total exports belong to this industry.

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TRAINING OF SWISS GUIDES.

The training of the young contingent of Swiss Alpine guides lies foremost in the hands of the Swiss Alpine Club who arranges all necessary courses with the respective cantonal authorities. Generally only Swiss citizens of high reputation and physical fitness for the Army are admitted. Aspirants for a guide's license have in addition to furnish a certificate that they have acted for two years as carriers to patented guides, also a doctor's certificate, qualifying them for the strenuous duties of a guide. It is up to a guide to conduct his clients not only to the summits of mountains under fair weather conditions, but to also bring them back safely under adverse circumstances. Before getting his guide's certificate a candidate has to pass a final intensive theoretical and practical course of 14-21 days.

Precautionary measures and rescue work receive special attention in such a course.

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NEWS IN BRIEF.

Import duty on Petrol has been reduced by the Customs authorities, to counteract the increased price caused through the devaluation of the Franc. The selling price to the consumer remains at 43 cents per litre.

The election of the Cantonal Government (Staatsrat) in Geneva resulted in a decided defeat of the Socialists who were in power the last three years. The past President Nicole was internationally known as an extreme agitator and did much to damage the good name of our proud capital of the League of Nations.

Financial assistance to the extent of Frs.250,000 has been reserved by the Government for the purpose of assisting needy Swiss who have returned from foreign parts, particularly from Spain. The subsidy intended for the assistance of Swiss residing in foreign countries, amounting to Frs.350,000 last year, has been increased to 410,000 on account of the altered rate of exchange.

The following new coinage will be issued in 1937 :-

|                            |                           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 845,000 Five Franc pieces, | 250,000 Two Franc pieces  |
| 1,000,000 One " "          | 500,000 Fifty Cent pieces |
| 1,000,000 Ten Cent " "     | 50,000 Two " "            |
| 700,000 One " "            |                           |

Training dogs for ambulance service has proved such a success that the Federal Government has appropriated 4,000 Frs. for this purpose.

The spinning wheel is coming into its own again. Twenty-five girls in Obwalden are taught the art by a cantonal society for fostering of home industries.

At the beginning of every year since 1913, Switzerland issues a new set of "Pro Inventute" Stamps, the design of which is always a source of great interest to philatelists all over the world. The place of honour in the latest issue rests with the 5 cts stamp, which has the picture of the well-known composer of folk songs, Hans Georg Nageli, who died in

