

Report on the commerce and industry of Switzerland in 1920

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REPORT ON THE COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF SWITZERLAND IN 1920.

(Communicated by the Commercial Adviser to the Swiss Legation.)

The Report on the Commerce and Industry of Switzerland, published each year by the Committee of the Union Suisse du Commerce et de l'Industrie, which is the association of the various Swiss Chambers of Commerce, is now ready for the year 1920. This volume presents, with its 470 pages—in the same way as previous volumes, have done—a general review of economic life in Switzerland during the past year. The abundance of information of every description which it contains makes it possible for all interested—and especially the foreign reader—to become easily acquainted with documentary facts as to the commercial and industrial activities of Switzerland.

As in former years, the report for 1920 consists of two parts: the one—under the title of Introduction—gives a general statistical review of the economic conditions of the country, and the other—in greater detail—deals successively with the various branches of industry and commerce.

The purely statistical part, which has been very much improved in the volume under review, gives in a condensed form general ideas on the economic life of Switzerland: for example, on the population, professions, labour market and salaries, factories, banks, securities, joint-stock companies, foreign commerce, Customs and public finance.

The second part, which contains about forty chapters, first exposes the position for 1920 of the various commercial and industrial branches as such. Each chapter begins with the figures of the official statistics of importation and exportation for that particular branch. The volume then gives reports on traffic, hotels, banks, securities, commercial and professional instruction, etc. The text of the chapters is accompanied by detailed numerical information on the production, salaries and prices compared with those of preceding years and pre-war years. The Annual thus not only gives detailed information on the commercial relations of Switzerland with other countries, but also on the economic situation in Switzerland itself.

The Report on the Commerce and Industry of Switzerland in 1920, which is published either in French or German, can be obtained at the price of 9 francs (Swiss) plus postage from the Secretary of the Union Suisse du Commerce et de l'Industrie at Zurich (Switzerland).

SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

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BOARD-RESIDENCE.—Comfortable Home offered to three gentlemen; one double bedroom (separate beds) and one single bedroom; breakfast and late dinner; full board week-ends; good cooking; convenient City and Westend.—Apply, Mrs. Miller, 83, Park Lane, Clisold Park, N.16.

NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The important step taken by Switzerland towards the abolition of passports has been heralded in the British press with general approval. The Federal Council has proposed to Great Britain and most of the other countries, with the exception of the Central Powers, the conclusion of an agreement for the reciprocal suppression of visas as from December 1st; this would apply to tourists only and not to those wishing to find work in Switzerland. The proposal, according to an answer given in the House of Commons on November 9th to Sir Martin Conway by the Home Secretary, is being carefully considered by the British Government. It seems doubtful, however, whether immediate effect will be given to this request on account of technical difficulties due to the Aliens' Restriction Act. In the meantime a most welcome propaganda for the winter season is displayed by several tourists' agencies, the inclusive rates for travel and hotel charges comparing favourably with those quoted for French resorts. The increasing interest in our winter sports is further demonstrated by two recent publications, one entitled "Switzerland in Winter," by Will and Carine Cadby (Mills & Boon, 4s. net), and the other "Alpine Ski-ing," by Arnold Lunn (Methuen, 5s. net).

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An interesting illustrated article in *The Gentlewoman* (Nov. 12th) describes the attractions at the principal centres which suit "all tastes and all purses." "Prices," the writer says, "differ as much as the guests, but at certain pensions one can live comfortably for £4 4s. a week."

In *The Daily Mail* (Nov. 14th) a correspondent from Vevey gives intending visitors the benefit of his experience, stating that ignorance of the very essential points of *where* to go and *when* to go has ruined the holiday of many a neophyte, and that the question of outfit is a very important item. He concludes by saying that with the adjunct of a fancy costume one is never at a loss for amusements. The big hotels are often offering very substantial prizes which have enabled lucky competitors to defray the entire cost of their holiday.

The same paper (Nov. 16th) gives a reply to an erroneous statement on London hotel charges published in a Geneva daily:—

The Swiss newspaper "Tribune de Genève" having stated that the cost of a bedroom with one bed at the best hotels in London ranges from £2 15s. to £6 6s. a night, the Department of Overseas Trade has circularised all the London hotel proprietors asking for any observations they may have to make on the statement.

The Department alludes to the possible harm such a statement might cause to leading hotels if the prices quoted are inaccurate.

The Incorporated Association of Hotel and Restaurant Proprietors has taken up the matter. Meantime the Overseas Trade Department has received replies showing that the charge is from 10s. 6d. per day for a bedroom with a single bed in hotels like the Cecil up to a maximum of 25s. in hotels like the Ritz and the Carlton.

One manager in London told a "Daily Mail" reporter yesterday that the Swiss hotel proprietors during the League of Nations conference in Geneva charged big prices because hotel accommodation was at a premium, and that it was with a view to justifying those charges that they are apparently now trying to draw comparisons. "The statements as to London charges are inaccurate in every way."

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The improved NAVIGATION OF THE RHINE was the object of an influential deputation of British exporters received by Mr. Stanley Baldwin, the President of the Board of Trade, on November 2nd. It was pointed out that if the navigation between Strasbourg and Basle were