

Forthcoming events

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1938)**

Heft 844

PDF erstellt am: **27.06.2024**

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This kind of industry developed to quite a substantial size, so that in later years we find employers with 1,000 and more people working for them, but mostly in their own homes.

Already in 1760, we find, for instance, a Basle manufacturer by the name of Thurneisen starting a Spinning factory for silk just across the frontier in the Black Forest regions and employing 5,000 people working in their own houses.

The Napoleonic Wars brought with them an interruption of commercial relations between Switzerland and quite a number of surrounding countries, especially Germany, and Swiss exporters were forced to start production in the respective countries or lose contact with their clients abroad.

Regarding our Export industries, we find the following position just before the War. The textile industry with the exception of embroidery, had already taken a definite step in the direction of emigration. This, because the surrounding other countries had, for decades, increased their duties on imported goods in order to help their own industries.

During the last decades of the 19th century, the cotton industry especially emigrated to Italy, Germany and Austria, and the silk industry to Germany, France, Italy and the United States, but even in these industries the movement was not at a standstill because during the last 10-12 years before the War we find continuous increase in the importance of these foreign establishments, and also an increase in the number of factories being started.

The machine and metal industry, the Electrical and furniture industries, in which the movement of emigration was still in its initial stage, tried to find a footing on foreign markets by the creation of local establishments. If one considers the variety of articles manufactured in these different industries, one comes to the conclusion that the whole did not have the characteristic of mass emigration.

From the very beginning, we find that emigration has been considered more as a necessary evil, which would force sooner or later all the different export industries into its arms. During the War, we find a continuation of this same phenom, but now we have to distinguish between two sections. One group consists of the big Swiss Societies that had already started with foreign establishments and were continuing on the same road in the hope that as soon as hostilities were over the different countries would go to the extreme as regards protection of home industries. The second group consists of firms which found themselves only during the World War bound to start factories abroad.

To the first group belongs the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Company who had to try and find a substitute for the failing supplies from their European Condenseries, and therefore made arrangements in the United States for the production of milk. We find P.C.K. starting with factories in England; Sulzer and Winterthur with manufacturing concerns in Italy and France; Gardy starting a factory in Spain; Tobler starting a factory in Italy.

Under the second group we find the foundation in France, namely, Works for Central Heating installations and a factory for Ball-bearings. In Italy a factory for biscuits and similar articles.

The Period after the War.

The crisis which came after the War hit Switzerland particularly hard. The extreme depreciation of foreign exchanges and the high cost of production on the other hand built up in Switzerland nearly insurmountable difficulties for our Exporters. If one adds to this the increased customs duties and restrictions of importation, one can understand the critical position in which Swiss industries found themselves during these years. Therefore, we find a number of manufacturers who had to choose between closing up entirely and facing ruin or transferring part or the whole of their installations abroad.

On one side, a great number of firms found it really better to continue for the support of their production abroad, and others let themselves be drawn along by the desire, which was naturally understandable, to profit from the advantageous conditions in other countries.

The after-War crisis has often been called "The Crisis of Confidence." One can say that this has found its expression in Switzerland in an absence of confidence for the future of our enterprises, and this naturally produced a general feeling very much in favour of the emigration of our Swiss industries.

This crisis brought with it the most dangerous of all kinds of emigration, viz., the entire expatriation of whole establishments. This movement we find especially towards the surrounding States and particularly in France. Then followed Austria, Hungary, Holland, North America, South America, Australia, etc.

Since the end of the war, we find that it is France who has taken the majority of Swiss firms

establishing factories abroad. This is explained by the position of its exchange, as well as in the great market of France itself, its different

FACTS WHICH PROMOTE EMIGRATION OF SWISS INDUSTRIES.

1) General Considerations.

We have already found in previous chapters that certain facts of economic or juridical importance are at the bottom of this movement. We will now go more into the details of this reason.

From the beginning it must be understood that individual facts can only be "part reasons" for the movement of emigration. There is no individual reason for it, but the Swiss national economy at a given moment is the basis for such movement.

Factors in connection with Production. Death of Raw Materials.

The fact that Switzerland is blotted out of the greater part of the necessary raw materials for its industries is naturally detrimental to their development. This inconvenience has certainly been a good reason for the establishment of Swiss factories abroad. In most of the cases which we have reviewed this was one of the reasons for emigration. The following will show a few special cases.

The charge of raw materials, and their high cost in Switzerland may be:—

- one of the reasons which one takes into consideration when starting a factory abroad, or —
- a principal reason for this decision.

In the latter case, a new enterprise is generally started with a view to the acquisition of raw materials at the place where they are naturally found, and that this new acquisition shall serve to supply all the other Swiss or foreign factories of the same firm.

We can all very well understand the great importance of this point when we take into consideration the distance of our country from the sea and its lack of raw materials. For instance, for the Machine Industry which uses raw materials of heavy weight, the price of these is a vital question. Already long before the War, one noticed that this kind of factory would be one of the first ones who, sooner or later, would have to transfer a part of their production to foreign countries.

In the dye-stuff industry, where coal and its counterparts are indispensable, the problem is put in a very similar way. That is why the starting of Swiss factories of this line on German ground had first of all as a basis the production of raw materials and intermediate materials which afterwards were transferred to the Swiss establishments.

When the Zurich Silk manufacturers started factories in the north of Italy, they had to follow considerations of the same kind. As regards the manufacture of conserves by Swiss industrialists in foreign countries, producing tinned fruits, vegetables, etc., in great quantities, the same principle was adhered to.

In the case of firms starting abroad especially for the production of raw materials at cheaper prices for the Swiss Mother Company, we are generally in the presence of a Society that already has ramifications in different other countries. We have a typical case with the Conserve factory of Lenzbourg who purchased in 1920 an existing near Murcie, Spain, with the idea of supplying its factories in Switzerland, Germany and Holland with peaches and apricots — a speciality of the above-mentioned Spanish district.

Another example in the same direction is furnished by Gardy of Geneva who acquired a factory with mining right in Spain with the idea of manufacturing technical porcelain. The new factory adjoins the mine of Kaolin and will supply all the different factories of Gardy.

The high cost of raw materials as motive for the development of production in foreign countries is not always the consequence of the natural conditions of Switzerland. The manufacturers of Chocolate and Condensed Milk have asked for many years that the system of drawback on imported sugar and cocoa be introduced in Switzerland. Up to the moment they have had no success, and this fact has undoubtedly favoured to a certain measure the expatriation of the industries in question.

As late as 1922, the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. declared officially in their Report:—

"It is regrettable that the Swiss Government has not been able to settle favourably the question of drawbacks on certain raw materials, which would have allowed us to intensify our manufacture in Switzerland."
(To be continued.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, January 21st, at 8 o'clock — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Annual General Meeting — (supper at 3/- to be served at 6.30 p.m. sharp), at the "Foyer Suisse," 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.

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Dimanche 16 janvier :

11h. — Mr. Philippe Blocher, cand. théol.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

6h.30. — M. le Pasteur Emery.

Le Pasteur Emery reçoit le Mercredi de 11 heures à midi 30, à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2. S'adresser à lui pour tous les actes pastoraux. (téléphone : Museum 3100, domicile : Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.)

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(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 16. Januar 1938.

11 Uhr morgens. Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends. Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

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Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.