

Swiss industries fair

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The mother society and various N.S.H. groups abroad were represented by their presidents or former presidents, as well as the Secretariat by the present and former directors and staff. Some 16 Swiss institutions particularly supporting the movement were also represented on the highest level, including the Stiftung pro Helvetia, the University of Basle, the Verkehrszentrale, the Zentrale für Handelsförderung, the Fédération Horlogère, Swissair, the Basler Kunstverein and the Mustermesse. Finally the leading newspapers of Switzerland and the Depeschenagentur did not miss the event in order to report on it.

Most delightfully the programme was opened, interspersed and concluded by accomplished performances of the Basler Bläserquintett. The Basler Regierungsrat Dr. Alfred Schaller welcomed the assembly as the town's honoured guests. Dr. Gerhard Schürch presided the meeting as President of the Auslandschweizerkommission. In a lengthy speech he thanked the hosts for the use of the Grossratssaal, all participants for their presence, all the friends of the Auslandschweizerwerk for their untiring sympathy and support, all authorities for their understanding and help, all the former and present officials of the Auslandschweizerwerk for their untiring devotion, singling out for particularly warm praises Mademoiselle Alice Briod, for many years directing secretary of the Auslandschweizerwerk, and Fräulein Rose Züllig, who has already spent a life-time in the service of the Sekretariat and is still continuing it with all her heart. The speaker sketched with pride the development of the Organisation and spoke with emotion of the undying merits of the founder Gonzague de Reynold, the first Secretary Robert de Traz and their deserving successors, as well as of the initiators of the associated groups abroad.

The President of the National Council, Pierre Graber, spoke of the important role and the invaluable patriotic loyalty of the Swiss abroad, in the name of whom our delegate to the Commission, Mrs. Mariann Meier, had the honour of replying. She did this with the dignity, sincerity, modesty and consummate skill which we have learned to admire in her devoted work for the Colony and the homeland. She spoke thoughtfully of the problems of the "fünfte Schweiz" and pledged with pride our continuing determination to further the image of Switzerland in every way and on all occasions.

After a musical interval the Central President of the N.S.H. Oskar Reck and two of his predecessors in this high office, Théo Chopard and Guido Calgari, continued the programme of distinguished oratory, which was then concluded by Andri Bisaz in Romansch, addressing himself to the young Swiss abroad, and the reading of the "Prière des 22 louables cantons". The company then adjourned to attend a sumptuous Dinner at the Mustermesse as guests of the Director, Dr. Hermann Hauswirth. He welcomed them with appreciative compliments to the Swiss abroad and their friends and helpers in Switzerland, on whose behalf Dr. Hans Peter Zschokke, a former President of the Auslandschweizerkommission responded humourously. He ended with the inspiring appeal to all concerned to "help projecting the cultural image of Switzerland all over the world". Summaries and excerpts of the most interesting speeches at the jubilee meeting will be given in later issues of the "Swiss Observer".

E.

FEDERAL ACCOUNTS AND STATISTICS

On 25th April, the Federal Council published the Confederation's accounts for 1965. The full accounts ended with a surplus of 448 million francs, 116m. less than the previous year. The income and expenditure account showed the smallest surplus for thirteen years, revenue standing at 4,952 and expenditure at 4,920 milliard francs. For the first time, too, the budget had been exceeded by a relatively small amount only. More than half of the Confederation's revenue came from taxes (2,610 milliard). Import customs duties accounted for 1,800 million francs. On the expenditure side, nearly a quarter went on subsidies of all kinds.

The total federal staff numbered 26,523 during 1965, nearly half under the Military Department. Personnel cost amounted to 532m. francs.

3,070 applications were made for the export risk guarantee, covering a total of 843.3m. francs. The Federal Department of Justice and Police dealt with 448 complaints made to the Federal Council. The Federal Office of Works (*Baudirektion*) looked after 10,100 buildings (total value 1.3 milliard francs). In addition, it is in charge of 950 renovations and extensions.

The Federal Mint produced 70.4 million coins for the Federal Treasury. In addition, 18m. bronze coins were minted for Syria and 10m. aluminium coins for Israel. Paper consumption in the federal administration amounted to a new record of 2000 metric tons. The number of office machines has increased to 27,426.

The number of countries with which Switzerland had diplomatic and consular relations, remained almost stationary at 108. There were 71 Swiss Embassies, two Delegations (Berlin and OECD in Paris), one Observer at UNO in New York and one in Geneva, one Mission with EEC in Brussels, 40 Consulates General, 54 Consulates and one Vice-Consulate. The number of international officials and members of staff in interstate organisations stood at 6,900 in 1965, 1,700 of whom were Swiss. This is 400 more than in 1964. The number of foreign diplomatic representations accredited in Switzerland increased to 90 with five new States (Mongolia and four in Africa) establishing Embassies.

[A.T.S.]

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

The Swiss Industries Fair in Basle (16th to 26th April) showed a record attendance. For the first time in the fifty years of its history, the million mark was surpassed. Amongst the 290,000 visitors who attended the Fair at the second week-end, were the members of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad and the distinguished guests who attended the Golden Jubilee in Basle, which had been organised by the Government of Basle and the Management of the Swiss Industries' Fair.

Two Federal Councillors, President Schaffner and Federal Councillor Tschudi represented the Government on the "Official Day", and a number of well-known personalities attended the *Ehrenabend* at the beautiful baroque mansion, the "Wenkenhof" at Riehen. It had been put at the disposal of the Basle Government by the owners, Mr. and Mrs. A. Clavel-Respinger. Hunting horn choruses and riding demonstrations in the extensive floodlit park of the estate added to the charm of the Golden Jubilee party.

A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".