RECORD YEAR IN SWISS TRADE.

Swiss foreign trade showed a remarkable increase during the year 1912. The aggregate value of the imports and exports amounted to $641,017,092, which is the highest figure on record, and furnishes evidence of the prosperous condition of the country commercially.

The following table gives the principal articles of exportation, showing the values in 1912 compared with those of 1911:

Articles—	1911.	1912.
Embroideries	$41,495,000	$42,267,000
Watches and parts..	32,424,000	34,354,000
Silk goods	21,037,000	22,195,000
Machinery	18,914,000	21,230,000
Cheese	12,159,000	12,545,000
Chocolate	9,071,000	10,515,000
Condensed milk	7,527,000	9,071,000
Silk ribbons	7,720,000	7,913,000
Cotton goods	7,334,000	7,141,000
Raw silk	6,176,000	7,141,000
Schappe yarn	5,597,000	5,404,000
Aniline dyes	4,825,000	5,018,000
Woven and knit goods	2,702,000	3,088,000
Cotton yarn	3,281,000	3,281,000
Straw goods	3,474,000	3,281,000
Footwear	2,123,000	2,702,000

—The Standard Oil Co. of New York, has decided to call a meeting of the stockholders for June 5th, to vote on proposition to increase capital stock from $15,000,000 to $75,000,000. If the increase is approved, it is proposed to declare a 400 per cent stock dividend to shareholders of record June 13th.

REDISTRIBUTE CHINESE LOAN.

According to information just to hand, arrangements have been placed at 5 per cent, and its price of issue at 90, with Chinese Loan question. The rate of interest on the loan has bee placed at 5 per cent, and its price of issue at 90, with a currency of forty-seven years. This will yield to China a net price of 84 for the entire loan, leaving the difference to pay for the bankers' commissions, stamps and expenses.

Taking the total amount of the loan as being $125,000,000, its distribution among the various groups, now that the Americans have withdrawn, will figure out nearly as follows:— London, $37,000,000; Paris $37,000,000; Berlin $30,000,000; St. Petersburg $14,000 000 and Brussels $7,000,000. London and Paris divide between them the share properly belonging to Japan and the share awarded to Brussels is part of the Russian quota. The coupons are payable on the 1st of January and the 1st of July; a deposit of £10 is required on application; a payment of £10 on allotment, of £35 on Juy 3, and £35 on August 5, for every £90 subscribed.

IMPORTATION OF FOOD PRODUCTS INTO JAPAN.

Japan's foreign purchases of five articles of food in 1912 aggregated more than $24,000,000, the total imports of the products referred to being: Wheat $2,196,149; rice, $15,036,353; flour, $857,626; beans and peas $5,084,454; condensed milk, $1,070,086, total $24,244,668.

In the matter of rice, Japan sells considerable quantities to Hawaii and the United States, largely for the use of Japanese subjects. During 1912 Japan's exportation of rice to Hawaii amounted in value to $1,175,830 and to the United States $608,699.—Consular Report.