

Treaties with Switzerland

A customs union with the Austro-Hungarian Empire lasted from 1852 to 1918, when that state ceased to exist. On August 2nd 1919 Liechtenstein officially ended the union by revoking that treaty. Our government then made every effort to adapt the national economy from Austria to Switzerland.

On 10th of November 1921 a first postal agreement with Switzerland was concluded. Post, telegraph and telephone (PTT) were taken over by the Swiss administration. However, Liechtenstein was authorized to issue its own stamps.

For a few years Liechtenstein remained an autonomous customs territory, while negotiations about a new customs treaty with the Swiss authorities were in progress. They came to an end on March 29, 1923 by signing the new Customs Treaty. It came into force on January 1, 1924. By this treaty a new era of economic development was initiated. In the same year Swiss francs replaced Austrian crowns.

Economy

The economic structure of the country has undergone a complete change within one generation. Up to World War II farming was the chief occupation of the people. In 1923 about 70 % of the working population