**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia: magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand

**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand

**Band:** 9 (1943-1944)

**Heft:** 11

**Artikel:** The Swiss spotlight

Autor: Beguin, Pierre

**DOI:** https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-942705

## Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften auf E-Periodica. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen sowie auf Social Media-Kanälen oder Webseiten ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Mehr erfahren

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. La reproduction d'images dans des publications imprimées ou en ligne ainsi que sur des canaux de médias sociaux ou des sites web n'est autorisée qu'avec l'accord préalable des détenteurs des droits. En savoir plus

#### Terms of use

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. Publishing images in print and online publications, as well as on social media channels or websites, is only permitted with the prior consent of the rights holders. Find out more

**Download PDF:** 10.07.2025

ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, https://www.e-periodica.ch

of hostilities, and must, theoretically at least, be kept under constant military guard.

The Swiss Government, however, has so far desisted from placing the internees in camps and much latitude is accorded them, for which the internees are duly grateful.

The evades are free to leave this neutral country as soon as the frontier opens.

# THE SWISS SPOTLIGHT (by Pierre Beguin).

One could hardly deny the fact that under the pressure of circumstances the individual rights guaranteed to Swiss citizens by the Constitution have been somewhat encroached upon.

Freedom of the press has been limited by the exercise of a control. Not a control over home policy but on journalistic activity that might compromise our neutrality. It is also forbidden to start publishing new papers or reviews without the permission of the government; this in order to forestall any attempt by foreign propaganda to mingle with the Swiss press.

Moving picture films must pass censorship, so that foreign propaganda shall not be able to falsify public opinion which must be formed from purely objective sources of information.

Furthermore, certain extremist parties which were a danger to the security of the State were placed under a ban, while public meetings of a political character were to be watched by police forces especially prepared for their work. And though this has been the case, we must admit that the freedom of the press, the freedom of association and assembly must be somewhat restricted, while in normal times these freedoms are without any limitations whatsoever in Switzerland.

For some time now numerous voices have been lifted in different parts of the country asking that these fundamental constitutional liberties be restored again without delay. This movement of opinion has grown to such dimensions that the Federal Council discussed it in one of its recent meetings. The Federal Council decided in fact that the matter shall be referred to the Parliament's Full Power Commission, who is to meet soon, and that the government will make a statement before the Federal Chambers on the subject at the time of the next session opening on Monday, June 5th. It seems, however, that the government does not intend to modify its present policy, as the circumstances which made present restrictions necessary, still exist. We still live in a beleaguered fortress in which public order must be kept at all cost as long as all danger from outside has not subsided. It must be admitted that these restrictive measures have given a great deal of trouble lately. The parties placed under ban have reformed under other names. As for the consorship it is much more indulgent than formerly.

In short, the limitations placed upon certain aspects of public life are not nearly so obnoxious as heretofore. But despite all this, it is a happy sign that public opinion should demand from time to time the full restoration of the citizen's rights as set forth in the Constitution. This proves that we do not become accustomed to their even temporary suppression, and that we remain firmly attached to those bindings which are the foundation of our public institutions. It provides a chance that these rights will be restored to their full order without delay, just as soon as circumstances permit.

#### SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The Papal Nuncio in Borne, Archbishop Bernardini, led the Diplomatic Crops at the funeral of 37 people who were killed in the accidental bombing of Schaffhausen, during the recent raid. More than 20,000 people witnessed the Requiem Mass at St. John's Church and the subsequent burial.