Correspondence

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1923)**

Heft 85

PDF erstellt am: **28.04.2024**

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Inhalten der Zeitschriften. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern.
Die auf der Plattform e-periodica veröffentlichten Dokumente stehen für nicht-kommerzielle Zwecke in Lehre und Forschung sowie für die private Nutzung frei zur Verfügung. Einzelne Dateien oder Ausdrucke aus diesem Angebot können zusammen mit diesen Nutzungsbedingungen und den korrekten Herkunftsbezeichnungen weitergegeben werden.
Das Veröffentlichen von Bildern in Print- und Online-Publikationen ist nur mit vorheriger Genehmigung der Rechteinhaber erlaubt. Die systematische Speicherung von Teilen des elektronischen Angebots auf anderen Servern bedarf ebenfalls des schriftlichen Einverständnisses der Rechteinhaber.

Haftungsausschluss

Alle Angaben erfolgen ohne Gewähr für Vollständigkeit oder Richtigkeit. Es wird keine Haftung übernommen für Schäden durch die Verwendung von Informationen aus diesem Online-Angebot oder durch das Fehlen von Informationen. Dies gilt auch für Inhalte Dritter, die über dieses Angebot zugänglich sind.

Ein Dienst der *ETH-Bibliothek*
ETH Zürich, Rämistrasse 101, 8092 Zürich, Schweiz, www.library.ethz.ch

http://www.e-periodica.ch

The Swiss Observer

Telephone : CITY 4603. *Published every Friday at* 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C. 4. Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

No. 85 LONDON, JANUARY 20, 1923. PRICE 3d.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3/6
	6 " (26 " ")	6/6
	12 " (52 " ")	12/-
SWITZERLAND	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Frs. 7.50
	12 " (52 " ")	" 14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto : Basle V 5718).

HOME NEWS

The Swiss Socialist party has presented to the Federal Council a memorandum with a request to submit it to the Council of the League of Nations, pointing out that the French occupation of the Ruhr creates serious inconveniences to our national economic life.

* * *

The Federal Home Office has submitted to the cantonal authorities the draft of a law for officially combatting tuberculosis; the scheme would entail an expenditure of about 16 million francs, to which the Confederation would contribute 25 per cent.

* * *

Mr. R. Poincaré has now contradicted a statement published in the Swiss papers, according to which he is reported as having declared in an interview with the editor of the *Messager de la Haute Savoie* that France will suppress the Savoy free zones, even if the forthcoming plebiscite in Switzerland should not ratify the convention. The editor of the paper insists, however, on the accuracy of his original report.

* * *

Two conscientious objectors have been condemned to five months' imprisonment and loss of civil rights for five years by the military court of the first division at Lausanne for refusing to do military service.

* * *

During the current year the following sections of the Swiss Federal Railways are expected to be completed for electric traction:—Zug-Zurich, Sion-Lausanne, Lucerne-Olten, and Thalwil-Richterswil.

* * *

The Grand Conseil of Geneva has, by a small majority, elected Mr. Albert Naine, the Socialist candidate, as its president, Mr. Paul Lachenal (Radical) and Mr. Frédéric Martin (Conservative) being appointed first and second vice-president respectively.

* * *

After a lively discussion the Geneva Grand Conseil has voted the sum of 15,000 frs. towards the loss of 31,000 frs. incurred by the organising committee in connection with last year's Gordon-Bennett balloon race.

* * *

The elections for the States Council of the Canton Ticino, which were fixed to take place on January 28th, are abandoned, as the political parties have agreed not to contest the present five members by putting up new candidates.

* * *

The Basle Grosse Rat, on an interpellation by Socialist members, has decreed the 1st of May to be a public holiday. — A proposal, supported by medical circles, to make vaccination against smallpox compulsory was rejected by a great majority.

* * *

The population of the town of Zurich shows a slight decrease, 199,588 being the number to end December, 1922, whilst the Federal census in December, 1920, recorded a figure of 207,161.

* * *

The civil servants of the towns of Zurich and Lausanne are strongly opposing the proposed reduction in their salaries.

* * *

About 8½ million francs worth of cattle, representing about 11,000 head, have recently been exported by Swiss breeders, chiefly to Italy. The Russian agricultural delegation has acquired breeding stock to the amount of 80,000 frs. from farmers in the Bernese Oberland and the canton of Schwyz.

* * *

The Swiss League of Nations Union has made the following awards in judging the essays submitted for the best ways and means of familiarising Swiss school children with the objects and ideals of the League of Nations: — 1st prize, Werner Günther, stud. phil., Thuringen; 2nd prize, S. Schoch, Unterseen, and Heinrich Bächtold, Stein a. Rhein; 3rd prize, Marthe Mange, Olten, Emil Schibli, Lengnau, Melchior Dürst, Glarus, Gustav Pickel, Unterschlatt (Thurgau).

A somewhat ambitious political programme has been sent to the Swiss press by the Association of Young Ticinese in Milan. It will probably cause little anxiety to the authorities concerned, but it is evidence of the active and constructive interest which Swiss abroad maintain in home affairs. The manifesto demands, *inter alia*, the appointment of born Ticinese as diplomatic and consular representatives in Italy, preferential clauses in favour of Ticino in any commercial treaties between the two countries, and the reduction of the military expenses and establishment along the Italian frontier.

* * *

An appeal for funds is made by the Swiss Association of Ski Clubs in order to enable some of its sections to continue in a larger measure the distribution of skis to necessitous pupils who live a considerable distance from their schools.

* * *

Human remains have now been discovered amongst the ruins of the Goetheanum in Dornach (Basle) and they are believed to be those of Jakob Ott, who was under suspicion of having caused the conflagration.

* * *

The elephant in the zoological garden at Basle, which of late has displayed some dissatisfaction, has now given vent to his feelings by crushing to death one of the keepers.

* * *

Early on Sunday morning last a fire broke out in the riding school at Lucerne, causing considerable damage.

* * *

A fatal ski accident occurred last Monday on the Chamossaire (Bretaye), when a young Englishman, John de Tass, a pupil of a local institute, slipped owing to the giving way of a snow bridge. He had joined a party of English residents in Villars in a ski-ing excursion, which was proceeded with in spite of an intense fog. A search party, organised by Major Lavanchy of Lausanne, recovered the body under great difficulties.

EXTRACTS FROM PAPERS.

La Vente d'un Château historique.

Le château de Lucens, propriété de M. Jean Gruring, à Berne, qui l'avait acquis, il y a deux ans (mars 1920) et fait restaurer à grands frais, et les terrains attenants (15,750 mètres carrés) ont été mis en vente mercredi, à l'Hôtel de la Gare à Lucens, par les soins de l'Office des poursuites de Moudon, sur la réquisition de l'Etat de Vaud, pour paiement des droits de mutations et d'impôts fonciers.

L'estimation juridique de l'Office des poursuites était de 700,000 fr. (en 1920: 92,000 fr.). Les curieux ont été plus nombreux que les acquéreurs: ceux-ci n'étaient que deux. L'adjudication a été donnée (éventuellement et sous réserve de ratification) pour le prix de 133,000 fr. à M. Oscar Haefliger-Bitterlin, à Winterthur, frère d'un précédent propriétaire.

Flanqué de plusieurs tourelles et dominé au nord-ouest, par une haute tour ronde, le château de Lucens est d'origine fort ancienne. C'était jadis un château-fort, propriété, dès le XIIme siècle, des évêques de Lausanne, sous lesquels Lucens connut une longue période de paix et de prospérité. Il fut pillé et brûlé par les Confédérés après la bataille de Morat. Lors de la conquête bernoise, Lucens se rendit sans résistance et son château devint la résidence successive de neuf baillis. Lors de la révolution vaudoise (24 janvier 1798), le château et son domaine devinrent propriété nationale; en 1801, la République Helvétique revendit château et terres pour 72,800 fr. à divers particuliers. Dès lors, l'édifice a passé en plusieurs mains: Briod, Cholet, de Moudon, les frères Landry (vers 1860), Saunders, Delessert, qui y transféra, en 1880, son institut de jeunes gens. L'hoirie Porchet et M. Joseph Pfaff l'avaient vendu à M. J. Gruring.

(*Feuille d'Avis de Lausanne.*)

FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

At a board meeting of the Swiss Federal Railways, held on the 12th of January, it was stated that it had been decided that the present time was not a favourable one for the issue of a new loan, and that the funds required for paying off the Frs. 54,500,000, falling due on the 1st January, would be raised from the National Bank and not by way of public subscription. It was further announced that the reductions in tariffs effected during 1922 has resulted in a moderate increase in traffic, which did not, however, cover loss in revenue.

The provisional returns to the Federal Exchequer from various taxes in 1922 show that the stamp tax, which includes the new coupon tax, brought in Frs. 29,815,210, the extraordinary war tax Frs. 87,059,630, and the war profits tax Frs. 23,688,984. Figures for the military tax have not yet been returned by the Cantonal Authorities concerned. It must be remarked, in connection with the above figures, that 20 per cent. of the stamp tax and the war profits tax goes to the Cantonal Exchequers and that in the case of the war tax the settlement of accounts between the Cantons and the Confederation is not yet finally completed.

The first year's working of the International Petroleum Union in Zurich closes with a deficit of Frs. 80,351,655, due to the fall in the exchanges of the Central European countries. It will be remembered that the Union was formed in March, 1921, with the object of enabling Germany and the other Central European countries to recover the foothold in the world's petroleum trade, lost as a result of the war. In spite of this loss on the year, the intrinsic value of the companies in which the Zurich holding company is interested has rather grown than otherwise. Recently Frs. 125 millions of the company's own shares were exchanged against the return of shares of various German companies and the Financière Belge des Pétroles held by the Zurich concern. The result of this transaction is that the "Ipu" now will only have overseas interests, and that the capital will be Frs. 25,000,000 in "A" shares and Frs. 3,750,000 in "B" shares.

The annual results of some of the smaller Swiss banks are beginning to come in, and show quite satisfactory progress as compared with 1921. The Bank in Ragaz, for instance, with a capital of Frs. 1,000,000, and reserves of Frs. 250,000, has a net profit on the year of Frs. 71,907, as compared with Frs. 72,013 in 1921. The dividend is maintained at 5% and the same allotments made to reserves, etc., as last year.

The Volksbank in Hochdorf has total net profits of Frs. 216,560, as against Frs. 197,084 in 1921. The turnover increased from Frs. 136 million to Frs. 152 million, and a dividend of 8% is again to be paid on the share capital of Frs. 2,100,000.

Forward dealings were reintroduced in the Geneva Stock Exchange on the 2nd of January.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Jan. 8	Jan. 16
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903 ...	80.50%	85.25%
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	101.25%	101.15%
Federal Railways A—K 3½% ...	84.70%	85.40%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921 ...	104.75%	105.25%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892... ...	77.00%	77.00%
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	100.00%	100.00%

SHARES.	Nom. Frs.	Jan. 8 Frs.	Jan. 16 Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	659	659
Crédit Suisse...	500	680	685
Union de Banques Suisses... ...	500	551	563
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	1650	1650
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1235	1235
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	960	975
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon...	500	585	584
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	650	650
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	500	333	335
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	170	168
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	104	101
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	468	468

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by his Correspondents

MILITARY TAX AND MATRICULATION FEE.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—I have followed with interest the correspondence under this heading, published in your journal recently.

It seems a pity a gap occurred in the last issue, for if the movement is to bear fruit, a unique medium of publicity among the Swiss Colony, such as *The Swiss Observer* offers, should not be lost.

Unfortunately, many of us have the feeling that we are "a voice crying in the wilderness" unless we can tackle the problem as an organised body. I am one among countless others who are in the same boat with "Drei Eidgenossen," etc.,

and I should be only too pleased to join your correspondents in any united effort to stop this impossible state of things, if they can convince me that something is going to be DONE at last. I am confident that those who blindly submit to the artificial law the officials are now trying to enforce on their fellow-citizens are, fortunately, few and need not be seriously taken into account: they are generally people who are not slow to benefit by the advantages secured for them by others.

I should be very grateful indeed if Mr. Braga or other correspondents would kindly, through the columns of your paper, give us their views more definitely as regards tenor of petition and collecting signatures, and if any Swiss Society has some plan under consideration. Now can the many Swiss who, like myself, do not belong to such a Society, but are none the less eager to fight for right and fairness, do their bit.

"FAIR PLAY."

* * *

NATURALIZATION IN SWITZERLAND.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—I was rather surprised to read in your issue of the 25th of November last that the "Fremdenfrage" was causing considerable preoccupation to the Federal Council, and I feel positively nervous that they consider it necessary to pull the first paragraph of Art. 44 of the Constitution to pieces, in order to settle this question.

It would be well to know what it is that perturbs them in connection with the question of the foreign settlers in Switzerland. Is it the military, the political, or the economical side of the question which causes them sleepless nights? I have no doubt that many good Swiss in the Federal Palace smile at the anxiety of their colleagues.

The military aspect of the matter can only be aggravated by the wholesale issue of certificates of naturalisation. When the new Swiss form an appreciable proportion of the army and some of them are Colonels, we shall be in danger indeed. I, for one, would rather be alone than in bad company. To my mind it is much safer to provide suitable internment camps and form, if necessary, a special volunteer corps to look after them in case of need.

The political aspect will be very serious when we have provided tens of thousands of nationals from the surrounding countries with most valuable scraps of paper, so that they may act in all safety and from high positions as secret agents for some foreign power, either directly or indirectly. The only way effectively to avoid political danger is to see that the police authorities enforce strict observance of our laws, as well as respect for our national traditions and sentiments. Let all the offenders be taken across the border.

As to the economic side, it does not seem to exist for the Federal Council, because they are proposing the shortest cut to keep the whole lot and increase their numbers, but I think that this aspect of the question is as important as any. As, however, economic problems can be solved thoroughly only by economic means, we must turn the Finanzamt on to the foreign settlers and give attention to the 'Niederlassungsverträge.' If the Federal Council considered it quite a just thing to order the Swiss abroad to give their addresses once a year to Consulates and Legations and pay a fee, why not give the foreign settlers in Switzerland the pleasure of going twice a year to the police stations and paying a tidy amount in Swiss francs each time?

Why not see what they can arrange in connection with the military exemption tax? As matters stand now, every Swiss liable to this tax, even if abroad, and even if underpaid, has to contribute his share towards the free education of the children of foreign residents in Switzerland, who are perhaps occupying the very jobs he would be so glad to secure. No wonder that they like us; we are generous indeed. Why not turn this tax into a kind of "national protection premium" and argue that, as the premium must be in proportion to the benefits, the foreign residents ought to pay more, because they can follow their careers without any hindrance? They can secure those appointments for which "Militärpflichtige" need not apply, and if matters came to the worst they would be carefully looked after, fed and clothed, behind barbed wire, whereas a great many of the present military tax payers would stand the chance of being endowed with a wooden cross.

I must say that I am, in principle, in agreement with the naturalisation of children of mothers of Swiss birth, born and brought up in Switzerland; there is something Swiss in that, and it does not even necessitate any amendment of the Constitution; but I am very much against the proposal to naturalise 12,000 foreigners a year, and remould the first paragraph of Art. 44.

The paragraph reads now:—

"Aucun canton ne peut renvoyer de son territoire un de ses ressortissants, ni le priver du droit d'origine ou de cité"

and the proposed alteration would read:—

"No Swiss can be expelled from Switzerland or from his native canton."

The old text represents one of the most important passages in the Constitution, and the most outstanding fact in it is that there is not even a hint at Federal authority in the matter. It was not an oversight. As the Confederation, or the Federal authorities, have competence only in matters specifically transferred to them by the Constitution, the withdrawal or curtailment of our national birth right never having been so transferred, it would have been a legal inconsistency to put on record limitations to powers which have never existed.

As matters stand now, we are quite safe; but the proposed new paragraph is nothing more than a clever piece of camouflage, and it is in any event not good enough for the Swiss abroad. I feel sure the Swiss people will not have it, as there is no limit to the legislation and *ordonnances* which may be barricaded behind those innocent or even attractive sounding words. We, who are already outside the territory of the Cantons and Confederation, are thereby virtually deprived of our national rights and could be dropped in mid-Atlantic. I would, therefore, like to know what is to be the constitutional standing of the Swiss abroad under the new scheme.

What the Federal Council is proposing is nothing less than the commandeering of the national rights of the old Swiss for the sake of the foreign settlers, and this so soon after the rejection of the capital levy. I really do not see why the citizens of Buerglen and the patricians of Geneva and other centres should give up their birthright for the sake of allowing a few officials to do wholesale business in cheap certificates of naturalisation with the Gentlemen of the Bahnhofstrasse.

If the trouble be that the rectangular stones of the Federal Palace are too uninspiring, or the atmosphere of the Café du Théâtre too foggy, let the Federal Council and the National Assembly proceed to the Grütli and debate the 'Fremdenfrage' there, among the fir-trees and the rocks, in sight of the Tellsplatte and of Buerglen.

I am convinced the Federal executive is doing a disservice to the country in endeavouring to centralise our national rights, and more so because it would give an unmistakable impression of weakness to the foreign element in our midst; they would feel that they have ruled Switzerland by fear. It is not weakness, but strength which we want, especially at a moment when conditions are in a state of flux in the surrounding countries. The solution of the 'Fremdenfrage' along the lines proposed by the Federal Council is a defeat for Switzerland, and I am against it.

Yours faithfully,

78, High Street, Teddington. O. BRAGA.

THE BASLE FAIR.

The Seventh Swiss Samples Fair will take place at Basle from April 14th to 24th, 1923, and there is every indication that it will be a great success. According to the latest reports, additional space has been secured by a large number of last year's exhibitors, while several prominent Swiss firms who were not showing during the last few years are now participating on an extensive scale.

To encourage and facilitate the visit of British business men, a party trip is being arranged by *The Swiss Observer*, and those who wish to take advantage of the saving in rail fares and to avoid the more or less troublesome necessity of making their own personal arrangements should send in their names. Further particulars as to price of tickets and day of departure will be published later.

The "Auslandschweizertag," one of the many patriotic manifestations to be held during the exhibition, has been fixed for April the 16th, 1923, and it is sincerely hoped that, in view of the marked progress and the official recognition which the movement has now obtained, the large Swiss Colony in Great Britain will be adequately represented.

Mr. RODOLPHE GAILLARD'S CONCERT.

An interesting recital of songs was given on Wednesday, at Wigmore Hall, by Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard, a baritone who can be listened to with genuine pleasure. One could frankly enjoy his voice for its agreeable quality, and not less his singing for its finish and good taste. He has a most sympathetic voice and a clear enunciation.

The words of the songs were printed in the programme, but, as happens only on rare occasions, one was never under any necessity to refer to them. Mr. Gaillard is sincerely interested in what he sings, the chief impression is that of one who believes song to be picturesque, dramatic and impressive, and who possesses the necessary power of voice to demonstrate all this.

The programme was very well chosen and enthusiastically received by the very large audience, who called for several encores, and the general impression was that Mr. Gaillard even exceeded himself, if it were possible.

The artist was ably assisted by Mademoiselles Maja Barina and Marga Stella. N. W.

THE SEVENTH ANNUAL

Swiss Samples Fair

will be held at

BASLE

14th to 24th April, 1923

For Information apply to:

THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF THE SWISS LEGATION,
32, Queen Anne Street, W. 1.

or to:

THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION,
45, Lothbury, E.C. 2, & at Basle.

For travelling facilities apply to:

THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS,
11b, Regent Street, S.W. 1.

ZURICH GENERAL ACCIDENT AND LIABILITY INSURANCE COMPANY

of Zurich, Switzerland.

INSPECTOR WANTED.

We have a Vacancy in our Outside Staff with good opportunities for the right man. Necessary qualifications of applicants:

1. **Swiss Nationality.**
2. **Good Salesmanship.**
3. **Knowledge of London and the resident Swiss Colony. Knowledge of Insurance desirable.**

Applications in writing, giving full particulars, to W. S. WORK, Manager,

ZURICH GENERAL ACCIDENT & LIABILITY INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED,

Branch Office for the United Kingdom:
1 & 2, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C. 2.
Telephone: CENTRAL 2772.

MAGGI's Soups

are delicious, wholesome and nourishing. They are an ideal food in the most easily assimilated form.

Of all leading Grocers and Stores.

Sole Agents for Great Britain & Ireland:
MARBER & CO., 17 & 18, Gt. Pulteney St., London, W. 1.

50

ALFRED MULLER,
WATCH & CLOCK MAKER,
58, DEAN STREET, LONDON. W. 1.
Restoration of Modern and Antique Watches and Clocks of every description.
VENTE DE MONTRES DE PRÉCISION. MÉTAL ARGENT.

SWISS STUMPEN
VILLIGER SŒHNE, SWITZERLAND.
Sole Agent: **A. SCHMID,**
Coburg Court Hotel, Bayswater Rd., W.2
Telephone: PARK 2402.

AUG. BINDSCHEDLER
House Decorator
ELECTRICITY PLUMBING GASFITTING
CARPENTERING ROOFING Etc.
HIGH CLASS WORK AT MODERATE PRICES.
9, Tolmers Square, Hampstead Road,
Phone: MUSEUM 412. N.W. 1