

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom
Band: - (1934)
Heft: 679

Rubrik: Home news

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>

Dr. R. von Tavel, one of the most distinguished contemporary authors in Switzerland, was born on the 21st of December, 1866 in Berne. On the conclusion of his studies at the Universities of Lausanne, Leipzig, Berlin and Heidelberg, he acted as Editor of the "Berner Tagblatt" from 1891 until 1896 and again from 1905 until 1915. From 1896 up to 1905 Dr. von Tavel was convert Jaeck's pass, having retrieved the ball on the goal line. And in the last minute the Czech inside trio overplay our centrehalf and from 20 Secretary of the "Schweizerische Mobiliarversicherungs-Gesellschaft" in Berne. During the years from 1892-1917 he also occupied the editorial chair of the "Berner Heim" and up to

his death he was Editor in chief of the illustrated paper "Die Garbe."

The deceased was principally known as the author of a number of novels and plays in the Bernese dialect. His best known dramatic works are the tragedy "Major Tavel" (1901) and the plays "Johannes Steiger" (1892) and "Zwingherrenstreit" (1894). In 1902 his best known novel "Ja gäll so geits" was published, followed in 1903 by its continuation "Der Houptme Lom bach" and two years after by the conclusion "Götti und Göteli." In 1909 appeared the novel "Der Stärm vo Buebeberg" and in 1927 "Gueti Gspane." A further novel in Bernese dialect "Der Donnernegueg" was published in 1915 and two years later he wrote the novel "Die heilige Flamme" this time in high German. Further dialect stories appeared in 1916 and 1918. In 1931 he published the large "Bubenberg" novel "Ring i der Chetti" and in 1933 "Meister und Ritter." Switzerland has lost in Dr. von Tavel one of its most distinguished authors.

* * *

The Government of the canton of Berne has officially expressed their sympathy to the members of the family, a free burial place has been offered for the distinguished writer.

LUCERNE.

Dr. Oscar Brun, the doyen of the medical practitioners of the town of Lucerne has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

* * *

Dr. Emil Cattani, a noted nerve specialist, who died recently, has left an amount of 30,000 frs. to charitable institutions.

VALAIS.

The tribunal at Sion has condemned the paper "Courrier de Sion" to a fine of 5,000 frs., and costs in connection with a libel action, which M. Cyrille Pitteloud, member of the cantonal government, has brought against the paper.

VAUD.

The population of the town of Lausanne on October 1st was registered at 85,784.

* * *

On Saturday last the new Quay was opened at Vevey, the length of same is 131m. with a width of 18m., the cost amount to 1,250,000 frs.

FOOTBALL.

SWITZERLAND 2 CZECHO-SLOVAKIA 2

The general interest as evinced by the number of spectators was at a low level in Geneva, estimates varying between 10 and 20,000, yet the lesser figures being nearer the mark, by all accounts. Can you wonder at it when a seat in the stand, mark you, anywhere in the stand, costs just over fifteen shillings and standing room only was considered to be worth three shillings. I am afraid England v. Italy at Highbury would break the low record of attendance at such prices. Thank heaven they have more sense.

Switzerland, for one reason or another had rather an experimental team in the field. The defence, Séchéhaye, Minelli and W. Weiler, the old guard acquitted themselves very well indeed. The halves, Greiner, Loichot, Schaub were quite a new edition and under the circumstances did even better than expected. The forwards, von Känel, Hufschmid, Kielholz, Jäggi, Jaek are all familiar names, but whilst the wings and centre played in their accustomed positions, Hufschmid is a half-back and Jäggi a centre-forward. And here lies the rub. Since Trello left for Paris and his brother Xam is no more as young as he used to be, Switzerland appear to have run dry of inside forwards. A serious matter, to be thus handicapped in perhaps the most vital positions. Nevertheless, in the first half the team as a whole played well. Almost immediately after the kick-off, a peculiar incident occurred. The referee (Lewington, England) found it quite impossible to carry on, as it made him dizzy to watch two teams, one playing in white knickers and red shirts and the other in red (!) knickers and white shirts. Blue stockings added thereto completed the Czecho colours. And so they had to leave the field and change from red to blue knickers, perhaps also from blue to red socks, I do not know. After some delay, everything now looking lovely in the garden of roses, play was resumed. The Swiss, finding their wing forwards in great form, definitely dominated in the early stages and in the 14th minute Kielholz headed a great goal from a right wing centre. Slowly but surely the Czechs run into form and our goal has some narrow escapes. Rapid attacks on both goals prove fruitless; more and more the Czechs are gaining the upper hand and just then, in the 41st minute, against all expectation and against the run of play, Switzerland scores their second goal! On a throw-in from Greiner, Hufschmid sends the ball into the middle and Kielholz's head does the rest. 2:0 amidst indescribable enthusiasme. Three minutes later a glorious chance to score again is lost, because no inside forward was up to yards out Nejedlý shoots past Séchéhaye; 2:1, half-time.

After resuming, there can be no doubt that the Czechs are the better team. Some of the Reds begin to tire; possibly they did not husband their physical resources sufficiently in the first half. Be that as it may, in the 59th minute Nejedlý once more rounds off a nice movement with a hot shot into the net and thus equalises. 2:2. Some say Séchéhaye should have saved. All say he did save many shots that should have scored! In the last half hour the Swiss had a gruelling time. Apart from some sporadic attacks by the wings it was defending all the time until the final whistle.

The result is just. The Swiss definitely held the advantage in the first half and faded away in the second. The game counted in the Europa Cup competition and gave us our first point. From the table below you will perceive that even one point only was very welcome.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	for	agst	Pts.
Italy	5	4	0	1	13	6	8
Hungary	4	2	1	1	8	4	5
Austria	4	2	1	1	10	9	5
Czecho-Slovakia	4	0	3	1	6	8	3
Switzerland	5	0	1	4	6	16	1

On November 4th Holland are due to play in Bern. I think we should succeed and win.

M.G.

SWISS NEED OF MORE EXPORTS.

Can Switzerland for ever be a "price-island?" Or has this country lived for the last two years on its reserves, as the President of the Confederation stated in a speech at the Lausanne Fair?

It is a matter of fact that in 1932 more than 50 per cent. of all limited companies, with a paid-up capital of about 3.5 milliards of francs, did not pay any dividend. The Swiss National Bank stated that in 1933 824 million francs of working capital in banking institutions remained without remuneration, and losses sustained by banks and other financial companies amounted in the same year to 225 million francs.

Foreign trade figures are still very high at 580 francs per head, against 370 francs in England and 173 in Germany. These figures, which refer to 1933 (in 1934 there was another setback), show that Switzerland in 1933 had half of the foreign trade registered in 1925.

Switzerland's prosperity relies to a great extent on her export trade. For this reason the country has to find a way to bring its products within the purchasing power of the principal foreign customers. With the high level of the cost of living index, the advantage for selling goods on the world markets lies well on the side of Switzerland's competitors. The advantage for Italy has been stated by the Swiss statistics with 17 per cent., for France with 25 per cent., England 28 per cent., and United States with 37 per cent.

Budget Deficits. Big Increase.

The Budget of the Swiss Government since 1932 has shown an increasing deficit. From Frs.24.2 millions in 1932 it became Frs.72.3 millions in 1933, which was the biggest deficit since 1921, when it was Frs.127.6 millions. From 1928 till 1931 there was a surplus.

The consolidated and unsettled debt of the Confederation in 1913 was Frs.146 millions, while in 1933 it was Frs.2,182 millions. In the same time the debt of the federal railways, for which the Confederation assumed the guarantee, showed an increase from Frs.1,494 millions to Frs.3,033 millions in 1933.

For many years observant citizens have been uncomfortably aware of the fact that public expenditures, taxes and borrowings have been increasing much faster than population, wealth and income, and that the time has arrived to retrench if the basis for a sound money policy is to be maintained. Switzerland must overcome the deficit, as a country with its reduced earning capacity is in an impossible position to assume additional charges. If deflation has to be seriously undertaken, railway fares, postal charges and taxes must be reduced, their index being at least 200 per cent. of the pre-war level.

The present standard of life, one of the highest in Europe, is not the consequence of a better economical situation, but only of larger reserves than other countries have, Swiss people must find and adopt the necessary means to ensure that their widely known products are not too dear for their foreign customers.

Only One Way Open. Real Deflation.

To reach this desirable state there is only one way open — real deflation in every field of human activity — because a country which has to import almost all raw materials (in 1933 Frs.481 millions) and a great deal of the victuals (in 1933 Frs.400 millions) cannot solve the problem by devaluation or inflation.

The financial basis of the country is still very good. The foreign balances of Switzerland are by some milliards higher than the engagements Switzerland has to meet with other countries.

With her principal debtor — viz., Germany — an agreement for five years has become effective, on the basis of which there is a certain probability that Switzerland, with a highly active trade balance in favour of Germany, is not likely to suffer so much by the abnormal situation of its northern neighbour.

Switzerland has now a good opportunity to prove to the world that its device. "All for one, one for all," is not forgotten in modern times and that democracy is willing to support heavy charges and sacrifices with the sole aim of keeping the house in order and to be, as in the past, a nation with world-wide connections.

FREDERIC BEK.
"Financial Times."

THE SCHWABRIG. A Children's Country Home.

(Continuation).

At the beginning of this century the writer was invited by Pastor Bion to visit the Schwabrig. He was told that the hill-top was completely bare when it was purchased by subscriptions and mortgages. So Bion went to the nurserymen and asked for their refuse to provide shade. They gave generously, and Bion planted. And, with a chuckle, he remarked — "In a few years there will be enough timber to pay off the mortgages."

The children were then housed in a wooden barn in charge of a *Hausater* and his wife. There was a cow, goats, pigs, and hens, and plenty for the children to wonder at. They did not like the milk. It was too thick! But they revelled in the view. To the south lay the Säntis, which forms the chin in the outline of the Altmann, Eastwards lay Austria, as far as the Silvretta peaks. Northwards was the Lake of Constance, and west the hills of home. Factory smoke was absent, the sun shone clear, and oceans of pure air sent the blood coursing through the arteries.

As a result of that first visit the Children's Village at Humble came into existence.

Later Visits

Twenty years later a second visit was paid. The pines had grown strongly. In the undergrowth children were playing at Red Indians. They held the writer to ransom, and gained possession of the chocolate he had brought for use on wet days. Morning and evening there was tooth-brush drill, and after dinner a general siesta. And there was a staid old horse, a general favourite — by Pound-a-Leg out of Also Ran — and the *Hausater* wore the same big watch-chain, with which, the children said, he tied up the cow at night.

A few weeks ago a third visit was paid. The road has grown steeper and the forest thicker; but merry cries dispensed with sign-posts. The great building, with its outside fire-escapes and well-laden fruit trees, was easy to recognise. But a change had taken place.

The home has taken on much of the character of a Boy Scout camp. It is now open for ten weeks only in summer, and the campers are stronger and better built. General treatment has given way to special treatment. Sickly children are now sent to special resorts, to Davos or the sunny slopes that gaze down on Piedmont. Deaf and dumb children are taught to dance, as a possible remedy. And expenses have risen.

By means of an annual grant of 100,000 francs from the town, the Zürich Committee is able to maintain forty camps for 1700 children. The gross cost is four francs per head per day. One-quarter of it is covered by parents' subscriptions, about 50 pay in full, and some 270 children are guests. To prevent damage to trees and fences, games are organised. Choral singing and acting prevent a wet day from becoming dull. And the assistance of teachers, readily given, assures an effortless discipline. And now there is a new interest — watching aeroplanes; the red Arosa mail to keep the clock right, and the London-Zürich one to test keenness of sight.

Parents are still apt to conceal personal characteristics of their offspring — e.g., sleep-walking — but there is less desire to cheat the doctor, who rejects cases of vermin and eczema. The chief complaints against parents are that they will send tuck and will come on visits.

A Wisely Chosen Site.

Bion was wise when he chose the Schwabrig, for it is three miles from a station and all the way is uphill. Newcomers do the journey on foot, and so are ready for supper and bed on arrival. Mothers do not like the climb, and mothers are not wanted: for they leave homesick children. The food is good; children beg for copies of the day's menu to send home. But the absent parent is not convinced. It is estimated that over £300 is spent per annum by parents in sending tuck. If paid to the excursion fund, this sum would be of much greater service. By camp law, all tuck is common property, but much of it arrives in a state not fit for consumption.

A.J.P.