

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 1 (1935-1936)  
**Heft:** 1

**Artikel:** A magical palace  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-941972>

### **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:** 18.08.2025

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

of his explorations. In 1786 Balmat and de Saussure succeeded in the first ascent to the summit.

During the course of the next 60 years mountaineering ascents of some importance were made at long intervals. The Jungfrau was climbed in 1811, the Finsteraarhorn in 1812, etc. Mountaineering as an organised sport commenced only after 1850. In a decade almost all the great alpine peaks were conquered. The noblest of all, the Matterhorn, was one of the last to fall. The story of Ed. Whymper, making his first attempt on the Matterhorn in 1861 and succeeding only in 1865, is well known. On July 13th, he left Zermatt with a party of 7, including the 2 famous Taugwalder guides, father and son. They struck camp next morning at dawn, and were overjoyed to find that the great north-eastern face of the Matterhorn, which had never been seriously attacked, provided an easy route to the snowy shoulder 800 feet below the summit. From the shoulder the difficulties steadily increased, but nothing could arrest the determination of the invaders. At 1.30 p.m., July 14th 1865, the Matterhorn was conquered and the dream of many years had come true. Unfortunately, disaster followed rapidly on the heels of triumph. On the descent, about half-way between the summit and the shoulder, one of the climbers slipped, dragging 3 others with him. The rope broke, and 4 men were hurled four thousand feet below. The two Taugwalders and Whymper escaped.

No sketch, however brief, of the conquest of mountains would be complete without some reference to the mechanical conquest, of which the Jungfrau railway is the most striking example in the world. Guyer-Feller, who conceived this railway, unfortunately did not live to see it completed. It was begun in 1896 and took eighteen years to build. The tunnel is five and three-quarter miles in length, and for the last four miles it is cut out of solid rock, so hard that it requires no lining of masonry. The maximum gradient is 1 in 4. This astonishing feat of engineering, accomplished entirely by Swiss skill and determination, like the world-famous St. Gotthard and Simplon tunnels, reaches its terminus at the Jungfraujoch 11,140 feet above sea-level. A lift brings the tourists up to the luxurious hotel built out on the rock face. Through its balconies and windows, the tourist can admire the most wonderful panorama, whether he be an infirm or a cripple.

#### A MAGICAL PALACE.

In the valley of Cassarate, above Lugano, stands the castle of Trevano. A mere glimpse at its simple exterior would never suggest to the average spectator that the interior of this dwelling is of overwhelming magnificence. A handful of old people in this southland may tell you of the days when royalty and nobility were guests at night fêtes in the illuminated park, and when the Russian Czar, Alexander III, Queen Victoria of England, Queen Elizabeth of Austria, and the former Empress Eugenie of France, lent brilliance to the spectacle by their presence.

Baron von Derwies, a Russian millionaire and private secretary to the Czar, built the Chateau Trevano between 1860 and 70 at an outlay of some 12 million francs. He was a lover of music and fine art, and, as such, he maintained in the castle a high-class orchestra and a small theatrical company, so that Trevano soon became a rendez-vous of the musical world. The generous owner died in 1891, and the castle remained unoccupied for almost 20 years.

Its second owner was Louis Lombard, a Frenchman by birth, and an outstanding violinist by profession. His artistic career and phenomenally lucky stock speculation brought him great wealth. On a trip through Switzerland he discovered Trevano, with its luxurious rooms for entertaining, its concert hall with organ, and its perfectly equipped theatre and spacious auditorium. Some of the foremost musicians of his day played at Trevano, and an orchestra under his direction gave over 900 symphony concerts, which were attended by the very elite of Europe's musical and social leaders. Louis Lombard died in 1927, and his property then came into the possession of the Canton of Ticino for a surprisingly small sum. The future of Trevano is again being

considered, and plans are under way to develop it into a seat of open-air international festival plays.

#### SWISS NEWS.

Among the outstanding events of Swiss political and economical history of recent times are two votes, which were made necessary by the freely-used institution of the referendum. One took place on the 2nd June of this year; a so-called Krisen-initiative, or something like a new deal system, wished the state to have economical matters in hand and by large borrowing make capital available for a restoration of the depressed economy of the country. The vote was not accepted by the Swiss people. The reason of rejection may be explained by the fact that the borrowing of this large sum would have endangered the Swiss franc, and in this case the proposed measures for salvation would have been annulled. On the other hand, the majority of the Swiss people do still believe, that a too great state interference in economics is detrimental to trade and industries. A third fact is also very important and has been pointed out from the more conservative sides, that borrowing is typically un-Swiss, that is, goes against the tradition of our forefathers to leave a heavy burden of loans.

The second great vote on the 8th September concerned a complete revision of our constitution and was brought forward by the extreme parties of our political structure. The conservative spirit of the majority, and a great majority too, was not willing to go to such kind of experiments. The motion was rejected.

Times are hard, all over the world, the economic balance is swinging wildly round, and Switzerland is naturally affected just the same as any other country because Swiss economic features are very closely linked with World affairs through our export industries and the tourist traffic. In moments of hardships, there are always elements who think that they have the way for a great solution, if given the necessary power. However, unfortunately their systems do mostly not stand a serious test, and it is therefore pleasing to have an opportunity to consult the public opinion, an opportunity afforded by the referendum and vote.

#### NEWS IN BRIEF.

The case Jacob, known as the Basle Kidnapping affair, will shortly be dealt with by an International Arbitration Court, the judges having been appointed by Switzerland and Germany.

On the 26th. of this year, the election of the National Council and Council of State will take place in Switzerland -- their term of four years coming to an end.

Our countryman, Sir Arnold Theiler, the greatest veterinary surgeon of to-day, has returned to South Africa to complete some of his scientific researches. Sir Arnold represented Switzerland at the Veterinary Congress in New York, and it will be remembered by most of the Swiss in New Zealand that he visited this country in November of last year. After a short stay in Australia, he returned to South Africa where the Swiss Colony gave him a great reception in honour of the Gold Medal received from the British Agricultural Society.

Admiral Emil Belart, the highest commander of the Brazilian Navy, and a native of Brugg, Switzerland, died recently at the age of 70 in Rio, Brazil.

The readers who are lucky enough to possess a short-wave wireless set, will be interested to know that on every first Monday of each month, official news from Switzerland will be broadcast from the League of Nations Station, Prangins, wave lengths H.B.L. 31.27 m, at midnight, Swiss time.

The Federal Council of Switzerland has charged the Police Department of the Kanton of Tessin to arrest the publishers and to close the office of the Adula Newspaper in Bellinzona; their