

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 4 (1938-1939)
Heft: 4

Artikel: Switzerland for the Swiss
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-943170>

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: 05.01.2026

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

also working out the complete plans for the locomotive based on the design of the experimental locomotive which was put into service by the Swiss Federal Railroads in 1931, giving excellent results. The trial engine has run about 800,000 km. in heavy service without any appreciable repairs of the driving mechanism.

+++++

GRATITUDE OF OUR FEDERAL PRESIDENT.

At a meeting of the Federal council which took place at the close of the parliamentary September session, the President, Dr. J. Baumann, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to his colleagues as follows :-

"I do not wish to open this sitting today without expressing my deepest satisfaction at the most favourable turn certain events have taken. Our people, its authorities, and even the whole world, have been relieved of great worry and anxiety and we can presume that peace is at last secure. Nevertheless, this shall not prevent us, in military, political, economic as well as moral respect, to maintain measures for the welfare of the liberty and independence of our Fatherland.

Firstly, our thanks be given to heavenly providence. But I also wish to thank you, my esteemed colleagues, and your co-workers for the extraordinary volume of work done during the past few weeks. In the name of the Parliament, our Army and our Swiss people, I thank you for your calm determination with which you watched the development of coming events and for your readiness to give any sacrifice for your beloved Homeland."

+++++

SWITZERLAND FOR THE SWISS.

The "Switzerland for the Swiss" movement which has naturally gained a very strong footing in our country, is inducing quite a number of correspondents to air their views per medium of various daily papers. Here is an example :

In the Canton of Thurgau 1105 domestic servants have obtained residential permits. 90% of these have come from Germany. Approximately 1000 German girls are occupying 1000 positions which could have been filled by Swiss girls. Of these Swiss girls, hundreds are probably doing clerical work, mostly in the commercial line of business, which could easily be done by men who, at the present time, are walking the streets, workless and discouraged, whose future is looking very black indeed. Many of these German girls while getting a footing in the household, will marry Swiss citizens and become Swiss. Here we have "Swiss women" still strongly German-minded and who have their relatives in Germany, but will be the mothers of Swiss children. Such is our country's future.

Why should this go on? Is it not worth an effort to solve this domestic problem? It rests with us alone to solve it. Encourage the Swiss girls to take more kindly to domestic work. More enlightenment is needed as well as the co:operation of Women's Organisations, Schools and the Government. The question is an important one, this "Switzerland for the Swiss" movement.

Are you aware that Switzerland has at the present time approximately 140,000 inhabitants (mostly of the younger type) who, although born in our country, are of foreign origin.

In 1930 Switzerland harboured 355,000 foreigners. Half of these are not Swiss, because our naturalization laws do not recognize their citizenship, although they are born on Swiss soil. This principle has earned much praise elsewhere and appears, for such a small country, very unique. The problem of these 140,000 foreigners is of greater importance politically than economically. Two of our neighbouring states, Germany and Italy, are at the present time working systematically on prevention of assimilation of their citizens in foreign parts. For a small state like ours, these developments are a recognized danger. A well-known authority has called public attention to the fact that the German colony in

Switzerland grows more and more to be a body confined to their own aims and interests. At a congress of Germans living outside of their Homeland, which took place at Stuttgart, Mr. Bohle, a party official, stated that every German in foreign parts is a messenger of propaganda for Nazi-ism. Of course these assertions reflect on Italy as well as on Germany.

There is a law in Switzerland which forbids foreign propaganda, but nevertheless it would be an act of gross carelessness not to proceed systematically with a suitable assimilation policy. In several instances, foreigners in Switzerland have been prevented by their Home authorities from obtaining naturalization, although a return to their native land would be very doubtful. Therefore an independent naturalization policy is desirable. A country like Switzerland overstocked with foreigners will suffer sooner or later if the faculty of assimilation is weakened. This is of the utmost importance especially for that contingent of 140,000 whose existence is insolubly bound up with our country.

+++++

SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

The Swiss Alpine Club celebrated in Olten the 75th Anniversary. In 1861 Professor Dr. Theodor Simler proposed to form an Alpine Society. During 1862 he was busy trying to interest mountaineers in his object. The official inauguration took place in Olten on 19th April 1863 in the presence of 35 enthusiasts who recognized the economic importance of solving the innumerable riddles of our Alpine world. 50 years later the Swiss Alpine Club (S.A.C.) numbered 13,154 members. Today there are 84 sections with a total of over 31,000 members. A wonderful achievement. 115 Alpine club huts, continuous explorations of the Swiss Alps, a very progressive guide system, surveys and the many topographical charts are everlasting monuments of the club's activity. Other achievements worth mentioning are their Relief system, their accident insurance, Juvenile organisation. The Alpine Museum shows proofs of its scientific and touristic activities.

+++++

S. B. C. ITEMS :

Circulars which have been sent by us to a number of members of our Society who had overlooked their obligation last year have brought surprisingly good results. A great majority have most willingly paid up and we are hoping that others will yet do the same. While appreciating the ready spirit of these members who have simply overlooked their obligation, we would like to ask the remainder also to toe the mark. Retaining our old members is an attribution to our efforts and will help us to enroll new ones. So far the subscriptions have come to hand fairly well, and we hope, with your help, to pass the 100 mark this year.

Through the Ausland Sekretariat the following books may be obtained :-

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| "Schweizer im Ausland" | frs. 3,60 and frs. 5,75 |
| "Unserescheizer Heimat" | " 3 -- |
| "Dieschweiz" Year book issued by the Neue Helvetische Gesellschaft | } frs. .6, - |
| "Du Bist Eldgenosse" | frs. 5; - |
| "Die Schweiz in Europa" by Näf | frs. 2,25 |
| "Von Der Alten Eidgenossenschaft" | frs. 1,30 |
| by Feller | |
| "Die Lebendige Schweiz" (Switzerland in pictures) | frs. 3,75 |
| "General Wille" | frs. -,50 |

The prices do not include exchange, which must be added. Our Secretary, Mr. W. Ungemuth, will be pleased to receive and forward orders accompanied with the necessary cash.
