

The new law on Swiss citizenship

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **17 (1953)**

Heft [9]

PDF erstellt am: **01.05.2024**

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sents, due to its romantic and natural surroundings, a most impressive picture. A spring flows down one side of the rock, gathering in a pool, filled with lilies and water grasses, at the base. In a recess occupying the centre of this cliff lies the lion, pierced by a broken lance, but still protecting the Burbon shield with its right paw. Its facial expression is most realistic.

The glacier gardens, with the strangely grooved and hollowed bed of a prehistoric glacier, was accidentally discovered very close to the centre of the city. It is a curiosity and worth a visit, made more attractive still, by getting completely lost in the "Labyrinth" built for the benefit of visitors.

The great American poet, Mark Twain, has left us one of the finest descriptions of Lucerne and its lake: "Lucerne is a charming place. It begins at the water's edge, with a fringe of hotels and scrambles up and spreads itself over two or three sharp hills in a crowded, disorderly but picturesque way, offering to the eye a heaped up confusion of red rooftops, quaint gables, dormer windows, toothpick steeples, here and there a bit of ancient embattled wall bending itself over the ridges, and here and there an old square tower of heavy masonry. The lake front is walled with masonry like a pier, and has a railing to keep people from walking overboard. All day long the vehicles dash along the avenue, and nurses, children, and tourists sit in the shade of the chestnut trees, or lean on the railing and watch the schools of fish darting about in the clear water, or gaze out over the lake at the stately border of snow-hooded mountain peaks. Pleasure steamers, black with people, are coming and going all the time; and everywhere one sees young girls and men paddling about in fanciful row boats, or skimming along by the help of sails when there is any wind. The front rooms of the hotels have little railed balconies, where one may take his private luncheon in calm, cool comfort, and look down upon this busy and pretty scene and enjoy it without having to do any of the work connected with it. The commerce of Lucerne consists mainly of the souvenir sort; the shops are packed with Alpine crystals, photographs of scenery and wooden and ivory carvings. I will not conceal the fact that miniature figures of the Lion of Lucerne are offered by the millions. There is a subtle something about the majestic pathos of the original which copyists unfortunately cannot reproduce. Even the sun fails to get it; both the photographer and the carver give you a dying lion and that it all."

In the last twenty to thirty years, Lucerne has endeavoured, and with marked success, to present cultural treasures to visitors as well as their own citizens. Its brilliant musical festivals and popular art exhibitions have achieved international success. Lucerne is also well known

for its sports events and traditional popular festivals.

(To be continued)

ZURICH AND ITS MUSEUMS

(Continued from August issue)

Zurich is thus youthful and modern in appearance, but the visitor to whom things historical appeal will find in the two picturesque old quarters along either bank of the river Limmat many a medieval building worthy of his interest, venerable churches and the superb guild-houses dating from the eighteenth century. In the

Swiss National Museum,

which affords, with its priceless collections, a general survey of the cultural development of Switzerland from the Stone Age to the end of the eighteenth century, he will be able to examine the external influences—either from the north or from the south—which have been exercised on the oldest works of art discovered in Switzerland. The prehistoric collections, of which that devoted to the Lake-dwelling Age is the richest in existence, include amongst their exhibits the celebrated sacred goblet of Zurich, which dates from the eighth century B.C. and, made of pure gold and weighing two pounds, forms a unique piece of its kind. The room in which the altars, sculpture, paintings and ecclesiastical antiquities from the Carolingian period (ninth century) to the Renaissance (thirteenth century) are arranged is altogether remarkable. Besides a fine series of display rooms and historic interiors illustrating five centuries of history, the National Museum also possesses a magnificent collection of stained glass, antique Swiss furniture, tiled stoves of great beauty, as well as artistic curios difficult to find elsewhere, as for example the beautifully carved racing-sledges of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

GILBERT BAUR.

THE NEW LAW ON SWISS CITIZENSHIP

Some important points resulting from this law, which came into force on January 1st, 1953, are the following:—

(a) Loss of Swiss Citizenship Through Marriage (Section 9).

A Swiss woman loses the Swiss citizenship through marriage with an alien if she acquires through the marriage the nationality of her husband, or if she already possesses it, and unless she makes a written declaration stating that she wishes to retain the Swiss citizenship. In the event that a fiancée residing in New Zealand wants to sign such a Declaration, she has to send

in the Declaration to the Swiss Consulate in Wellington, **prior** to the celebration of the marriage. The Consulate will furnish the official form on request.

According to New Zealand law, an alien woman does not become a national of this country through marriage to a New Zealand citizen. Consequently, a Swiss woman who marries a national of New Zealand does not acquire New Zealand citizenship through marriage, and for this reason she remains a Swiss citizen by virtue of Swiss law. Therefore in such a case she does not need to sign the Declaration in question. If, however, she still wants to make the Declaration, she is at liberty to do so.

(b) Loss of Swiss Citizenship Through Birth in a Foreign Country (Section 10).

A child born in a foreign country of a Swiss father also born abroad loses the Swiss citizenship at the age of 22 years if he/she has a second nationality, unless he/she has been announced by his/her parents or a relative or friend to a Swiss authority for the registration of his/her birth in Switzerland or made the announcement himself/herself, or unless he/she has made a written Declaration stating that he/she wishes to retain the Swiss citizenship.

Those persons to whom Section 10 applies and who were over 22 years of age on January 1st, 1953, or who reached the age of 22 years during 1953, will lose the Swiss citizenship if they do not sign the Declaration or have their birth officially recorded in Switzerland by December 31st, 1953.

(c) Acquiring of Swiss Citizenship Through Restoration (Sections 18-25).

A Swiss woman who has lost the Swiss citizenship by marrying an alien before January 1st, 1953, can regain her Swiss nationality under certain circumstances, in particular if her husband has passed away, or if the spouses have been divorced or have lived apart for three years, or if the woman has become stateless. Special provisions apply to children of such marriages. A woman who was Swiss by birth (not by marriage or naturalization) and lost the Swiss citizenship through marriage prior to January 1st, 1953, can regain it while still married, provided she makes application to the Swiss authorities before the end of 1953 (Sec. 58). Applications for re-integration, i.e., regaining the Swiss citizenship, are to be made to the Swiss authorities before December 31st, 1953. The applicant must procure certain official certificates, in particular Certificates of Good Conduct from all the places where she resided within the last five years. Consequently it is advisable that such persons contact the Consulate at their earliest convenience. The application form will be mailed to them upon request.

These provisions of the law are of the utmost importance for Swiss people living abroad, and every reader of the "Helvetia" should make them known to their Swiss friends who are not subscribers.

Persons affected by this new law and interested in retaining or regaining the Swiss citizenship should contact the Consulate.

Consulate of Switzerland,
P.O. Box 386,
WELLINGTON, C.1.

NOTICE CONCERNING SWISS CALENDARS FOR 1954

To enable our compatriots to procure a pictorial calendar from Switzerland for 1954, the Consulate is prepared to pass a collective order. Applicants are asked to write to the Swiss Consulate, P.O. Box 386, Wellington, C.1, and to remit at the same time the amount in question. The following calendars are offered:—

- (a) THE ALPINE CALENDAR, 1954 (Stehli), price 9/-. Size 11½ in. x 11 in., with twelve monthly sheets, each showing a fine Swiss scene in natural colour lithography. This calendar is also published in German under the title "Berge und Taler der Schweiz."
- (b) SWITZERLAND, 1954 (Novos), price 9/-. This calendar can also be had in German, "Die Schweiz." It contains 125 sheets of photographic views.

Orders for these calendars will be received until October 15th.

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Printed by McKenzie, Thornton, Cooper Ltd., 126 Cuba St., Wellington.
for the Swiss Benevolent Society in New Zealand (Inc.).
