

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 40 (1975)  
**Heft:** [11]

**Artikel:** Valais : world's largest narrow-gauge railway  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-945722>

### **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>**

## The Obwald Landsgemeinde Will Stay

A strong majority of Obwald citizens have voted to preserve their Landsgemeinde. Differing from their compatriots from Schwytz and Uri, who have recently abolished the Landsgemeinde in their Canton, they rejected an initiative launched following the confusion which marked the 1973 Landsgemeinde. That Landsgemeinde was troubled by disputed counting of votes and ended with the citizens voting a 10 franc credit in complete disarray.

The sponsors of the initiative claim that the Landsgemeinde, at which citizens elect officials or vote on issues submitted to them by the Great Council (Parliament) on a show of hands, should be replaced, as in the great majority of cantons, by the ordinary voting slip. The Great Council had in fact supported the initiative and the Half-Canton's State Council (Executive) had called for an adaptation of the Landsgemeinde to modern conditions. It was the fourth time that the people of Obwald had rejected calls for the disappearance of an institution which is still considered as one of the most picturesque traits of Swiss democracy. In the 18th century, there were over 80 Landsgemeinde in the country. The only cantons which still hold them are Obwald, Nidwald, Glaris and the two Appenzell Half-Cantons.

---

## Valais: World's Largest Narrow-Gauge Railway

A new tourist attraction in Canton Valais is the 1706-yard long narrow-gauge railway to the new Emosson Dam. From the scenic coaches passengers have marvellous views of the Mont Blanc massif. The trip starts at Le Chatelard, which can be reached by train or postal coach from Martigny. Passengers travel first on the funicular railway to the former Federal Railways power station reservoir and then up the world's narrowest narrow-gauge railway (gauge 23.58 inches) to beneath the 175-metre high dam. Accommodation is available in the nearby resort of Finhaut.

---

## English Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts Visit Switzerland

The Swiss Transport Museum in Lucerne, until 28th September, played host to a unique exhibition: The world's 22 most beautiful Rolls-Royces. The vintage cars exhibited represented the models of the years 1905 to 1975. They are almost exclusively owned by private collectors and came to Lucerne from England with their proprietors at the wheel. Incidentally, the Rolls-Royce Enthusiasts' Club of Great Britain arrived in Switzerland for a six-day tour of the country on September 20th — riding 10 old-timers.