

**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:** - (1922)

**Heft:** 77

**Rubrik:** The editor's letter bag

### **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:** 10.01.2026

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

case of France the balancing of her budget, in the case of the United Kingdom (English taxpayer, listen!) a reduction of the income-tax from five shillings to almost nothing in the pound. I daresay after such a "catastrophe" the new Government would, then, surely know "where they are," not to mention what the *Daily Mail* would have to say about the genius of Swiss experts on taxation—as soon as our people have rejected the proposed capital levy! To cut it short and come back to the point, such a way of assessing on pure assumption, be it for military or ordinary taxes, is absurd.

Practically all the fellow-Swiss citizens one meets in London are complaining about being compelled to pay the so-called immatriculation fee of ten shillings for the first, and five shillings for each succeeding year. They argue, quite justly to my mind, that, after having paid the military tax plus at least five shillings for renewal of the passport, one should, under normal circumstances, be allowed to walk out of the Legation with the proud feeling of having done, for one year, his duty towards mother Helvetia. But, alas, no! Berne wants something more out of the pockets of "those who are earning high salaries beyond the red-and-white frontier poles." Berne, thanks to its experts on taxation with the possibilities of whose genius I have just acquainted you, has found still another way of assessment. Berne is extracting a few extra shillings from every one of us, for Lord knows what reason. Berne ought to be informed that people on this side of the Channel are seriously thinking about reducing taxes. It will, however, prove of no avail to go on criticising, leaving it to chance whether or not we shall be heard in Berne. I therefore suggest to pass to action. My suggestion is this:—

Let the United Swiss Societies in London take a double action: (a) with the Federal Council through the intermediary of the Legation in London; (b) with the leaders of the political parties in the National Council.

I have no doubt that our Minister, Mr. Paravicini, is as convinced of the justice of our claim as we are. All we need do is to hand him the necessary petition, signed, of course, by the representatives of all the Societies, and we shall be sure that Mr. Paravicini will do the rest.

As to the suggested approachment of the party leaders in the National Council, I think a petition similar to the one handed to our Minister would prove sufficient.

I wish to draw attention to the fact that the Federal Chambers are to meet very shortly, one of their chief tractanda being, if my memory serves me rightly, the discussion of the budget for 1923. There is, consequently, no time to be lost in making an attempt to get rid of at least "the extra shillings," and thus eliminate from the Federal budget an item which is from the financial point of view unsatisfactory, and from the patriotic standpoint shabby.

Pending the result let us live in hope. In case we do not get a satisfactory solution, the discussion might be continued on a different basis.

I am, Sir,  
Yours faithfully,  
BERNEROBERLAENDER.

#### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

Special interest will be felt by readers in this country in the latest communication of the directors of the Nestlé Company on the subject of the impending reorganisation of the company's finances. At a meeting held on the 16th of this month the directors decided that in view of the satisfactory liquidation of stocks which had been carried out this year and the more normal course of business, the time had come to proceed to the reorganisation. An extraordinary general meeting is therefore called for the 16th of December, to decide upon the reduction of the capital by 80 million francs, cutting down the nominal value of the ordinary shares from 400 frs. to 200 frs. The holders of debentures in the Nestlé Company will meet on the 18th to express their views on the capital reduction. It must, however, be emphasized that this meeting is only held to comply with the Federal Council's order of the 20th of February, 1918, and that the bondholders are in no way affected by the reorganisation. Their rights will be untouched.

The "Entreprises Sulzer," the holding company for the various engineering concerns which bear the name of Sulzer, closed its accounts for the year ending 30th of September last with a loss of frs. 953,512. This is arrived at after writing off frs. 3,250,000 for depreciations to the amount of frs. 3,600,000, but on that occasion it was met by taking 2 million francs from the reserves. The principal manufacturing subsidiary is the Sulzer Bros. Company in Winterthur, and the accounts of this firm for the business year up to March the 31st show a loss of frs. 653,414, after devoting frs. 1,253,939 to depreciations. In this case there was last year a small net profit of frs. 217,810.

Commenting on the work of the various foreign subsidiaries, the report of the holding company shows that in 1921 the French company in Paris, known as the "Cie. de Construction Mécanique Procédés Sulzer," had a profit of 505,727 French

francs, which was used to augment reserves and to write off depreciation. The capital of this company is 25 million francs, of which 22½ million are now paid up. The German company in Ludwigshafen has enjoyed a satisfactory measure of employment. The selling companies in Milan, London, Cairo and Bucarest have all made satisfactory progress.

The Adolph Saurer Company in Arbon, after writing off 949,685 frs., shows a remaining net profit of 65,381 frs., which will be carried forward. It will be remembered that last year's accounts showed a loss of over 10 million francs, and that a scheme of reorganisation had to be arranged.

A meeting of the directors of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle was recently held to consider the report on the year 1921-22 and to approve the estimates for the coming year. With great efforts at economy and careful management it was found possible to keep within the limits of the 1921-22 budget. For the coming year a Cantonal subsidy of 167,000 frs. is allocated, comparing with 172,000 francs last year. The manager, Dr. Meile, then reported on the progress that had been made towards erecting a permanent building to house the fair.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	Nov. 14	Nov. 21
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	76.50%	78.85%
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	101.25%	100.05%
Federal Railways A-K 3½%	83.90%	84.20%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	102.85%	103.25%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	73.50%	74.85%
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	100.00%	100.00%

  

SHARES.	Nom. Frs.	Nov. 14 Frs.	Nov. 21 Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	633	640
Crédit Suisse	500	658	668
Union de Banques Suisses	500	547	556
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	1472	1560
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1157	1175
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	930	940
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	570	562
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	662	675
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	500	337	343
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	400	157	180
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Köhler	100	103	104
Comp. de Navig. sur le Lac Léman	500	420	430

#### THE EDITOR'S LETTER BAG.

W. T. Hull.—We thank you for your wrapper proving late delivery, and we have taken the matter up with the General Post Office.

B. W. A.—We thank you for your subscription. The two letters enclosed we have forwarded to the persons concerned. We are pleased to note that the stay in Switzerland is benefiting you. A full report of the Annual Banquet of the C.S.C. will appear in the issue of the week following the event.

L. S.—We are obliged for your appreciation, and as our article on "A Warning" (see "S.O." No. 73) has given rise to some adverse criticism, we are pleased to publish your rejoinder:—

"The most powerful agent for good in the life of the human race is a sense of responsibility. Your article, entitled 'A Warning' and appearing in No. 73 of 'The Swiss Observer,' is a sure indication of your endeavour to make your paper an agent of good in the life of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

"In their eagerness to shoulder responsibility, our young brothers might smash one or more of the barriers erected for their own safety by their elders if the latter refrain from a timely word of warning. 'Un homme averti en vaut deux' remains a sensible saying, and I am glad you think so too."

#### SOCIÉTÉ DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES A LONDRES.

Fondée en 1703. --- 74, Charlotte Street, W. 1.

We greatly regret having to record the loss of one of our esteemed members:

#### Mr. JEAN GRAF,

who died on Monday, November 20th, 1922, aged 65 years, at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart, Westminster Road, W. 1.

Our friend was a native of Horgen, Ct. Zurich, and has been a member of our Society since 1892.

THE COMMITTEE.

#### SWISS STUMPEN VILLAGER SEHNE, SWITZERLAND.

Sole Agent: A. SCHMID, Coburg Court Hotel, Bayswater Rd., W. 2. Telephone: PARK 2402.

#### Pension Suisse 20 Palmeira Avenue, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.

English & Swiss Cuisine. Sea Front.  
--- EVERY COMFORT. ---

WILL GENEROUS SWISS LADY OR GENTLEMAN have the kindness to advance ambitious young Swiss the sum of £25 for educational purposes? Repayment within 10 months. For further particulars please write to "T.", c/o *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.

WELL EDUCATED Swiss Lady (age 43), French and German, seeks situation as Companion-Housekeeper to lady or gentleman. Reply, B. G., c/o *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.

## EUROPEAN & GENERAL EXPRESS CO., Ltd.

MANCHESTER, LONDON, W. 1. LIVERPOOL, 32, Brazenose St. 15, Poland Street. 14, South Castle St.

Oldest Swiss Forwarding Agency in England

Household Removals at inclusive Prices in our own Lift Vans.

Luggage and Private Effects collected, packed and shipped to and from all countries

### BEST GOODS SERVICE BETWEEN SWITZERLAND & ENGLAND

Average Transit for Petite Vitesse (Frachtgut):

LONDON-BASLE 7-8 days  
BASLE-LONDON 4-5 "

Managing Directors: H. Siegmund & Erh. Schneider-Hall.

## AUG. BINDSCHIEDLER House Decorator

ELECTRICITY PLUMBING GASFITTING CARPENTERING ROOFING Etc.

HIGH CLASS WORK AT MODERATE PRICES.

9, Tolmers Square, Hampstead Road, Phone: MUSEUM 412. N.W. 1

## ALFRED MULLER,

WATCH & CLOCK MAKER,

58, DEAN STREET, LONDON. W. 1.

Restoration of Modern and Antique Watches and Clocks of every description.

VENTE DE MONTRES DE PRÉCISION. MÉTAL ARGENT.

The West End Branch of the Swiss Bank Corporation, 11c, Regent Street (Waterloo Place), S.W. 1, will be pleased to open savings bank accounts (carnets d'épargne), on which interest will be payable, until further notice, at the rate of 2½ per cent. per ann. on deposits of £1 and over.



Capital Paid up - Frs. 120,000,000

Reserves - - - Frs. 33,000,000

54

SWISS BRETZELS

"SINGERS"  
Petite BRETZELS au sel

DAINTY  
SALT BISCUITS  
CRISP AND  
TASTY

DELICIOUS  
WITH BEERWINE,  
TEA, CHEESE  
ETC.

Sole Agents  
**C.A. BLANCHET**  
168 Regent St and 7 Beak St London W1

Phone  
**GERRARD 6948**

Also ZWIEBACK-RUSKS made of fresh Swiss Milk and pure Butter.

### Véritables Leckerlis de Bâle.

As supplied to the Stores, etc.