

**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:** - (1923)

**Heft:** 104

**Rubrik:** Correspondence

#### **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:** 16.01.2026

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

selected because it is little affected by moisture: the holes were tamped with damp sand. All the 29 mines were exploded (by electricity) at the same moment. Though the trotyl proved sufficiently strong to break up the mattresses of brush wood which had been placed on the river side of the dam, the Rhine level had sunk by 0.75 m. (2 ft. 6 in.) within the three days that elapsed between the laying of the mines and the explosion, and the rush of the water through the gaps created by the explosion was not so powerful as had been expected. But the Rhine will itself soon finish the work. A strong dam had been erected, because sudden thaws in the mountains and Rhine floods had always been feared.

How many of my readers remember the poem we had to learn in the long ago, and which dealt with the "Rheinüberschwemmung" which had the Diepoldsau district for a background?

**Swiss-Indian.**

*The Spectator* (May 19th):

The death of Colonel John Henry Rivett-Carnac at Vevey on Friday, May 11th, is a matter of especial regret to readers of the "Spectator" who will remember the many letters from him that we have published. In accordance with the family tradition of the Rivetts he spent most of his life in India, where he had a very distinguished career, in both civil and military capacities. In addition to his public life in the Indian Civil Service, he had many private hobbies of a more purely intellectual nature, in any of which he would have obtained eminence had it held his somewhat over-zealous attention for longer than a few years at a time. One of the practical results of his interest in archaeology is the possession of several valuable coins by the British Museum, a gift from him. The latter part of his life, practically since his retirement, he spent in Switzerland, where he did valuable work during the War for British prisoners. His death has deprived us of one of those all too rare combinations of personal charm and practical ability.

**The New Swiss Five-Franc Piece.**

*The Times* Trade and Engineering Supplement of May 19th publishes a number of pictures which appeared originally in the *Schweizer Illustrierte Zeitung*, Zofingen, showing various stages in the manufacture of these new five-franc pieces. They are being minted at Berne and are of the same quality as the old coins (900 fine, 25 grammes). Reaching Basle one morning, some weeks ago, I was given in exchange one of these new pieces, and, at first, would not take it, thinking it was one of the "Schaubuden-Medaillen" of the Basler Messe! It took me some time to grasp the fact that this ugly coin could be our new five-franc piece. Why we cannot have a better coin I do not know. The picture of Mother Helvetia was conventional, but at least not ugly. Then we had various beautiful heads on various medals issued at rifle festivals. Why not choose one from among those? I suppose some modern influence was at work and decreed that our taste wanted modernising. Perhaps, also, our authorities acted upon the old slogan, "ars est celare artem." If so, they have certainly succeeded amazingly well, because these new five-franc pieces assuredly do "hide their artistic merit." At the same time, any reader who, having read the above, is thoroughly disgusted with the look of these coins he has hoarded up and wants to get rid of them, please communicate with the Editor, who has instructions to forward all such incoming coins to "Kyburg" for disposal.

**Electrical Developments in Switzerland.**

*Electrician* (May 18th):

The Commercial Secretary to H.M. Legation at Berne, Mr. E. C. D. Rawlins, in his report on the economic and financial conditions in Switzerland, states that the electrification of the Federal railway system is proceeding in accordance with the programme established in 1918, which provides for the electrification of the whole system within a period of thirty years. During last year 357 km. of railways were electrified and in operation. The lines so operating are Iselle-Brigue (22 km.), Brigue-Sion (53 km.), Berne-Schertingen (34 km.), Chiasso-Lucerne (225 km.), Arth-Golday-Zong (16 km.), and Immensee-Rothkreuz (7 km.), whilst electrification work is in hand on the following lines:—Lucerne-Zurich (55 km.), Lucerne-Basle (92 km.), and Sion-Lausanne (92 km.). It is anticipated that in the near future electrification work will also be undertaken in connection with the Zurich-Oeten-Berne (130 km.), Thalwil-Richterswil (27 km.), Lausanne-Daillens-Vallroba, and Daillyens-Yverdon lines. In 1924 approximately 596 km. of railway will be operated electrically, representing 20.9 per cent. of the total length of the Swiss Federal railway system (2,843 km.).

With regard to private railways, there have been no new extensions, with the exception of the Rhaetian Railways (Canton Grisons), who have completed the electrification of their whole system by the opening of the electrically operated Reichenau-Dentsis line (49 km.). The cost of the electrification of the 277 km. of line exploited by this company is estimated at approximately 120 million francs.

Commenting on the Swiss electrical industry generally, Mr. Rawlins remarks that the most characteristic fact of the past year has been the decrease in the number of new orders. But for import restrictions over the German and Austrian frontiers, and the electrification of the railways, matters would have been worse. In the heavy electrical industry the cost of labour is now about 100 per cent. above pre-war level. In the electro-technical industry 1922 was the worst year ever experienced, though matters have now improved somewhat owing to the fall in the price of raw materials and coal. Silk has risen in price, but rubber is now below pre-war level.

The general lack of confidence, the tendency of workmen to work less, and the unsound state of foreign exchange are undoubtedly the cause of the present crisis.

The total imports of electrical machinery during the first nine months of 1922 amounted to 349 tons (value £1,287,000 fr.), as against 418 tons (value £1,785,000 fr.) for the corresponding period of 1921. Exports were in 1922, 3,575 tons (value £18,994,000 francs), and in 1921, 5,359 tons (value £32,467,000 fr.). The chief buyers were France, Spain and the United Kingdom.

### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.	May 22	May 29
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	79.50%	78.00%
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	102.55%	101.25%
Federal Railways A-K 3 1/2%	83.65%	81.45%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5 1/2% 1921	104.50%	103.75%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	74.25%	73.00%
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	99.00%	99.00%
SHARES.	May 22	May 29
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	647
Crédit Suisse	500	680
Union de Banques Suisses	500	545
Fabrique Chimique et-Dev. Sandoz	1000	3200
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2117
C. F. Bally, S.A.	1000	1045
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	680
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	690
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	500	350
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. M&C. Co.	200	176
Choe, Suisse Peter-Cailler-Kohler	100	113
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	495

### Swiss Postal Travellers'

#### Cheques.

The Swiss Postal Authorities have arranged for the issue in Great Britain of Postal Travellers' Cheques, which can be cashed without formalities at any Post Office in Switzerland. These cheques may be obtained in London from the

### SWISS BANK CORPORATION, 43, Lothbury, E.C.2 & 11c, Regent St., S.W.1.

53

### N'OUBLIEZ PAS la 54e Fête Suisse le Vendredi 15 Juin 1923 a 7 h. a CAXTON HALL (Westminster) (Thé à partir de 5 h.) — Venez avec tous vos amis. —

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Le Comité porte à la connaissance des membres que la prochaine Assemblée aura lieu le MARDI 12 JUIN, à Kingston, au Restaurant Nuthall. Cette Assemblée sera précédée d'un souper familial à 7 h. (sh. 6/6 par couvert) et suivie d'une danse, auxquels les dames sont cordialement invitées.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande que les participants s'annoncent au plus tôt à M. Georges Dimer, 46, Cannon Street, E.C.4. (Téléphone: Central 1321).

#### Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Démissions.  
Admissions. Divers.

Trains pour Kingston: de Waterloo. Perrons à 6 Un char à-banc partira à 6.15 h. précises de Mansion House Place, E.C. et quittera Kingston à 11 h. pour Trafalgar Square. (Prix du billet aller et retour: sh. 3/-)

Vu le nombre limité de places, prière de s'inscrire sans délai chez M. P. F. Boehringer, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4 (Téléphone: City 4603).

### VICTORIA HOUSE, 69-71, St. George's Rd., S.W.1.

(10 minutes' from Victoria Station)  
Offers comfortable Accommodation with Board for  
short or long stay at moderate terms.

Phone: Victoria 6533. E. R. HARTMANN (Swiss).

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by his Correspondents.

#### RE FRIDAY BANQUETS.

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir.—Mr. Cusi seems to think there ought to be no Friday banquets, because some people object to eating meat on Friday. What about the vegetarians, who object to eating it at any time? According to Mr. Cusi, then, there ought not to be any banquets at all. If vegetarians go to banquets, they simply refuse the meat, but eat everything else. Catholics have a further advantage: they can eat fish, and at most banquets there is fish; furthermore, after the age of 60 they can eat fish and meat. Still better, they can have a dispensation, which is never refused, to eat meat on Fridays.

Yours faithfully, A. ALTHOUSE.

### 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.

60

**Crème Suisse** THIS most excellent Skin Cream (prepared in Switzerland from fresh Alpine Flora) is now sold at the Perfumery Departments of

D. H. EVANS & Co. Ltd., 290, Oxford St., W.1  
T. J. HARRIES & Co. Ltd., 252, Oxford St., W.1  
HARRODS, Ltd., Brompton  
JAS. SHOOLBRED & Co. Ltd., Tottenham Ct. Rd.  
SWAN & EDGAR, Ltd., 39, Regent Street, W.1

and at most London Stores, Chemists and high-class Hairdressers. Price 1/3.

SOLE AGENT—A. FRICK, 33, Baker Street, London, W.1,  
for Laboratoires Willen, Bâle.

### Carlton Hotel Elite ZURICH.

Hot and cold water in all rooms.  
BEST MEALS. BEST WINES.  
Pilsener Urquell  
Garden Terrace. Music.  
GARAGE  
Headquarters of the Society  
"Swiss Friends" of U.S.A.  
MODERATE PRICES.  
Signature of Proprietor.

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

offers you the comforts of a real Swiss home: why not spend your holiday there? Sea-front. Telephone: Southend 1132.

Proprietress: Mrs. Albrecht-Meneghelli

#### MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

WANTED, SWISS MAID as Mother's Help; light housework; fond of children; English speaking not essential; liberal outings; good home.—Write, 18, Rathgar Avenue, West Ealing.

SWISS LADY (age 20) from Lucerne, highly recommended, wishes position 'au pair' in good family (preferably English) as GOVERNESS; fully qualified to teach French and German; first-class references.—Apply, "A. B.", c/o. 'Swiss Observer,' 21, Garlick Hill, E.C.4.

WANTED, COOK-GENERAL and HOUSEMAID for doctor's house; comfortable place; good outings and good wages.—Write, or call any day after 6 p.m. Mrs. Smith, 40, Newton's Causeway (near Elephant and Castle), London, S.E.1.

LARGE FURNISHED BED-SITTING-ROOM to let; one or two persons; attendance as required.—Mrs. Shearman, 522, Caledonian Road, N.7.

SWISS MAIDS.—Swiss family requires good plain COOK-GENERAL under 40 (wages £52), and refined HOUSE-PARLOURMAID (wages £42); comfortable home and good outings; personal references required.—State full particulars to "Madame," 83, Chatsworth Road, Brondesbury, N.W.2.

SPANISH and PORTUGUESE taught by native qualified teachers (English to foreigners); latest methods; results guaranteed—excellent references; translations; interpreters.—Write: Senor Perez, 29, Regent Square, W.C.1.

YOUNG LADY gives LESSONS IN ENGLISH, conversation, dictation, etc.—Olive Nicholls, Torrington House, 56, Torrington Square, W.C.1.

BORD-RESIDENCE for one or two gents; Swiss meals; English spoken and taught.—151, Stamford Hill, N.16.