

**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:** 83  
  
**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:** 23.02.2026

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

## CORRESPONDENCE.

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

## MILITARY TAX &amp; MATRICULATION FEE.

To the Editor *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—I take the question of the withdrawal of the *ordonnance* as having been disposed of, but if we do not go any further we shall have failed to come to the main point.

To my mind the *ordonnance* stands more in the light of a wrong against the constitution than against the Swiss abroad. I therefore ask the authors of the *ordonnance* to say whether they knew, and had any consideration for, the preamble to the Federal Constitution, as well as Art. 1, 2, 85 and 106 thereof. They appear not to have kept them in mind.

The preamble defines the scope of the constitution as—

“maintenir et accroître l'unité, la force et l'honneur de la nation suisse.”

Art. 1 reads:—

“Les peuples des vingt-deux cantons souverains de la Suisse, unis par la présente alliance, savoir . . . forment dans leur ensemble la Confédération suisse.”

Art. 2 says:—

“La Confédération a pour but d'assurer l'indépendance de la patrie contre l'étranger, de maintenir la tranquillité et l'ordre à l'intérieur, de protéger la liberté et les droits des confédérés et d'accroître leur prospérité commune.”

The constitution speaks of “peoples” of the 22 cantons, and as the Ticino still considers me one of their people, even if I am outside the territorial frontiers of Switzerland, I am within the meaning of the constitution. Indeed, the thought behind the constitution seems to be that Switzerland extends virtually to all corners of the world where there is a Swiss living. I do not, however, become a “Federal subject,” a sort of citizen of an imaginary “Suisse une et indivisible.” No, I remain one of the people of the Ticino and retain Cantonal identity even abroad, however little I may put forward this point. We are, therefore, technically wrong when we speak of *Quatrième Suisse*; we are, in effect, “ex-territorial Switzerland,” a regular miniature confederation, superposed to the one at home.

It is evident that the *ordonnance* is in contradiction with the preamble and Art. 2 of the constitution. Furthermore, it heavily infringes Art. 106, which reads:—

“Il y a UN Tribunal fédéral pour l'administration de la justice en matière fédérale,” and the judges, according to Art. 85, are nominated by the National Assembly.

To my mind the *ordonnance* elevates every legation and consulate to the position of a federal court of justice; it elects scores of federal judges without ascertaining their names or their fitness, endows them with wide discretionary powers and allows them to pass severe judgments; furthermore, it infringes the principle of the separation of judicial and administrative functions by allowing the collector of the tax to be one who judges the merits of the case and inflicts the penalties.

Indeed, it amounts to this: that the federal executive departments carried out wide amendments to the constitution, without caring about the *peuple souverain*, the prerogative of the cantons, or the functions of the National Assembly. As a constitutional issue the *ordonnance* concerns, therefore, both the military tax payers and those who are not liable, the Swiss at home as much as those abroad.

Yours faithfully,

O. BRAGA.

78, High Street, Teddington.

## SWISS BANK FOOTBALL CLUB.

SWISS BANK 2nd XI v. BANQUE BELGE.

(London Banks' Junior Cup.)

Replayed on December 23rd, 1922. As is usual when these two teams meet, a fine, exciting game resulted, ending in a draw. Banque Belge started very well and hit the home cross-bar in the first ten minutes. This was followed by a goal, and they kept their lead until half-time. The second half was full of thrills. Owing to the fine defence of the Banque Belge, the Swiss team did not equalise until 10 minutes from the end, and then the exchanges became very exciting. The Swiss Bank were decidedly unlucky in not scoring again. Both defences played splendid football in this exciting match. It is hoped that the game will be decided before the season closes.

Result: Banque Belge 1, Swiss Bank 1.

Team: Zuercher; Herzog, Habluetzel; Rufer, Way, Bornand; Quaife, Tobler, Goubach, Tobin, Goubach.

A few volumes of last year's *Swiss Observer*, containing Nos. 30 to 70, bound to match our previous volume in dark cloth with gilt-lettered back, are now ready and may be had at the price of 15s. each (15s. 10½d. by post).



of Zurich, Switzerland.

Best Wishes  
for a  
Happy New Year.

A GOOD RESOLUTION  
FOR 1923:

## ZURICH for Accident Insurance

LIBERAL CONTRACTS  
AT MODERATE COST.

ASK FOR PROSPECTUSES.

ZURICH GENERAL ACCIDENT & LIABILITY  
INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Branch Office for the United Kingdom:

1 & 2, POULTRY, LONDON, E.C. 2.

Telephone: CENTRAL 2772.

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

English & Swiss Cuisine. Sea Front.  
EVERY COMFORT.

## CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

## Assemblée Mensuelle

aura lieu le MARDI 9 JANVIER, au Restaurant GATTI, et sera précédée d'un souper familial à 6.30 h. (sh. 5/6 par couvert).

Cet avis tient lieu de convocation. Tous ceux désirant y participer sont invités à s'annoncer en temps utile au Trésorier, M. G. Dimier, 46, Cannon Street, E.C. 4. (Téléphone: Central 1321).

## Ordre du Jour.

Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démonstrations. Divers.

SWISS COOK required by Swiss family (West-end); very good wages paid to thoroughly efficient person; good references indispensable.—Reply to G. A., c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.

ENGLISH LESSONS given by experienced lady.—Olive Nicholls (Miss), 56, Torrington Square, W.C. 1.

BOARD-RESIDENCE; comfortable home; one single bedroom and one to suit married couple or friends; bathroom and every comfort; recommended for cleanliness and good food.—Apply, 83, Park Lane, Clissold Park, N. 16.

KALENDER 1923 (Christlicher Hausfreund, Zwinglikalendar, Schweiz, Rotkreuzkalendar) liegen zum Verkaufe auf in der Schweiz. Kirche, 79, Endell Street, W.C. 2. Preis 1/—.—Ev. Bestellungen an Pfr. U. Wildbolz, obige Adresse.

PARTNERSHIP, active, offered in an established business, having sole monopolies for the British Isles. Splendid opportunity for gentleman with knowledge of languages and book-keeping, and able to invest a few hundred pounds.—Apply, “Partnership,” c/o. *Swiss Observer*, 21, Garlick Hill, E.C. 4.

HIGH-CLASS BOARD-RESIDENCE; Swiss proprietor; very comfortable; all conveniences; good table; central to all parts; from 2½ guineas.—41, Tavistock Square, W.C. 1. Nearest tube station, Russell Square.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS RECEIVED.

(The figure in parentheses denotes the number of the issue on which the subscription expires.)

L. Forrer (133), N. Battilana (133), Miss A. Stoll (132), E. Oberholzer (107), E. Richard (104), Ch. Vogel (106), Miss A. S. Weber (106), A. Dufour (132), H. Dürler (134), J. B. Brusch (134), A. Fuchs (Donation), F. Kreis (134), O. Walchli (134), E. Marchesi (134), I. Graf (134), C. A. Staub (134), J. Keller (134), G. Meier (107), E. Hitz (107), H. C. Saalenbach (107), G. Engesser (134), H. de Pury (134), Mrs. Cl. Muller (108), H. Quick (134), L. Chapuis (134), S. Dreyfuss (134), A. Lutz (132), M. Dumoulin (133), Dr. F. Rufer (92), Miss A. Forrer (95), W. Wohlgemuth (107), Theo. Becker (86), F. E. Caspar (134).

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

## NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE.

## NOTICE.

Will members please note that, as from the end of this year, the Treasury of the group has been transferred to the Head Office, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C. 1, and that all communications (contributions, applications, correspondence, etc.), should be addressed as above.

It is with deep regret that we learn of the death, at the age of 71, of our compatriot, Mr. Edward Degen, F.Z.S., of Basel, who has resided in London for some 40 years. Mr. Degen was an eminent naturalist, formerly associated with the Natural History Museum, and at one time he held an appointment at the Melbourne Museum. Mr. Degen was an intrepid explorer, and since his return from Australia to London in 1901 he was a member of many notable expeditions abroad, acting in his capacity as naturalist and also undertaking scientific research work. He twice visited Abyssinia, and also accompanied expeditions to Uganda, the Belgian Congo and Northern Alaska. His book on “Ecdysis” (moulting of birds) was officially published by the Geographical Society as a standard study on this subject. Mr. Degen received recognition of his services by being made an hon. life member of the Zoological Society.

## EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.

Dimanche, 7 Janv., 11h.—M. B. Moreillon.  
6.30.—Pfr. U. Wildbolz.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, Jan. 6th, 1923, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel. Fancy Dress Optional.

Tuesday, Jan. 9, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper (see adv.).

Wednesday, Jan. 10th, 1923, at 7 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Whist Drive at Slater's Restaurant, 34-35, High Holborn, W.C. 1.

Wednesday, Jan. 10th, 1923, at 9.15 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Lecture on “Banking and Currency” by H. A. Silverman, Esq., B.A., Econ. (Hons.), Dip. Com., F.R.E.S. at 1, Gerrard Place, W. 1.

Friday, Jan. 12th, 1923, at 8.30 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Lecture in French by Mr. Em. Cammuarts on “Belgium since 1870.”

Friday, Jan. 19th, 1923.—NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE: No Lecture.

Saturday, Jan. 20th, 1923, at 6.30 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Cinderella Dance at Gatti's Restaurant.

Friday, Jan. 26th, 1923, at 8 p.m.—SWISS INSTITUTE: Reception for Members and Friends of the “Social and Political Education League.”

Wednesday, Jan. 31st, at 7.30 p.m.—SWISS BANK CLUB: Dance at the Suffolk Galleries, Suffolk Street, S.W. 1.

Saturday, Feb. 3rd, 1923, at 6.30 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Cinderella Dance at the Midland Hotel.

The Publisher will be pleased to forward free specimen copies of “The Swiss Observer” to likely subscribers whose addresses may be supplied by readers.

Printed and Published for the Proprietor, P. F. BOHRINGER, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO. LTD., at 21, GARLICK HILL, LONDON, E.C. 4.

Complete instruction at every stage. Commercial side, Languages Music, etc. Hygienic gymnastics. Summer and Winter Sports. Playgrounds. Own dairy. Area 9½ acres. First-class ref.

Prof. Buser's Subalpine  
Boarding School for Girls

TEUFEN Climatic resort near ST. GALL  
2750 feet above sea level. Railway connection—Sunny situation—Bracing air.