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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

The initiative Rothenberger, which, speaking broadly, was an attempt to anticipate and accentuate the social legislation on a wide scale which figures in the programme for the next few years of the Federal Council, was defeated last Sunday by 384,284 against 280,747 votes, that is to say, by a majority of over 100,000 votes as per table herewith.

Cantons	For	Against
Zurich	57486	48519
Berne	44653	58956
Lucerne	7563	22049
Uri	1693	2242
Schwyz	2144	6111
Obwalden	305	2232
Nidwalden	282	1751
Glarus	2365	3843
Zug	1614	3527
Fribourg	3028	27983
Solothurn	14424	10848
Basel-Stadt	18833	6219
Basel-Land	8088	4998
Schaffhausen	4959	5006
Appenzell A.-Rh.	3684	6425
Appenzell L.-Rh.	218	2013
St. Gall	21035	32973
Graubünden	5457	9291
Aargau	22709	29001
Thurgau	8262	18014
Ticino	8812	6144
Vaud	21852	51352
Valais	2800	12000
Neuchâtel	9190	8760
Geneva	9877	7781
Total	280747	384284

Though the voting did not follow political lines, it may be said that the Peasants, Catholic and Liberal parties were hostile to the initiative, whilst the parties of the Left generally supported it. The big towns, like Zurich, Basle, Geneva, Berne, Lausanne, St. Gall and Lucerne, all showed considerable majorities in favour, although the voting in the rural districts of the cantons often reversed the verdict of the towns. The initiative was turned down by sixteen cantons, amongst which are, of course, the inner cantons with their Catholic population; of the six accepting cantons Basle easily leads with a three to one majority, the others being Zurich, Solothurn, Neuchâtel, Geneva and Ticino. Most unmistakable was the voting in the canton of Fribourg, with its 29,833 "noes" against only 3,028 "ayes."

Generally speaking, the participation was rather poor, only two-thirds of those possessing the vote troubling about recording their opinion. The largest percentage (87.6%) is naturally shown by the canton of Vaud, where voting is now compulsory, the alternative being a fine of two francs; the next in this category are Aargau (over 83%), Schaffhausen (81%) and St. Gall (80%). In the cantons of Geneva and Ticino more than half of the voters abstained from putting in an appearance at the polls.

Dental mechanics are not allowed to compete with fully qualified dentists in the canton of Zurich; a proposal to alter this law was turned down last Sunday by the cantonal electorate with a majority of two to one. A similar endeavour to introduce charlatan conditions—as they exist at present in the cantons of Appenzell and Basel-Land—was defeated in the neighbouring canton of St. Gall three years ago.

The recruits' examinations are to be reintroduced next year, with some modifications. A written essay (or, if not successful, a reading exercise) and an examination in history are the chief essentials; arithmetic has been dropped.

At the annual meeting of the People's League for the Independence of Switzerland the question of the many decorations which have recently been bestowed upon Swiss citizens by foreign Powers, came under serious discussion, and the council was instructed to study and report as to whether Art. 12 of the Federal Constitution, prohibiting the acceptance of such decorations, is generally enforced.

A protest has been lodged, both in Berne and Washington, on behalf of St. Gall business interests

against the recent closing of the American Consulate in St. Gall, necessitating consular business to be transacted in Zurich.

It is stated that Communist centres have commenced to display considerable activity in public schools and, especially in Zurich, are distributing a regular publication, entitled *Der Junge Kamerad*, traversing the instruction contained in the official school books. Some of the teachers, when entering their classes, have even been received by the chanting of the "Internationale."

The Federal Tribunal in Lausanne has upheld the decision of the Geneva authorities in disallowing the "caisse coopérative des primes et de prêts" to commence business, though registered in the cantonal commercial registry. The company is said to be the successor of a similar concern of ill-repute which in Berne had attempted to introduce and popularize the "snow-ball investment method," but soon got into trouble with the local courts.

The 13th annual festival of choral societies consisting exclusively of organised workers was held last Sunday in Lucerne, 130 societies with 6,500 performers attending. The traditional red flag was not exhibited, as its display over the festival hall had been prohibited by the town council.

Mr. Hermann Guggenheim-Ris, a 64-year-old dealer in colonial produce, of Zurich, lost his life on Thursday (May 21st) in a motor accident near Buchs (St. Gall).

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

### To-day's Fallacy.

"Morgenstund hat Gold im Mund."  
Fallacy? Well, it is Derby Day, early morning, "Kyburg," having spent the previous evening in "riotous living" consisting of fifty up at billiards at the Club, has had to set the alarm early this Derby morning in order to satisfy the Editor's hungry demand for "copy" for this week's issue. So, while most of our readers, no doubt, prepare for a more or less happy outing at Epsom, "Kyburg," at 7 a.m., sits in front of his typewriter endeavouring to do his best. A bleak morning. Not even the thrushes have ventured out so far, and the lawn is quite deserted, and the howling of the wind, the beating of rain drops against the windows, the headlong flight of the clouds are not exactly portents for a joyous day at the races. Believe me, there is not the faintest sign of gold anywhere. The draw at the Club has ignored "Kyburg's" ticket altogether. Not even a horse somewhere down in the field! No gold in that direction! No chance of visiting Epsom, either, no chance of investing a *modicum* with one of the prosperous-looking, kind-hearted gentlemen, who, after each race, ladle out gold or its equivalent to the lucky ones. No, nothing, except a bleak, dreary, wet, windy, stoney-looking cold morning. Fallacy? I should say yes!

There is one consolation. Having got up early, having had a chance of venting my early morning spleen on my unfortunate readers, I feel very much better already, and "she," who presides at my breakfast anon, will be surprised at my fine good humour, at my charming mood. Only I must not overdo it, otherwise "she" might easily come to the conclusion that rising early improves my health!

Now to the order of the day.  
There is very little to be said this week, which, of course, is not my fault at all, but is due to the fact that our dear homeland seems to be one of those happy countries of which little is heard. There are the usual articles about Spring in Switzerland, articles which, profusely and splendidly illustrated, make me long for another holiday and, therefore, do more harm really than good. Then there is, in *Engineering* (15th May) a long illustrated article dealing with an "Endurance Impact Testing Machine," recently placed on the market by the well-known firm of J. Ansler & Co. of Schaffhausen, a machine which is meant and which will enable engineers to test better than has hitherto been possible the physical properties of metal and with which tests for tension impact, compression impact or transverse binding impact can be made.

Which reminds me that Schaffhausen is ranking high in the industrial field of Switzerland and not only, as you might have thought from a short visit to that dear old town, in the culinary art of fish-dinners and good wine!

### Tuberculosis Treatment.

*Northern Daily Telegraph* (11th May):—  
At the last meeting of the Lancashire County

Council, Mr. W. M. Rogerson brought before the members—when discussing the minutes of the Tuberculosis Committee—the claims of the specific supplied by Mr. Charles H. Stevens, Wimbledon.

We may mention in this connection that Dr. Sechehaye, a Swiss specialist, has recently, for the third year in succession, read a paper at the Geneva Medical Congress on his experience with the remedy supplied by Mr. Stevens, having treated hundreds of cases. The doctor concluded as follows: "The figures given are only a statement destined to make the considerable value of a remedy understood, which, taken in time, allows, in most cases, a victorious fight against the disease, and insures a quick and more certain remedy."

This harmonises with the opinion of an English physician who had been in general practice for over forty years in a large industrial centre, and had treated a large number of consumptive cases. In a communication to Mr. T. P. Ritzema, of Blackburn, two years ago, he summed up his opinion about Mr. Stevens' remedy as follows: "(1) That it is absolutely harmless. I have used it on patients of all ages. The younger the patient, the more rapid is its beneficial action, as a rule. (2) That, if it has not cured, it has benefited every case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis in which I have tried it. (3) That if treatment is commenced in the early stages, a cure may be guaranteed in practically every case."

### Happy Swiss Mothers.

*Daily Express* (18th May):—  
The municipality in the town of Baden, in the canton of Argovie, has decided that all married women who are expecting a child to be born will receive medical and nursing aid free, if they so desire. The only conditions are that the mothers must be Swiss and residents in the canton for at least a year.

The doctor, under his contract, receives a certain sum for each birth, while the trained nurse is allowed £1 for every confinement and £2 for twins or triplets. The nurse is further paid a nominal salary of £10 a year and personal expenses, but is prohibited from accepting money—presents being excluded—from her clients. If the birth takes place in the local hospital, the authorities pay £1 to the institution for each happy event.

### Swiss Sample Fair at Basle.

*The Times* (16th May):—  
The ninth Swiss Sample Fair, at Basle, attracted large numbers of visitors, not only from Switzerland, but from the United Kingdom, Italy, France, Germany, Sweden, Holland, and other countries. This year there were 965 exhibitors, or 40 more than in 1924. The chief increases were in the sections devoted to transport, furniture, machinery, electrical appliances, and advertising; but there were fewer exhibitors in the clothing section and in certain other sections.

The authorities adopted the plan of keeping out retail buyers except on two days of the week (Saturday and Sunday) during the Fair. Among serious inquirers the French and German were probably the strongest numerically, but practically every European country was represented among prospective buyers, and there were also purchasers from China and Japan.

The display made by the Swiss shoe industry was housed in a remarkably artistically designed pavilion. In the sections for household utensils, office appliances, etc., there was clear evidence of the progress made in these branches of manufacture. Sports goods and toys were well represented. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Bienne combined in making a very attractive representation of the watchmaking industry by a collective exhibit setting forth the productions of 25 different firms.

Throughout all sections alike there was no lack of novelty, either in form or colour, in some special quality of material or in method of utilization. The official support accorded to the Fair took a very interesting form in a complete automatic telephone exchange, while the Railway Department contributed models and statistical tables, showing the bridges which must be rebuilt or strengthened in consequence of the electrification of the lines.

A number of conferences of associations were held, including those connected with brewing and pottery manufacture, and also the secretaries of Swiss Chambers of Commerce. Inspired by the recent growth of the Fair, the hope has been expressed that the permanent buildings,