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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,

which will be completed next year, may soon need to be further augmented.

**London Footballers in Switzerland.**

*Evening News* (15th May):— I have had an interesting letter from one of the Tottenham players in Switzerland, and he tells me that good goalkeeping is one of the features of the Swiss displays.

In the opening match, that against Basle Old Boys, Arthur Grimsdell had a bit of a shock when he was pulled up for a foul, after charging an opponent in a perfectly legitimate manner.

Grimsdell had the ball, and when an opponent tried to take it from him, he very naturally charged him. The referee, as stated, whistled for a foul, and seeing the surprised looks on the faces of the Englishmen, explained himself—in English, by the way—as soon as an opportunity arrived.

It appears that in Switzerland the man with the ball must not charge his opponent; the other fellow can charge him, though.

Harry Skitt, Tottenham's clever young centre-half, has not enjoyed the tour so much as his colleagues. Soon after reaching Zurich he caught a feverish cold, and was ordered to bed for some days. Bert Smith took his place at centre-half against Zurich, and Alex. Lindsay came in at right half.

My correspondent tells me that the Swiss crowds are easily pleased. They laugh and cheer every time they see a bit of tricky play and a nice bout of passing on the part of the Englishmen, and when a goal is scored they are wild with delight. The referees, like the goalkeepers, are very good indeed.

The growth of football in Switzerland during the last 20 years has been phenomenal. Well do I remember our early struggles for social recognition of footballers at Winterthur. For a long time the Stadt-Turners were against us, because they thought the new game would be detrimental to gymnastics, instead of being what we claimed, and what it has become now, a very valuable aid to prevent gymnastics from becoming too stale. We finally succeeded by holding a well-arranged ball with banquet, to which we invited a good number of notabilities. Once we had the girls on our side, the fathers had to follow and treat our young club with respect. Then came good play, Winterthur's 1906 success, and the thing was done; the F.C.W. became an institution of my home town exactly like the Stadt-Turnverein. Meantime, the higher schools had already agreed to include football in their curriculum and even among the sports for which prizes could be obtained, and "Kyburg" was the proud recipient of the first prize for football ever given by the Gymnasium at Winterthur. A proud moment that was!

**Avalanches in the Alps.**

*Daily Telegraph* (20th May):—

The sudden heat wave in Switzerland has caused the little snow that fell during the winter to melt at a rapid rate, and thus let loose avalanches of both snow and rock. On Brunnelestock two climbers were hurled down by loose rock, one being killed and the other dangerously injured. On the Petit Bornand three climbers were carried down nearly 1,000 feet by an avalanche. Owing to the smoothness of the couloir they escaped death, but all three were badly injured.

**A Swiss Jubilee.**

*Co-operative News* (16th May):—

Our happy Swiss comrades in co-operation have been rendering honours with whole-heartedness to their fine leader, Herr Bernhard Jaeggi, who is no stranger in England, having attended one or two British Congresses as a delegate from the Swiss movement.

A week or two ago saw the completion of his twenty-five years of service in the cause to which he has devoted himself heart and soul, a devotion shared by his charming wife, who has sung the praises of co-operation in poetry of pleasing quality.

Herr Jaeggi's work for consumers' co-operation in Switzerland is of such importance that there has been a great reunion of leaders, all of whom gave their tribute to his work and worth. An artistic illuminated address embodies permanently the good things said in fleeting eloquence. His treatise *Rechtlinien* (Right Lines) is a remarkable work on co-operative education, and one must also mention the Bernhard Jaeggi Foundation, for which he generously gave Frs. 50,000.

**—And Another.**

Not long ago Mr. Meier-Ruemmele, Chief Cashier of the Baloise Insurance Co., celebrated the completion of fifty years' service with the Company. Fifty Years of Service is a truly wonderful performance and an inspiring example to others.

**Pension Suisse** 20 Palmeira Avenue, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA.  
Mr. and Mrs. Albrecht beg to state that their establishment will be CLOSED from the 1st of June to the 15th of July.

**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.**

The "Alioth" Electricity Company in Basle closed the past year with a net profit of Frs. 352,187, as compared with a slightly smaller return in 1923. The report contains some interesting particulars regarding the various concerns in which the Alioth Company has an interest: thus, the Motor-Columbus Company in Baden has fulfilled the promise made of it on the occasion of the fusion of the two constituent companies and paid a dividend of 9 per cent., as compared with a previous 8 per cent. The Alioth participation in the Scintilla A.G. in Soleure has been finally removed through the sale of this factory. Referring to the Brown, Boveri Company in Mannheim, in which they are also interested, the Directors point out that the shares have now been put on a gold basis and that it will be necessary to wait until the results of the present year's working are apparent before an opinion as to the future can well be formed. At present the Mannheim works are well provided with orders.

The report of the Society for Chemical Industry in Basle devotes its attention primarily to the great difficulties experienced by the company, owing to foreign competition and to the consequent necessity of still further increasing the importance of the output of their foreign subsidiary factories. The chemical industry in Switzerland is faced with serious danger of losing its former markets in Japan and China to American and German producers, since the continued high cost of living in Switzerland and the high level of wages to be paid renders competition well-nigh impossible.

Speaking of the consequent tendency to move manufacturing industries to other countries, where conditions of production are less unfavourable, the directors point out that, unless this movement is to assume proportions dangerous not only to the industries themselves, but to the general economic life of the country, the authorities must take measures to produce a substantial reduction in the cost of living, and to render less difficult the present conditions of Swiss manufacturers. They appeal, moreover, to the working classes and to those who represent them to realise the serious nature of the situation before it is too late.

**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.**

BONDS.	May 19		May 26	
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	76.67%	77.37%		
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	99.12%	99.25%		
Federal Railways A-K 3 1/2%	79.75%	79.82%		
Canton Basle-Stadt 5 1/2% 1921	101.12%	101.30%		
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	72.70%	72.37%		

  

SHARES.	May 19		May 26	
	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	656	659	
Crédit Suisse	500	705	707	
Union de Banques Suisses	500	560	563	
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3475	3185	
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1875	1737	
C. F. Bally S.A.	1000	1220	1235	
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	500	680	690	
Entreprises Sulzer	1000	815	847	
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	350	354	350	
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	220	220	
Choc. Suisses Peter-Caillier-Kohler	100	200	197	
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	565	570	

**Mort de M. Georges de Montenach.**

Nous apprenons avec regret la nouvelle de la mort de M. Georges de Montenach, député fribourgeois au Conseil des Etats.

M. de Montenach, qui appartenait à une des plus anciennes familles de Fribourg et des plus considérées, a joué un rôle important dans la vie politique, religieuse et artistique de son canton.

Il a écrit une foule d'articles, de brochures et d'ouvrages sur des questions d'esthétique, d'urbanisme et d'art public.

Il a été l'un des premiers—l'expression est de lui—à vouloir préserver "le visage aimé de la patrie."

Né en 1862, il était donc dans sa 63e année. Sa carrière politique avait commencé en 1891, époque à laquelle il était entré au Grand Conseil. Il était député au Conseil des Etats depuis 1915 et vice-président de l'Association catholique populaire.

**CORRESPONDENCE.**

*The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, as evidence of good faith.*

(We have been asked to publish the following letter, which explains the reason for the non-distribution of the prizes set apart at last Saturday's Sports Meeting for the "Shooting Competition.")

C. A. Barbezat, Esq.,  
President, Swiss Sports Committee.  
*Re SWISS SPORTS.*

My dear President,—It is a matter of extreme regret to myself and my Committee that—for reasons briefly explained below—we must reluctantly declare the results of the past week-end "Open Shooting Contest" null and void.

The extension and improvement work which is now being carried out at our Rifle Range has recently necessitated the transposition of our Automatic Target and Recording Apparatus, and

matters had to be unduly hurried along in order to make shooting possible at all over last week-end. In these circumstances sufficient tests to ensure adequate conditions of accuracy could, unfortunately, not be made. It has since been proved to the complete satisfaction of the Committee that in the earlier stages of the competition the "sighting" of the rifles, as also the performance of the recording apparatus, left much to be desired, thus placing those competitors that were first in the field to enter the contest at a considerable disadvantage as compared with those marksmen that had the good fortune to fire their shots after certain defects had been remedied.

It must forcibly strike every Sportsman worthy of that title that the results recorded under such conditions cannot possibly be allowed to stand, since they were not achieved on *uniformly the same basis*, and can, therefore, not be held to represent fairly the *true marksmanship* of the various competitors.

The Committee extend not only their regrets, but also their sympathy to those "top scorers" of last Sunday who may consider themselves aggrieved by the annulment of the contest and become thus deprived of the "prize" they may have coveted as the result of their achievement at the range.

Invitations will be sent out in the near future to all competitors to re-enter for the contest, so soon as our new installations at Hendon are in such a state of perfection as will offer an *equal chance to each and everyone* of the participants.

Our guiding principle in all matters of sport must be a spirit of "fair play, tolerance and equity." The defeat of one's hopes and desires by unforeseen happenings must be accepted as cheerfully by the true sportsman, as he would be pleased to be congratulated on any victory wrested from his opponents by sheer supremacy of skill and prowess—as opposed to winning by luck of circumstances only.

May I ask you to be so good as to make this communication known at next Saturday's Sports Day Meeting at Herne Hill by way of an explanation as to why the contemplated distribution of prizes to Swiss marksmen in London will have to be postponed for the present.

With many thanks and cordial greetings,  
Yours sincerely,  
For the General Committee of the S.R.A.  
DE BRUNNER, President.

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