

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: - (1927)
Heft: 323

Rubrik: Notes and gleanings

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>

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

PRICE 3d.

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postscheck-Konto
Basle V 5718).

A very instructive article on this subject has appeared in the *Spectator* (Nov. 19th). It is somewhat one-sided as it ignores the educational facilities for foreigners in other parts of the country. We also doubt whether the writer is well-informed when he states that 15% of the students at the various universities and colleges are English. The fees payable in state schools and mentioned by him probably apply to very few districts as, speaking

The following are some of the better-known private schools at Lausanne and on the shores

Field sports and games of all sorts have so developed in Switzerland nowadays that British students can enjoy, with the exception of cricket, practically all the sports of home, with the addition of Winter Sports in the Alps. The English student in Switzerland comes in contact with the thought and culture of Europe. In French-speaking Switzerland he or she is in touch with France, in Eastern Switzerland with Germany. In both Switzerland the British student meets on a level, on the playing-fields and in the classrooms, students of many nationalities, and undoubtedly this contact and intercourse is all to the good."

Teaching the Turk.

The following from the *Morning Post* (Nov 22nd) will supplement the information appearing in another column of this week's issue:—

"The case of Turkey might serve as a warning to the rash reformer. She was determined to put on the apparel of Western Civilisation, so she became a Republic, and not only passed a long list of most enlightened laws, but adopted the Swiss Civil Code. And now, according to our Constantinople Correspondent, the discovery is made that no one—not even the Bench—understands these wonderful laws. Of Judges there are apparently some 5,000, many of whom have never studied law, and there are no doubt besides an army of pleaders and solicitors at least equally innocent. Then, of course, there is the Turkish laity, who have probably never heard of Switzerland, to say nothing of the Swiss Civil Code. Little wonder if the Minister of Justice finds himself in some perplexity. He has, however, made a courageous beginning. He proposes to open classes in Angora where the Judges, public prosecutors, and other officials will be instructed in the laws which in the meantime they must administer. We take it that there will be a course for the lawyers later: as for the public they are likely to remain in blissful ignorance of the Swiss Civil Code until they find it, so to speak, laid across them. Let us hope that at least they enjoy their own criminal law, so that they may have the satisfaction of being bastinadoed on their own understandings.

We fear that the Turks will learn in due course that justice depends less on the letter of the law than on the spirit of its administration.

The Swiss Civil Code may be all that its framers claim for it. But some texts of the Koran, honestly administered under a fig tree, would suit the Turk better than all the principles and applications of Western jurisprudence. Yet, after all, we cannot afford to pity the Turk. For is not our own statute book so laden with the burden laid on it by Parliament that our Judges themselves groan as they consider it?

Faked Passports.

How insignificant incidents can be turned into a sensational affair is shown by the following cutting taken from the *Daily Mail* (Nov. 23rd):—

"The arrest at Basle of two Italians while attempting to cross the frontier has revealed the existence in that town of a Communist organisation for the fabrication of false passports. The Italians, who had entered Switzerland by an unfrequented Alpine track, went to Basle, where they were provided with faked Swiss passports at the headquarters of a "Communist Aid" society.

Six Communists are incriminated. It is believed that for a considerable time this bureau has been producing spurious passports on a large scale.

Yesterday a man supposed to be a Communist attempted to cross the Swiss frontier near Les Brenets. When asked for his passport he drew a revolver and fired three shots at an official, seriously wounding him, and then made his escape. A close search is being conducted on both sides of the frontier."

The facts are that two Italian Communists, in order to facilitate their entry into France, were given or lent two passports held by Swiss sympathisers. As soon as they had crossed the frontier the deception was discovered. The complainant action of the two Basle Communists will probably be dealt with by the courts.

The incident at Les Brenets refers to a fugitive from justice who endeavoured to reach Swiss territory, he being sought by the French authorities for a crime committed at Strasbourg.

Mont Blanc Capitalized.

If the intrinsic value of our snow peaks and touring resorts is to be based on the computation applied by the *Daily Mail* (Nov. 21st) we would be the richest country in the world; no doubt, after this discovery, the Alps will be assessed for Swiss property tax!

"A report presented to the National Economic Council by M. Leon Auscher states that in 1913 (and there is no reason to suppose that the number has since diminished) 400,000 tourists visited the French slopes of Mont Blanc, 275,000 the Italian slopes, and 350,000 the Swiss slopes. Supposing that each tourist spends a sum of 50 gold francs in the district for transport, hotel accommodation, and purchase of souvenirs (and this is a very modest estimate), the conclusion is arrived at that in 1913 the "business turnover" of Mont Blanc was 52,000,000 gold francs (more than £2,000,000).

Few industrialists, M. Auscher points out, possess a capital capable of yielding such a turnover."

RECITAL DE Mlle. SOPHIE WYSS.

Notre compatriote, Mlle. Sophie Wyss, est une grande artiste, musicienne, sincère et très sympathique. Elle prend place, en bon rang, parmi les meilleures cantatrices suisses.

Le programme que Mlle. Wyss a composé pour son récital du 14 décembre est, comme son talent, plein des plus belles promesses; et le moins que l'on en puisse dire, c'est qu'elles seront tenues.

Une première partie, dans laquelle figurent les noms de Durante et de Jean-Sébastien Bach, est consacrée à la musique purement classique.

Vient ensuite la musique moderne d'inspiration allemande, avec Brahms et Hugo Wolf, puis ces charmantes mélodies des auteurs français modernes tels que Hüe, Ravel et Debussy.

Tout ceci a été choisi et groupé avec un goût parfait, mais la véritable originalité du programme de Mlle. Sophie Wyss consiste à y avoir intercalé l'élite des compositeurs suisses d'aujourd'hui: Othmar Schoeck, Gustave Doret, Arthur Honegger, E. Jaques-Dalcroze, Pierre Maurice. Tous ceux-là qui ont donné à l'art suisse, à l'art tout court, une expression pure et noble; ils ne sont pas, certes, sans avoir acquis une certaine notoriété, mais on est loin encore, à l'étranger, de connaître leur mérite.

C'est avec eux que Mlle. Sophie Wyss veut se présenter au public de la métropole britannique et affronter la critique.

On doit féliciter cette intelligente artiste de son entreprise, qu'encourageront par leur présence à Aeolian Hall ceux qui, leur journée finie, savent s'intéresser à autre chose qu'au dur "business."

PIERRE JACOT.

J. H.'S Weekly Letter to his Friends and Compatriots.

During the last few days we have received the news from Switzerland and from Paris that the negotiations between the two Governments with regard to the customs tariffs have been anything but successful. The Swiss Press has taken up a firm stand and so have the Chambers of Commerce. Should the negotiations not soon be conducted on a new basis and in a more friendly spirit, then, they say, the existing commercial treaty should be terminated by Switzerland.

It is unfortunate that in the year 1927, nine years after the "war to end war," so-called "customs wars" should again come into prominence. Quite apart from the question of the two countries mentioned, customs wars are going on or are in preparation almost over the whole globe.

True, we have had conferences with the object in view of making international commercial relations easier. But what will be the effect of strengthened protection if it is imposed in a way that precludes almost any fruitful commercial international relations? The answer is "War."

We have now again a conference for the reduction of armaments. I do not know whether or not I should discuss a matter like this in this place, but it appears to me that these matters should be discussed in any place. In addition I have another reason for mentioning these points in the journal of the Swiss Colony, the reason being that we Swiss are only too apt to lose sight of the wider issues while we revel in "Kantönitum." This last is probably one of the reasons why so often our arguments are taken lightly by our adversaries.

One such instance was demonstrated last week when the meeting of the corporation for an international motor road was unable to elect its constitutional executive committee because there was a difference of opinion as to who should have one particular mandate out of 24 or 25. Instead of coming together and at least trying to solve the problem for the best advantage of the country as a whole, sectional interests, probably only supposed interests, proved a stumbling block. The result will be inevitable delay, even if all goes well otherwise. If agreement cannot be reached soon a great chance may be for ever lost.

A question which a few weeks ago was ventilated in the *Swiss Observer* regarding the payments for a Swiss Legation in the East, can be included in the same category of thought. The question had originally been raised in the *Republikanische Blätter*. It was contended that a payment of, I believe, Frs. 40,000, was an enormous salary for a Minister.

I know that people who never have been away from their homes and who have, probably, to reckon with £200-£250 (Frs. 5,000 to Frs. 6,250) or even less, of yearly salary, must look upon Frs. 40,000 (£1,600) as a fortune. It is, however, not they who write to the papers but men who should know, if not from experience then from information, that in any Capital Frs. 40,000 is a contribution rather than a salary for the Representative of a country. Why, an advertisement in a certain London newspaper (full front page) costs almost as much, yet we expect our Swiss Representative to bring, year in year out, our name, and last but not least what we have to sell, to the notice of foreign governments and people and to entertain on the proper scale for a better-class bank clerk's salary!

We are the sons of a small but wonderful country. We are known and respected for our hard work, but our outlook has been restricted by the mountains. We have to ascend the mountains to gain a wider outlook.

Yours sincerely, JOHN HENRY.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Nov. 22		Nov. 29	
	Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.
Confederation 3% 1903	79.25		80.00	
5% 1917, VII Mob. Ln	101.35		101.50	
Federal Railways 3½% A-K	85.12		85.40	
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	101.20		101.25	
SHARES.	Nov. 22		Nov. 29	
	Nom.	Fr.	Nom.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	798	500	796
Crédit Suisse	500	845	500	840
Union de Banques Suisses	500	715	500	715
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2675	1000	2675
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	4375	1000	4362
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	2812	1000	2810
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	559	350	557
C. F. Bally	1000	1287	1000	1278
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	807	200	818
Entreprises Suisses S.A.	1000	1144	1000	1145
Comp. de Navig. sur le Lac Léman	500	540	500	535
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	152	100	152
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	727	500	729

"TIGER" BRAND SWISS PETIT GRUYÈRE CHEESE

Manufactured by Roethlisberger & Fils,
Langnau, Emmental, Switzerland.

In boxes of ½ lb. nett weight, 6 sections in each (or whole cake)

"Tiger" Brand Gruyère Cheese has a world-wide reputation based on unvarying high quality.



GOLD MEDAL, Swiss Agricultural Exhibition, Berne, 1925

Sold by all the leading Stores, Grocers and Provision Merchants.

Also obtainable at the principal Hotels and Restaurants.

Insist on "Tiger" Brand and thereby get The Best genuine Swiss Petit Gruyère.

Sole Importer for the United Kingdom:

A. FRICK, 1, Beechcroft Avenue, Golders Green, London.
Telegrams: Bistrusk, London Telephone: Speedwell 3142.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine"
at every meal—for Health!

Dr. H. Duttweiler,

Solicitor,

Bahnhofstrasse 65, ZURICH

undertakes all law matters in
connection with business and
otherwise in Switzerland.

W. WETTER, Wine Importer

67, Grafton Street, Fitzroy Square, W.1

BOTTLED IN SWITZERLAND.

Valais, Fendant	dos.	24/2	Desaley	dos.	24/2
Neuchâtel, White	46/-	55/-	Johannisberg	52/-	58/-
" Red	54/-	—	Dôle, Red Valais	57/-	63/-

(Carriage Paid for London.)

As supplied to the Clubs and all principal Swiss Restaurants.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion 2/6; three insertions 5/—
Postage extra on replies addressed c/o *Swiss Observer*

SINGER, 1927, 10/26 h.p. Saloon; blue, absolutely as new, guaranteed perfect running order, many extras, taxed 31/12/27, accept 185 guineas.—2, Leopold Rd., Wimbledon. Royal 3649.

A NICE HOME in private family for Students or foreigners wishing to improve their English; convenient Swiss School; terms moderate; near Warwick Ave. tube, 6 or 18 bus.—44, Sutherland Avenue, W.9. Phone: Maida Vale 2895.

AS GOVERNESS.—Young Swiss lady, from Lucerne, qualified school teacher, wishes change; English permit; best references.—Write "Governess," c/o "Swiss Observer," 23, Leonard St. E.C.2.

HIGH-CLASS Confectioner and Pastrycook requires Apprentice 14-15; splendid opportunity for intelligent boy.—Apply 10, Buckingham Palace Rd., S.W.1.

FOR SALE, Cabinet Folding Bed, £8; Sideboard (6ft.) £8; nine piece leather suite £6; at 2, Ormond Mansion, Great Ormond Street, W.C.1. (mornings only).