

|                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| <b>Zeitschrift:</b> | The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK         |
| <b>Herausgeber:</b> | Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom                                     |
| <b>Band:</b>        | - (1930)  |
| <b>Heft:</b>        | 453   |
| <b>Artikel:</b>     | Five weeks in America [continued]   |
| <b>Autor:</b>       | Eckenstein, K.E.  |
| <b>DOI:</b>         | <a href="https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693532">https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693532</a> |

### **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:** 22.02.2026

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

**Doings in Our Colony.****CITY SWISS CLUB.**

Les indices de la seule réunion d'été, avec dames, que le City Swiss Club organise cette année au BRENT BRIDGE HOTEL, à HENDON, et qui aura lieu mardi prochain 1er juillet (Diner à 7 h. au prix de 8/6 y compris le service) font entrevoir un nouveau succès, dont tous ceux qui ont assisté aux soirées dansantes au May Fair l'hiver dernier n'ont d'ailleurs besoin d'être assurés.

Afin de faciliter la tâche du Comité et les arrangements avec le Brent Bridge Hotel, les nombreux intéressés sont priés de ne pas attendre à mardi pour s'inscrire auprès de M. P. F. Boehringer (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595), mais de le faire lundi au plus tard.

**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.**

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Dr. Schindler, Zurich: "Munich." Mr. H. Morf, Zurich: "Philosophy." Miss M. Simmen, Rüschlikon: "Gandhi." Miss H. Martin, Geneva: "Chopin." Miss M. Gallusser, Berne: "The Manufacture of Leather." Miss E. Bezzola, Engadine: "Java." Miss N. Schmidhauser, Geneva: "A Lost Boy." Mr. W. Aerni, Zuchwil: "The History of Money." Mr. T. Schmid, Diessendorf: "India." Mr. H. Brunner, St. Gall: "Flying." Mr. V. Laemmlin, Thun: "Russians and their Customs." Miss E. Charlet, Lausanne: "Islamism." Miss P. Geiger, Zurich: "Women in Business and Public Life." Miss Y. Merz, "London and its Lights." Messrs. A. Kummel, J. Haefliger, A. Bondolfi, "Ought Right to be Federated in the United States of Europe?"

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Is an International Language a Practical Possibility?" Proposer: Mr. H. Obrist. Opposer: Mr. P. Renold.

"Is the Negro the Equal of the White Man?" Proposer: Mr. Brunner, Zurich. Opposer: Miss Prenant, Italy.

An interesting and provocative lecture was given on Friday June 20th on "Women and the New Age" by Mr. Looker: Mrs. Pinard was in the Chair. The subject was open to discussion afterwards and a lively debate ensued, students expressing their views on the subject, a vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Mrs. Pinard and the students applauded. An excellent musical programme followed.

On Saturday, June 21st, the pupils of the

**Five Weeks in America.**

By Dr. K. E. ECKENSTEIN.  
CONTINUED.

**II. WASHINGTON.**

To go to Washington, one leaves New York City from the Pennsylvania Station. The New York stations are totally different from those in this country. You enter an enormous hall around which are the booking offices, waiting rooms, candy stores, book stores, drug stores, fruit stores, cigar stores and various other stores. You then descend to a lower floor where are the trains. All the trains, without exception, are hauled by electric traction and it is not until they have left New York City for some distance that a change is made and a steam locomotive attached. The result is that the stations are beautifully clean and there is very little noise. In fact, comparatively speaking, the stations are the quietest places in New York.

Trains in America are very long and consist of Pullman cars. They are really very comfortable. Most of them seem to bear names such as the 'Senator,' the 'Miamian,' etc. As these trains always start at the same time, this custom is very convenient as any particular train can be easily identified. In all the trains iced water is provided and a machine which supplies paper cups permits each individual to have his own cup which is thrown away after having been used. This system of supplying iced drinking water is universal and is found also in hotels, restaurants and even in the hospitals. It is one of the things in which America is definitely superior to Europe.

Washington is about 200 miles from New York City and the journey is exceedingly interesting. Perhaps I found it so interesting because it was the first railroad journey I took and therefore the first time I had an opportunity of seeing something of the country.

Alongside the railroad is one continuous line of factories, interrupted at intervals by towns of which Pennsylvania and Baltimore are the most important. Outside each factory is a car-park for the convenience of the employees. One of the

S.M.S. paid a visit to Mme. Tussaud's. They were greatly interested in the wax models of the politicians and royalties. A visit was also paid to the "Chamber of Horrors," where the politicians of the French Revolutionary Period attracted much attention.

**FETE SUISSE.**

Si les organisateurs de la "Fête Suisse" avaient pris sur eux une grande responsabilité en tenant la grande salle de Central Hall, Westminster, l'empressement de la Colonie à répondre à leur appel a prouvé que leur initiative avait été parfaitement appréciée.

En effet, une foule plus considérable que jamais se trouvait réunie pour la 61me Fête Suisse, jeudi dernier. Et cependant, chacun était à l'aise; ce n'était plus la cohue de Chacon Hall; on pouvait se mouvoir aisément; et surtout, chacun était assis, ce qui, en pareil cas, n'est pas une petite affaire.

Malgré la grandeur de la salle, l'air de famille y était. Car, plus qu'une soirée, la Fête Suisse est la grande réunion de famille de la Colonie; on se retrouvait en Suisse, jeudi dernier; l'entrain était merveilleux et la joie rayonnait sur tous les visages.

Quant au programme, il surpassait, au dire des habitués, tout ce que l'on avait vu et entendu jusqu'alors. M. et Mmes Dolmetsch, Melle Browne, Melle Léonora Bosset et M. Caruana, M. André Loew, nos sociétés suisses si dévouées, et j'en passe, tous contribuèrent au succès éclatant de cette soirée, qui marquera dans les annales de notre Colonie.

Si la Fête se prolongea un peu trop, ce fut un accident dû au changement de salle et à la pléthora de bonnes choses. L'an prochain, pareil fait ne se reproduira pas.

Maintenant la Fête Suisse est passée, et cependant elle reste dans nos coeurs comme un souvenir lumineux. Et déjà nous nous réjouissons de la célébrer à nouveau, le 25 juin 1931.

Enfin, le public de la Colonie sera très heureux d'apprendre que le Comité de la Fête, en ajoutant les bénéfices accumulés de ces dernières années au petit bénéfice de cette année, va remettre au Fonds de Secours la somme de £100 pour le Fonds Dimier. **Po.**

**Discorso pronunciato dal Sig. Carlo Berti**

Vice-Pres. dell' "Unione Ticinese" in occasione della 61ma Serata annuale Svizzera a Londra, Giovedì 19 Giugno 1930.

**SALUTO PATRIOTICO.**

Cari Concittadini,

La natura ci ha dato una Madre, la provvidenza ci ha essa pure favoriti di una Patria.

Amare la nostra Patria come una seconda Madre è il dovere di ogni Svizzero che realmente

most astonishing things in America from a European's point of view is the development of the automobile. Everyone seems to own a car and at Daytona even some of the nurses at the hospital possessed their own car. Of course the system is entirely different. Comparatively speaking, cars are cheaper and they are used in a different way. Most Americans drive their cars until they are used up and then change them, very often annually. They stamp on the gas and rely on their brakes to a much greater extent than is considered to be consistent with good driving here. Such a system has resulted in a serious problem, namely the fate of used cars. There is no market for scrap iron and therefore every now and then a huge dump is met with which consists of tangled and matted strips of rusty iron which once were cars joyously careering along the roads. Old cars do not die but fade away into dumps there-to remain to rust and corrupt. In the country, there is even a simpler method of disposing of old cars which consists in abandoning them by the wayside and I was tickled to death when motoring in the country to come across from time to time a heap of abandoned metal which once had been a car. In New York, I was told that the problem of the disposal of ancient automobiles has become a serious matter and is being solved by loading them on to barges and dumping them far out in the Atlantic.

\*\*\*

Washington is a wonderful city. New York is unique and exceedingly interesting but even its most ardent admirer cannot say that it is a thing of beauty. In New York everything is cramped whereas Washington is a well laid out town with wide avenues bordered by trees and wide open spaces. The public buildings can be seen to their best advantage as they are disengaged from the surrounding houses.

We stayed at the Willard Hotel which was very comfortable and more like a building in Europe, as the need for sky-scrappers does not exist in Washington.

We had arrived towards evening and after dinner were taken to the Fox Movie-tone Theatre which is the principal Cinema Palace in the

si sente in petto il vero spirito patriottico. Fedeli alle nostre tradizioni, per la 61ma volta gli Svizzeri dimoranti in questa Metropoli si adunano in famigliare assemblea per vienemeglio rafforzare e ravvicinare i loro vincoli di amicizia, fraternità e patriottismo, per dimostrare che anche lontani dalla loro patria amata, i Confederati si ricordano ognora di essa, rievocando ogni qualvolta la nostra libertà, conquistata colla forza e valore dei nostri antichi padri.

Nei tempi primitivi non sempre valeva la ragione a far sì che i nostri diritti fossero rispettati, per lunghi e lunghi anni il popolo Svizzero fu sospeso nell'ansietà, nell'incertezza e più volte dovettero ricorrere a ciò che oggigiorno è tanto odioso, alle armi, per difendere la nostra sovranità.

Concittadini, permettete ad un figlio del caro Ticino a portarvi il saluto patriottico.

Ognun sa che il Ticinese, coi difetti comuni a tutti i mortali ha anche spiccato il senso di amore e fedeltà verso la madre Patria. Riandando la sua storia troviamo ovunque prova di questa affermazione. Già al suo nascere il cantone nostro avrebbe potuto unirsi ad altro Stato, ma a nulla valsero le pressioni, che uno solo era l'unanime desiderio, essere e restare libero e Svizzero.

Col proseguir del tempo vediamo che, nel limite delle sue facoltà il Ticinese ha sempre partecipato attivamente alla politica fattiva della Confederazione.

Vediamo nel 1mo Consiglio Federale un eminente nostro concittadino, l'on. defunto Stefano Franscini, statista insigne, padre della popolare educazione, che lasciò larga impronta della sua straordinarie attività. Troviamo un G. B. Piola in seguito, quale ministro Svizzero nella Città Eterna, dopo essere stato Consigliere Federale.

Nel 1911 poi entrava nel massimo potere esecutivo della nostra Repubblica quell'illustre Concittadino che risponde al nome, di chi?

Giuseppe Motta acclamano i Ticinesi, per ben tre volte Presidente della Confederazione, e che da un quindicennio o quasi dirige con impareggiabile oculatezza il dipartimento Politico Federale, così da mantenere l'amato nostro paese in buoni rapporti cogli Stati vicini e lontani, in relazione con essa.

Anche nel Tribunale Federale troviamo due egregi magistrati Ticinesi, i Signori Dtt. Agostino Soldati e Plinio Bolla, mentre il Dtt. Giu. Berta da anni fa parte e già diresse almeno una volta il massimo Tribunale Svizzero in tema di assicurazioni.

Ed alla direzione dell'ufficio Unione Postale Universale sta un'altro Ticinese, Pavv. E. Garbani Nerini, già Giudice Federale e membro del governo del Cantone natio.

Se lasciamo la politica ed entriamo nell'arte, tutta una corte di uomini illustri ci si faceno innanzi, son centinaia di Ticinesi che nei secoli

town. They were showing "Happy Days" which I understood was shortly to come to this country. The theatre is very ornate and possesses a magnificent foyer and compares favourably, though on a smaller scale, with the Cinema theatres of New York.

After the show, we were taken for a tour round the town and this is well worth doing on account of the method of illumination employed on several of the public buildings. The Capitol is lit up by powerful lamps placed at the four corners of the roof so as to throw their rays on to the dome. The result is very effective for the huge building is thus thrown into relief with the dome gleaming white above it. Seen from a distance the spectacle is still more remarkable.

Near the Capitol is the White House but I think it must be dwarfed by the former as it seemed to be smaller than I had expected. Two other monuments which should be visited are the Washington Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial. They are separated from one another by a long narrow artificial lake, and one of the sights is to see the reflection of the Washington Memorial by moonlight on the surface of this lake. The Washington Memorial is a high concrete obelisk which can be ascended either by a staircase or by an elevator and from the top of which a fine view can be obtained of the City, the Potomac River and the surrounding country.

Lincoln's Memorial is in the form of a classic Temple around the top of which are forty-eight statues representing the States of the Confederation. The building contains an atrium which is reached by a long flight of stone steps. In this atrium, the walls of which are covered with marble on which is engraved the Gettysburg Declaration, is placed an enormous statue of Abraham Lincoln seated in a chair. From the roadway it is an impressive sight to see this great statue at the top of this long flight of steps and at night the spectacle is still more impressive as the statue is lit up by lamps hidden in each corner of the atrium so that one sees the dark facade of the building with Lincoln standing out in relief.

TO BE CONTINUED.