

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: - (1930)

Heft: 431

Artikel: The federal politicians' Xmas present

Autor: Lutz, Johannes

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687406>

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: 04.04.2026

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

with extra-special accommodation? I am afraid the *Financial Times* will have to give us more exact details ere we spend part of the emoluments afore-mentioned on the scheme. But, I repeat, the subject ought to be investigated by the *Swiss Observer's* own Correspondent! Otherwise, our Readers may read the above article from the *Financial Times* and never hear anything more about it. (Which probably is just as well!—*Ed. S.O.*)

Having read so far, intelligently and with close attention to details, as Editors do read Manuscripts, you must know, our Chief, thinking aloud, let it be known that in his opinion Kyburg was suffering from some inhibition complex! Well, it's quite true. Kyburg did feel, when writing the above, that he wanted to be away from England for the time being, so as to be able to forget all about Golf!

The reason is really quite simple. A friend, so-called friend I now think, presented us with a tear-off Almanack, which, for every day in the year, gives condensed advice on various aspects of Golfing. You can just see me, can't you, or if you had ever seen me play, then you could, how eagerly I began studying these little bits of advice, not one per diem only, but, anticipating the future, dozens of them. So, armed with plenty of good advice, in tabloid form, I sallied forth yesterday, full of vim, into the beautiful warm sunshine to do battle royal on the Links. And, of course, thrice of course, the inevitable, the absolutely dead certain thing did happen, viz. I fluffed and fozzled all my shots, I could not even put, in short, I was easily the World's worst golfer, until, after lunch, I had forgotten all about those bits of advice and began to play without thinking about anything except of just having a nice half-round before sun-set. But even so, the defeat of the morning round rankles and I felt that if the *Swiss Observer* only saw the paramount necessity of having its own Correspondent somewhere in Switzerland and would chose me, at a princely figure, of course, I might get over yesterday's experience in time.

But if, against all expectations, that should prove to be a vain dream, well, I'll jolly well look up some more "hints" and find out where I did wrong and then you'll see how I shall hit them down the middle next Sunday!

Dr. Spahlinger Libelled:
Daily Herald, 11th Jan.

Dr. Henri Spahlinger, the well-known Swiss bacteriologist and inventor of the Spahlinger treatment for tuberculosis, has won an action for libel against the Geneva Socialist organ, *Travail*.

Dr. Spahlinger had been accused by the *Travail* of being engaged on an entirely commercial enterprise of no reliability according to scientific standards.

Damages of approximately £80 have been awarded by the Court of First Instance to Dr. Spahlinger against the *Travail*.

The newspaper has given notice of appeal.

What I should like to see is a really competent enquiry into Dr. Spahlinger's claims. As the matter stands now, lots of people have absolute faith in his methods, others haven't and one really does not know whom to believe. The matter being so frightfully important for the human family, why can't it be made a matter of national importance and dealt with accordingly?

Ticinese Architects and Sculptors in Past Centuries.

By Dr. A. Janner, translated from "*Deine Heimat*" by one of our readers.

(Continued. Commenced Jan. 18.)

While the Solari were bringing to Venice the finest flower of the Renaissance the Rodari, from Maroggia, were building the cathedral of Como according to the new conception of art. The Rodari are three brothers: Tomaso, the chief, and his two younger brothers Giacomo and Bernardino. We have in them a good example of the way of associating of the artist families of those times. Among the three, four or five members of one family you would always find one whose genius would excel that of the others, and then the brothers or the other relatives would submit to him as a matter of course, as to an acknowledged chief. He planned and held the main direction of the work, the others carried it out. At that time no one gave himself airs of a great artist before having given proof of his worth. To begin with he was satisfied to place himself under a good leader, and to follow the tradition. It is in this way that of many ancient monuments the name of the author has been lost, but the original expression of beauty has been preserved.

In Como, under the direction of Tomaso Rodari, architect and sculptor of exquisite genius, his two brothers, also, created beautiful work. If however, in order to seek after a supposed originality, they should have desired to go their own

GENEVA KURSAAL AND INTERNATIONAL CLUB.

The Geneva Kursaal is a difficult problem. Since the gaming tables were suppressed in 1925 the casino has cost the taxpayers 190,000 francs a year, and the contract with the company now running it has been cancelled. After much discussion, architect's plans have been drawn up for the transformation of the theatre in the building to provide increased seating accommodation, improvements to the large hall, and the building of a pergola along the front of the terrace overlooking the lake. The cost of these alterations, it is estimated, would be about half a million francs. A report presented to the Municipal Council says it is obvious that the casino cannot exist unless it receives support, and as the town is not prepared to vote large subsidies the restoration of the tables is suggested.

This has been rendered legally possible by a vote of the Swiss people last year reversing, in effect, their previous decision, and the tables have already been restored, under special restrictions, in most of the other tourist resorts. In Geneva, however, the opposition to such a course is especially strong. Two suggestions are put forward in the report above-mentioned: first, that an offer should be made to lease the casino to a company, which should either pay interest and amortization of the costs of reconstruction within fifteen years, or amortization only within ten years, with a percentage of profits on the tables; or, alternatively, that the whole of the ground and buildings should be ceded to a private person or company, the town retaining ground ownership only. The latter proposal—to hand the whole concern over to private enterprise—is regarded as the most desirable solution; provided that any person or company comes forward to undertake it. One thing only is certain—that the town cannot afford to go on losing money on the casino as it has been doing.

While this problem remains unsolved it will be difficult to make progress with the schemes afoot with regard to the International Club, which adjoins the Kursaal. As a result, partly, of the munificence of James J. Forstall of Chicago, it is planned to enlarge the present premises of the club and in addition to organize a kind of country club, with a "plage" or bathing beach, just outside the town near the buildings of the International Labor Office and the site of the new buildings of the League of Nations. So far as the latter part of the scheme is concerned, this seems likely to go through, though opposition may be forthcoming from the owner of some adjacent property, who has already resigned from the committee of the club. As regards the extensions of the present club, the proposal is to take over and demolish a part of the Kursaal premises and build offices and dining rooms, so as to leave the whole of the now existing premises available for other club purposes. A holding company has been formed for the construction of the new and the enlargement of the old premises, and the necessary capital is being raised by gifts, loans, etc. The whole will be a corporative enterprise as between the city authorities, as owners of the Kursaal, the Geneva bankers, the League of Nations personnel, the foreign delegations to the League of Nations, the League of Nations Swimming Club and a few Americans.

Christian Science Monitor.

way to-day they would perhaps be forgotten. By Tomaso Rodari are also the two finest churches in the Ticino, viz. the Collegiata of Bellinzona and that of Lugano. The latter has in the facings of its portals perhaps the finest sculptured marble of the 16th century. About the cathedral of Como the great historian of art, Burckhardt, says: "The choirs and the transverse wings are one of the finest creations of the Italian Renaissance." A contemporary of the Rodari is Cristoforo Solari, a sculptor of great capacity, to whom we owe, among others, the very beautiful sepulchral monument of "Lodovico il Moro" and of his wife "Beatrice d'Este," now in the Certosa of Pavia.

And while the Solari were working in Venice and the Rodari in Como the Gaggini, from Bissone, were creating most beautiful work in Genoa, which is still greatly admired to-day. The Gaggini is a family of artists which, single-handed, could demonstrate how, under certain conditions, genius is an hereditary quality. For nearly 200 years the Gaggini open ateliers of sculpture in all parts of Italy. From Genoa, where the head of the family had established himself, his sons and nephews very soon radiate over the whole Peninsula and create everywhere new and fruitful centres of art, principally in Naples and Sicily. Among these artists of the family Gaggini many enjoy great fame in the history of art, like Giovanni, Pace, Elia, Domenico and Antonello. Giovanni Gaggini sculptured portals for Genoese palaces and decorated churches and chapels. Pace Gaggini, also a sculptor, worked for the Certosa of Pavia and at Genoa

THE FEDERAL POLITICIANS' XMAS PRESENT.

I cannot help it! It must be said! All day long it incommodes me like asthma, and at night it crawls over my bed-cover, as a friend of mine used to say, when he could not sleep. Well, what is it? I want to say a few words concerning one of the two recent elections to the Federal Council. Politics in the "Kirchenbote"? You smile, or do you frown? Perhaps you think: Mind your own business? Still, I cannot keep it, I must say it—unintelligent, shortsighted and unjust was the action of our "Federal Fathers" in refusing the demand of organised Labour to have one of their representatives in the Federal Council, so that they also should share in the governing of our Country, an action due to selfish party considerations. This is a policy which pains me, a policy which, I feel sure, sows the seed of dissatisfaction and unrest. You may ask me: Have you turned "Red"? You may also, as somebody did once to a Basle clergyman, Mr. Altherr, after a lesson during which he spoke of Rich and Poor, send me a red tie. Please yourself, it will not hurt me!

But to prevent any misunderstanding: I am not a politician, and I do not belong to any political party. My profession as clergyman prevents me. The new Zurich Federal Councillor is unknown to me, and his late opponent has, as far as I can remember, only once spoken to me, many years ago. Nor do I know personally Zurich's Mayor. Let me also state that, whatever I have heard of the successful candidate, his character and his abilities, gives me reason to say that he will fulfill his high mission conscientiously and for the common good. He is without any doubt a man, who takes his duties seriously.

All the same I regret deeply, that the Zurich and the Federal bourgeoisie, or rather its political party, have not had it in them to make a concession to Swiss Labour, or rather to give it justice. A considerable part of our population has been vexed. They have been treated as the old-time feudal overlords treated the peasantry, unless revolution wrenched the power out of their hands.

My greatest disappointment is, that an opportunity to appease the disturbed minds, to bridge in a small way the gulf separating our citizens, has been sadly missed. Instead the gulf has been widened. Party-war will become more intense (the first indications have already been given). The small man feels again, that he need not expect justice from his rulers.

You retort: Do you not know the serious reasons which have decided us to disregard the claims of the Socialists? Have you not yet realized, what are the aims of the Swiss Socialist Party with its acceptance of the doctrine, that the proletariat masses should rule State and Society? And have you forgotten with what merciless and even underhanded means they have endeavoured to attain their aims, and how they have jeered at us? Where is their idealism, their unselfishness, where their justice? Was it justice and uprightness which ousted Zurich's former Mayor, a man of merit?

Yes, yes, I know all that. I can also distinguish between Socialism as a movement based on idealism to achieve more unity by co-operation and Party-Socialism as evidenced in political matters. I have often criticized sharply the Socialist

and his fame stretched to Spain, where in Seville he carried out the monument to Caterina da Rivera. Domenico Gaggini, the most famous of the family, leaves immortal works in Genoa, Naples, Palermo and elsewhere. His son, Antonella Gaggini splendidly carried on the tradition with grace and strength and enriched with marvellous statues all the great palaces of Sicily.

In Florence there were no Ticinese artists. Florence was itself a hot-bed of artists and did, therefore, not need the influx of strangers. It had been the cradle of the art—it is there that had taken shape that marvellous springtide of art which became the Renaissance, and on the work of Brunelleschi and of Donatello have learned also the great artists of the Ticino. But within a short space of time the Ticinesi had become competitors and in fact when, in the 16th century, Rome, the eternal city, had at last gathered within its walls the flower of Italian artists, we find the masters from the villages of the Lugano countryside competing, and with success, against the masters of Florence. The height of the Renaissance and the beginning of the Baroque period are completely dominated by our artists. To Bramante from Umbria followed the Tuscans San Gallo and Michelangelo and to them succeeded our own Ticinesi: Fontana, Maderno and Borromini, as the undisputed leaders of the new artistic movement. The cathedral of St. Peter, in Rome, symbol of all that period, though started by the Tuscans, is completed by our own men. The history of Italian architecture from 1550 to 1650 bears only names of Ticinesi as leaders of the various phases.

Party and its leaders, just as I have not always agreed with what the others have done.

As to the justification for this election and the attempt to present the result as an overwhelming proof of the citizens' common sense, I will not enter into details. A few remarks will be sufficient.

The parole given out before the election was: As long as the Socialists maintain their present attitude there can be no possibility of allowing them a say in the Federal Government. Question: Do you seriously believe, that their defeat will "tame" them into a different attitude? Do you believe you can correct someone's erroneous impression by boxing his ears? Second Question: Is it not reasonable to believe that Labour's representative will honour his oath of allegiance in spite of political radicalism and not necessarily aim at political upheaval? And finally: Can you improve feelings and achieve good fellowship without showing your opponents some consideration, without making them forget by justice previous injustice and harshness?

It is said, that History is a great teacher. When, oh Sons of Helvetia, will you begin to learn the lessons History teaches you?

JOHANNES LUTZ,

in the "Kirchenbote für den Kanton Zürich."

The above translation has been sent to us by an old collaborator. We gladly give it publicity as the view expressed therein on the election of two new Federal Councillors by Parliament last December has not previously been presented to our readers, many of whom may feel the same way about the matter.—THE ED.

NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG.

150th ANNIVERSARY.

With justified pride the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* has just celebrated its 150th anniversary with a special 100 page issue, a formal ceremony at the University and a banquet at the Zunfthaus zur Meise. On the 12th January 1780 the first number of the *Zürcher Zeitung* was published. At that time the Federal Diet and the Cantonal Governments would not suffer any political criticism, so that most of the news which could be published emanated from abroad. Only in the second decade of the last century the political editor of the paper dared to put forward views of his own and his friends on the political affairs of the home country. The *N.Z.Z.* has thenceforward steadily pursued a liberal and national policy, thus contributing very materially to the victory that Liberalism has won in most parts of our country during the second half of the last century. Remaining faithful to the early ideals of national liberalism the *N.Z.Z.* has in the course of time found itself ranged more on the right side of the liberal movement while a considerable number of radical-liberal contemporaries sprang into existence. That the *N.Z.Z.* on the whole still represents the large majority of the liberal movement was last December strikingly proved by the results of the election of two new Federal Councillors, one of whom, Dr. Albert Meyer, has for the last 15 years been the editor-in-chief of the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*. The radical wing of Swiss Liberalism had strongly supported the election of a Socialist candidate, the first one officially put up by the Swiss Social-Democratic Party, which had up to the present consistently refused participation in a bourgeois government. The opportunity of engaging the socialists to share in the responsibilities of the country's Administration and thus to learn the necessity of moderation—even as the Labour Party has done in this country—was missed by our Parliamentarians. The ostensible reason was that the Socialist Party refused to free its candidate from his allegiance to the party programme in deference to the demands of loyalty to the Constitution imposed on the members of the Government. Many people think that this formal difficulty might justifiably have been disregarded for the sake of having all the parties represented in the government, which might have helped considerably to bridge the gulf of class antagonism. In a risky choice Parliament preferred to be on the safe side and elected a moderate liberal and a conservative representative of agriculture.

The place of Dr. Meyer at the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* is filled by Dr. Klötzli, formerly a foreign editor of the paper. From an edition of barely 5,000 in 1880 the *N.Z.Z.* has, especially in the last 30 years grown in size and circulation by leaps and bounds up to over 50,000. How, with such a small circulation compared with English newspapers, the *N.Z.Z.* manages to maintain a standard in contents and make-up unsurpassed by any contemporary is a fact of which the paper can justly feel proud.

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

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

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

Mr. A. Schmied, Zurich: "Dr. Barnardo's Home." Miss C. Schaefer, Wildegg: "Sugar." Mr. A. Hodel, Lucerne: "The town of the Future." Miss H. Mauge, Genève: "A walk through Geneva." Mr. E. Gruber, Liestal: "Rhine Navigation." Mr. S. Deutsch, Romanshorn: "Houses of Parliament." Mr. A. Fattori, Bienne: "A Bicycle Excursion." Mr. E. Weber, Beinwil: "Tobacco Industry." Mr. H. Buser, Laufenburg: "Boulogne to South America."

"Should Switzerland attempt to get a Sea-Harbour." Proposer: Mr. J. Zeller. Opposer: Miss R. Trechsel.

On Friday January 17th an interesting lecture was given by Wm. Maxwell Batten, Esq., on "Indian History, Ancient and Modern."

On Saturday January 18th the students visited Madame Tussaud's Wax-Works Exhibition.

On Tuesday January 21st.

Thanks to the kindness of Messrs. Mullard Valve Co., the students attending the Swiss Mercantile Society's School were enabled to listen in on Tuesday morning to H.M. the King's address to the delegates attending the London Naval Conference. The students greatly appreciated being able to take part in this event.

PERSONAL.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Peter Stoeri, who passed away on Tuesday 21st inst., at the age of 67, at 38, Ferme Park Road, N.8., after a long and painful illness.

Mr. Stoeri was born at Hätzingen (Glarus) and has been living in England for nearly 45 years. For many years he was established in the City as a Foreign Produce Merchant and had only recently taken over a catering establishment at 32, Tottenham Court Road, W.1. He took a keen interest in the activities of our Colony and was a member of several societies.

The funeral took place yesterday (Friday) at the Finchley Cemetery, the Rev. C. Th. Hahn officiating.

Mr. Stoeri, who was a well-known figure in the Swiss Colony, will be mourned by a large number of friends and we wish to express our sincere condolences to the bereaved family.

BACK NUMBERS OF THE "S.O."

Subscribers ordering back numbers are requested to remit the usual 3d. per copy, provided that those required do not date back more than twelve months; for earlier issues, some of which are out of print, an extra charge is made.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Dinner and Dance

HOTEL METROPOLE, NORTHUMBERLAND AV.

Saturday, January 25th, at 7 p.m.

Tickets at 12/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from Members of the Committee.

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY'S NEXT CONCERT WILL BE GIVEN AT CONWAY HALL, LONDON, W.C. ON FEBRUARY 12th. TICKETS 2s FROM THE SECRETARY, S.I.O.S., 35, FITZROY SQ., W.1.

FOYER SUISSE, 15, Upper Bedford Pl., W.C.1

Swiss Girls and Ladies are cordially invited to an

AT HOME

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 3.30 P.M.

English Talks, Debates, Singing.

TEAS PROVIDED

Council of Foyer Suisse

Telephone Numbers:
MUSEUM 4902 (Visitors)
MUSEUM 7055 (Office)

Telegrams: SOIFFLE
WESDO, LONDON

"Ben faranno i Pagani."
Purgatorio C. xiv. Dante
"Veni se ne dee gittà"
tra' miei Meschini."
Dante, Inferno. C. xxvii.

Established over 50 Years.

PAGANI'S RESTAURANT

GREAT PORTLAND ST., LONDON, W.1.

LINDA MESCHINI } Sole Proprietors.
ARTHUR MESCHINI }

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.
and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up £6,400,000
Reserves - - £1,960,000
Deposits - - £43,000,000

The WEST END BRANCH
opens Savings Bank Accounts on
which interest will be credited
at 3½ per cent. until further notice.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Annual Banquet & Ball

will take place on

Saturday, February 1st, 1930

Reception 7 p.m. Dinner 7.15
Dancing from 9.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

at the

Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Str., N.W.

TICKETS at 12/6 can be obtained from any Member of the Committee and at the following addresses: 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Telephone: Museum 6893) and 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4 (Tel.: City 7178)

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine

ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu le MARDI 4 FEVRIER au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).

Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C.2 (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal. | Démonstrations.
Admissions. | Divers.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762),

(Langue française.)

Temporairement: 83, Endell Street, au 2e étage du bâtiment d'école.

Dimanche 26 Janvier, 11h—"Qu' était le Christ,"
Luc. IV, v. 21.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.
3 à 6h—Club Missionnaire des Enfants, au Foyer.
6h30—Culte.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Dimanche 2 Février—Service de Cène matin et soir.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 26. Januar 1930.

11 Uhr vorm.: Gottesdienst und Sonntagschule.
7 Uhr abends: Gottesdienst und Chorprobe.

BEGRAEBNIS.

Am 16. Januar der am 12. des Monats verst. Otto Robert BERENGER von Riesbach, Zürich, geb. am 30.10.1870.

TAUFE.

Am 19. Januar wurde getauft: Regina Margareth Elisabeth HOFSTETTER geb. 25. Oktober 1929, Tochter des Guido Louis von Dübendorf-Zch. und der Ivy Constance geb. Taylor von Burton-on-Trent (Staffs.).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 25th at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB: Dinner and Dance at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue.

Saturday, February 1st at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Annual Banquet and Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel.

Tuesday, 4th February—CITY SWISS CLUB: Monthly Meeting, at Pagani's.

Wednesday, February 5th at 7.30 p.m.—SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS: Monthly Meeting at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Friday, 7th February—SWISS GYMNASIUM SOCIETY: General Meeting at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1.

Wednesday, February 12th.—SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY: Concert at Conway Hall, W.C. (see advert.)

Tuesday, March 11th—UNIONE TICINESE: Annual Banquet, Ball and Cabaret at The Monaco Restaurant, Piccadilly Circus, W.1.

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., Ltd., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.