

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: - (1931)

Heft: 486

Rubrik: Home news

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The Swiss Observer

[FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.]

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 11—No. 486

LONDON, FEBRUARY 14, 1931.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM	{ 3 Months (13 issues, post free)	36
AND COLONIES	{ 12 " " 62 " " 12	66
SWITZERLAND	{ 6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Fr. 7.50
	{ 12 " " 62 " " 12	14

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

HOME NEWS

FEDERAL.

SWISS BANK REPORTS.

EIDGENÖSSISCHE BANK.

The net earnings of the Eidgenössische Bank (Banque Fédérale) increased from 9,283,769f. in 1929 to 9,449,922f. in 1930. A dividend of 8 per cent. is proposed as in previous years.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The net profit for the year ended 31st of December, 1930, including the carry forward of £40,770 from the previous year, amounts to £683,267, against £724,343 for 1929, when the amount brought in was £28,611. The Board will recommend the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. as for the preceding year.

UNION DE BANQUES SUISSES.

The Union de Banques Suisses earned a net profit of 8,902,000f. for 1930, against 9,896,000f. for 1929. The dividend remains unchanged at 7 per cent.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTÉ DE GENÈVE.

The net profits of the Comptoir d'Escompte de Genève declined from 4,772,000f. in 1929 to 4,125,000f. last year. The dividend has been reduced from 7 per cent. to 6 per cent.

BASLER HANDELSBANK.

The net earnings of the Basler Handelsbank increased from 3,419,000f. in 1929 to 3,432,000f. in 1930.

BASLER KANTONALBANK.

The surplus of the Basler Kantonalbank amounted to 4,662,000f. in 1930, against 4,669,000f. in 1929.

SPÄHLINGER VACCINE.

At last week's meeting of the Council of the Royal Agricultural Society it was reported that the society's veterinary committee had considered the experiments in Norfolk conducted by Mr. Spählinger in demonstrating the effect of his vaccine as a preventive of tuberculosis. Sir Merrick Burrell reported that the committee had been much impressed with the work Mr. Spählinger had done in Norfolk with the help of Major Buxton, and had recommended the society to ask the Royal Veterinary College to investigate the system and report to the society on the possibility of further experiments.

SITUATION IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss Bank Corporation issues a summary of the financial position in Switzerland. In 1913 the expenditure on debt service was only 51 million francs, yet in 1931 it was estimated at 117½ millions. The cost of the national defence has nearly doubled. As regards revenue, Customs duties which brought in nearly 82 millions in 1913, are estimated to produce this year 227 millions. The tobacco revenue was only three millions in the year preceding the war, but it is now seven times as much. Out of a total estimated revenue of 395 millions for the current year, Customs and stamp duties account for 288 millions, and in 1913 there was no duty on stamps. The Government is responsible for the Federal Railways, and for the first ten months of 1930 traffics fell by 94 million francs, while expenses had increased by more than nine millions. The circular concludes by stating that energetic and prudent measures, allied to well-placed confidence, should be effective in bringing Switzerland through the difficulties which seem to be ahead.

PLEBISCITE IN SWITZERLAND ON FOREIGN HONOURS.

On Saturday and Sunday last a plebiscite on foreign honours was held, which will definitely settle the questions of this problem, which has been vexing public opinion for many years. The plebiscite was asked for by the "Legion for Swiss Independence" in July, 1928, backed by 75,000 signatures. It was a reaction against the shower of orders coming from France at the time when the question of the Geneva Zones was in its acutest state. The result of the plebiscite is as follows:—

Cantons.	Against accepting Foreign Orders.	For accepting Foreign Orders.
Zürich	70834	13040
Bern	21490	6417
Luzern	8839	1770
Uri	932	190
Schwyz	3391	1781
Obwalden	613	153
Nidwalden	467	171
Glarus	3407	772
Zug	1571	730
Freiburg	2537	3782
Solothurn	16261	2868
Basel-Stadt	4044	519
Basel-Land	4663	753
Schaffhausen	7313	843
Appenzell A.-Rh.	5346	1201
Appenzell I.-Rh.	1331	316
St. Gallen	28553	9245
Graubünden	7469	1419
Aargau	36953	9029
Thurgau	17510	4039
Tessin	3748	1149
Waadt	29418	43852
Wallis	4836	8217
Neuenburg	959	3496
Genf	6394	6821
Total	289,569	122,574

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Louis Parness, architect in Zurich, has been awarded first prize for the plan of a new medical clinic to be built at Zurich. Next to the League of Nations building at Geneva, this will be the largest building in Switzerland. J.C.

BERNE.

Frederic Schiller's "Wilhelm Tell" is to be performed at Interlaken during the coming summer season, by 250 amateur players of the district. This is a revival of a successful pre-war event, and many people will no doubt be prepared to travel long distances to see this drama of the Swiss deliverance from the yoke of the Habsburg dynasty portrayed in the surroundings that gave it birth, and by the people about whom it was written. M.E.

BASLE.

Mr. Arnold Staehlin, manager of the Banque Fédérale in Basle, has celebrated his 40th service anniversary with this institution. N.Z.

BASLE.

The death is announced in Basle, at an advanced age, of Mr. Alfred von Speyr-Merian, who for many years had been a well-known figure in Swiss banking circles. Mr. von Speyr-Merian was formerly partner in the bank of Speyr and Co., which, 20 years ago, was absorbed by the Swiss Bank Corporation. He joined the Board of the latter at that time, and had for the last ten years been a member of the executive committee. F.T.

SOLOTHURN.

National Councillor Jacques Schmid (socialist), Editor of the *Volk*, has been elected member of the cantonal government, replacing Dr. Affolter, who recently was made a federal judge. N.Z.

A LECTURE.

Forthcoming lecture by Swiss Engineer at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

A very interesting lecture by Ingenieur Hug is announced for Friday, March 7th, 1931, at 7 o'clock p.m. at the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Storey's Gate, S.W.1.

Mr. Hug will speak on the Electrification of Railways in the Dutch East Indies and will illustrate his lecture by films and lantern slides in a most interesting way.

Tickets will not be necessary and the lecture is free. We heartily invite you to be present, both to honour our countryman and to enjoy what is going to be without the slightest doubt a most interesting and instructive lecture.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21st

for the

LAST DINNER AND DANCE
of the Season at the
MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

Swiss Mercantile Society.

ANNUAL BANQUET AND BALL.

In spite of the frequent festive gatherings which were held during the last four months in our colony, the Swiss Mercantile Society was able to assemble about 200 members and guests at their Annual Banquet and Ball which was held at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras, N.W.1, on Saturday, February 7th, a striking proof of the popularity which this most energetic Society enjoys.

The President, Mr. M. Paschoud, and Mrs. Paschoud received the guests, and shortly after 7.30 the company sat down to dinner in the Venetian Room, where a band was already in attendance. The Management provided an excellent dinner, which was accompanied by the spirited tunes of the orchestra and the congenial spirit of the company was at its best, when the Chairman, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, rose to propose the Toasts to H.M. the King and to Switzerland, which were heartily responded to.

Mr. M. Paschoud then gave his Presidential address in a very eloquent manner.

Monsieur le Ministre, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once more on behalf of our Society, I have the honour of welcoming you all to our Annual Banquet. Considering the difficult times through which we are passing, it is doubly gratifying to find such a numerous gathering, and to see that the worries which are bound to result from the general conditions throughout the world, do not affect the interest you have always shown in our activities. I am therefore convinced that we can safely rely, also for the future, on your continued support, and I seize this opportunity of tendering to you our best thanks.

Monsieur le Ministre—You are fully aware that our Society always reserves for you a specially hearty welcome, and it is my pleasure to thank you for having honoured us with your presence to-night, though unfortunately, I have to add also our regrets that Madame Paravicini was unable to come. You Sir, as our honorary President, have always followed so closely all we have done, that in my opinion, the title of honorary President does not fit any more, and should be altered to Active honorary President. Seeing this close contact with the Legation through our Minister and also the Secretaries and Attachés, many of whom are present to-night, who can say that we do not enjoy full official recognition. At Home, we are given to understand that they hold us in high esteem, but the time may come very soon when we shall ask for more than expressions of regard, and may we meet in Berne with the response we hope to obtain.

I shall now report as briefly as I can on our activities during the past year.

Our Employment Department, with Mr. Pfaendler as young as ever, is carrying on, in spite of difficulties, and if a job is vacant, you can trust Mr. Pfaendler for soon filling it.

The evening classes, in spite of the small numbers of new arrivals of young Swiss, show an increase, with 44 classes, as compared to 40 during the previous three years, and 387 students against 275 of last year, that is, an increase of 40%. It would seem that the adverse economic conditions have given food for thought to our compatriots here, and that they are arming themselves against possible surprises by adding to their knowledge. Last year, only two Students sat for the examination in English for foreigners, organised by the National Union of Teachers. Both passed with first class honours, one of them, Mr. Henry Jenny, securing the Silver Medal, the highest award. If our Students go on taking the first prize year after year, the National Union of Teachers will have to put them *hors concours*. It is not only in English that our evening class students do well. Two students sat for the advanced Spanish Examination of the London Chamber of Commerce, and both passed the examination in oral and in writing, with distinction.

Now to the *plat de résistance*: the Day School, or rather as we now call it, the College. Before giving you more statistics, I wish to recall the visit which our Federal Councillor, Signor Giuseppe Motta paid to the College in February last year. Here is another proof of the interest our Authorities take in us, and a further proof is, that Signor Motta, shortly