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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

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## FEDERAL.

### REFERENDUM AGAINST THE TOBACCO TAX.

For the Referendum of the Tobacco Tax, which has been initiated by the Communist party 31,563 signatures have been collected, or 1,565 names above the number required.

### REPORT OF NATIONAL BANK.

The Federal Council has approved the accounts of the Swiss National Bank for 1930, which show a net profit of £284,380, as against £272,441 in 1929. A sum of £20,000 will be paid in the reserve fund of the bank, £50,000 will be employed in paying a dividend of 5 per cent., and £10,000 in paying a super-dividend of 1 per cent., while the remaining £204,380 will be paid to the Federal Treasury for distribution among the Cantons.

The main object of the Board throughout 1930 was to prevent a further rise in the value of the Swiss currency, and great quantities of foreign money were purchased to that effect. Part of these sums were subsequently converted into gold and deposited in London and New York. At the end of 1930 the Swiss National Bank had over £40,000,000 in gold and in gold currencies, which might be of some use should the foreign capital deposited in Switzerland be withdrawn.

The enforcing of the new legal dispositions providing for the replacing of bimetallism by the gold standard resulted in a big increase in the amount of the gold reserve, which represented an average of about 70 per cent. of the banknotes circulation. The ultimate object of the board is to put gold coins into circulation again in Switzerland, but the board thought it better to postpone that part of its programme, because in the present unfavourable economic circumstances gold coins might not only be hoarded in Switzerland but also exported to the neighbouring countries, with the consequence that they would have to be replaced at the expense of the National Bank as well as of the world gold market.

### SWISS WEATHER REPORTS.

Not for fifty years has Switzerland experienced such Arctic conditions as prevailed during the last few days. There has been incessant snow since Saturday evening, and reports from all over the country tell of a phenomenal mantle of snow. In several towns the snow is so deep that tradesmen had to deliver their goods on skis, and in the capital itself the streets resemble a winter resort. The snow is lying to a depth of nearly three feet, and the city is alive with skiers, young and old, from children going to school to middle-aged business men going to and from their offices.

At Basle traffic is almost at a standstill owing to the difficulty of clearing the streets. In the mountain areas conditions are even worse. Already two trains have been derailed owing to the depth of the drifts, but fortunately, without loss of life.

### SWISS PARLIAMENT.

The Spring Session of the two Chambers will begin on March the 16th.

## LOCAL.

### ZURICH.

The Chocolate Works Lindt & Sprüngli have decided to start a pension Fund for their employees. An amount of 800,000fr. has been handed over to the administrators of this Fund.

N.Z.

### BERNE.

Colonel Grimm, for many years a well-known member of the Instructors corps, has sent in his resignation for reasons of health. The Federal Council has accepted same with thanks for his great services rendered to the army. N.Z.

\*\*\*

Dr. C. Moser, a member of the Bernese Government has been elected President of the

Cantonal Bank in Berne. This appointment will necessitate his resignation from the Cantonal Government. N.Z.Z.

Some time ago, a Society was founded to study the question of a Zoological Garden in the Elfenau. The preliminary negotiations with the Authorities have now been completed and the work will begin shortly. J.S.

\*\*\*

The directors of the Banque Populaire in Berne have appointed M. H. Flückiger as Manager in Berne. M. Flückiger was until now, Manager of the Cantonal Bank in Berne. J.S.

### FRIBOURG.

The death is reported from Fribourg of M. E. Bise, at the age of 72. The deceased has held a professorship at the University since the foundation and was its rector in 1903. Professor Bise was an authority on International law and took a great interest in the political development of the canton of Fribourg, he was for many years a member of the Grand Council. In his younger days he edited the "Liberté." N.Z.Z.

### GENEVA.

M. Frédéric Reverdin, an eminent chemist with an international reputation has died at Geneva at the age of 82. The deceased held various high University degrees amongst them he was doctor "honoris causa" of the Universities of Geneva and Zurich. J.S.

### ST. GALL.

Miss R. Scherrer, who lived for many years at Elmat—Kappel, died at St. Gallen; she left about 50,000fr. to various institutions in the canton of St. Gallen.

### SCHAFFHAUSEN.

The town council of Schaffhausen has obtained a loan of 4,000,000fr. at 4 per cent. from the Banking firm Gebr. Oechslin of that town. This amount will be used for the conversion of the 5,000,000fr. 4½ per cent loan which falls due on the 31st of October 1931. V.

### GRAUBUENDEN.

Mrs. Baulter, who murdered the Swiss writer Cuno Hofer, at a Hotel in St. Moritz a few weeks ago, has been transferred from the hospital at Samaden to the Asylum Waldhaus. The examination of the dossier has not yet been concluded. R.B.

### SOLOTHURN.

M. Casimir von Arx, late State Councillor, died in Olten at the age of 79. M. von Arx was a well-known personality and has rendered many valuable services to his native canton and to our country. He was a Member of Parliament for 35 years, and during a considerable period he was Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Swiss Federal Railways. He was also a director of the Federal Bank (Eidgenoessische Bank.) N.Z.

### SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAY.

#### Statistics for 1930.

During 1930 the Federal Railway transported 171,000,000 passengers, being 586,000 more than last year. In the goods department there was a considerable reduction, the total being 18,800,000 tons—a reduction of 900,000 tons on last year's figures. Traffic receipts from passengers amounted to 158,700,000 fr., an increase of 2,500,000 fr. on last year, but the goods traffic receipts show an adverse difference of 14,700,000 fr., being for 1930, 231,000,000 fr. Extra receipts amounted to 28,800,000 fr. (28,300,000 fr. in 1929). The total receipts for 1930 were 418,546,035 fr., which is 12,811,857 fr. less than in 1929. The total expenses were 272,475,770 fr.—an increase of 8,369,000 fr. in 1929. As a result of the diminution of receipts and an increase of expenditure the gross profit for 1930 is 21,182,235 fr. less than in 1929, being 146,070,255 fr., as compared with 167,251,540 fr. in 1929. The final result is a net profit of 451,000fr. From the gross profit the most important item deducted is 140,000,000 fr. for the annual payment towards the "deficit de guerre."

July was the most favourable month for passenger traffic, and with the exception of February and September, the months showed a reduction in goods traffic as compared with 1929.

## SWITZERLAND AND ITS RELATIONS TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

The tidings of the discovery of the New World were brought to Switzerland at an early date. A group of simple people, anabaptists of Zurich, appear to have been the first inhabitants of our country to have considered crossing the ocean in search of a new home. Somewhat later, this idea was taken up by the scientific world, and, in particular, by Professor Sebastian Münter of Basle, Söldner figures also among the earliest emigrants.

From then on, Swiss settlements were created in many regions and these early pioneers already took an active part in the cultural, political, religious and economic life of their new fatherland.

Everyone is acquainted with the eventful destiny of General John August Sutter of Rünenberg, Basle (1803-1880), who, at one time, was considered to be the richest landed proprietor of Switzerland.

During the Great War also, a number of Swiss enlisted under the American colours. We will mention, first of all, Edward Walter Eberle (1864-1929), whose father, a farmer from Wallenstadt, had already emigrated to the United States.

The puritan conception of law, such as was prevalent in Geneva during the 18th century influenced strongly the legislation and Constitution of the American Union. In later days, it was Switzerland's turn to invoke the example of its great sister Republic in the course of its governmental struggles.

But not until early in the 19th century, did the two nations really come into close contact, when the steadily increasing emigration necessitated the creation of Swiss consulates at Washington and New York, to which the American government reciprocated in 1830 by creating a consulate at Basle.

The unceasing flow of emigrants to the United States, forms a chapter of itself, and constitutes, undoubtedly, the most important link between the two Republics.

Between 1820 and 1925 approximately 30,000 Swiss emigrated to North America. The total number of emigrants, in the course of centuries, is officially estimated by American statisticians at about one million. The United States have always been the country of predilection for Swiss emigration. From 1900 to 1910 not less than 60% of Swiss emigrants chose that country for their new home.

Whereas the principal incentives of the earlier emigration were of a religious or political nature, from the beginning of the 19th century on, emigration was prompted nearly exclusively by economic needs or ambitions.

As concerns our trade relations with the United States, the latter became firmly established around the middle of the 18th century. Up to the beginning of the 19th century, Swiss calico manufacturers had delivered large quantities of their products to the Southern American States, in exchange for which Switzerland received tobacco. Jakob Christian Zollikofer of St. Gall, the first Swiss merchant within the present territory of the United States, founded a factory of his own in Virginia. When around 1850, protectionism became increasingly the key-word of the majority of European States, America became the principal outlet for our standard sport articles. This branch of our export trade was flourishing until business was seriously curtailed by the recent increase of customs duties. In 1913 Swiss exports to the United States constituted about one tenth of our total exports. The prohibitory tariff law of 1930 has dealt a heavy blow to our export trade. Although it is to-day almost impossible to form an opinion as to the practical consequences of this law, the storm of protestations which it aroused, indicates clearly enough that Swiss exports to the United States are thereby seriously affected. The steps taken by the Federal Authorities marked the culminating point of a campaign of protestation, to which practically every country throughout the world has adhered.

Imports from the United States attain today an average value of approximately 2000 million Swiss francs (about 8% of our total imports). The principal products are: corn, raw cotton and tobacco, chemicals and raw copper. The automobile and machine industries (agricultural and tool machinery), the electro-technic industry and rubber tyre manufacturers have also increased

their exports to this country. Our exports attain an average value of approximately 200 million Swiss francs (about 9% of our total exports), fully two thirds of which are divided among embroidery, silk, cheese and watches. While there is an increase of imports, exports are steadily declining. Switzerland has shown of late a marked interest in American securities. Next to England, our country has contributed more than any other States towards the development of American industry. Owing to this fact, Switzerland has often been seriously affected by the fluctuations of the New York stock market. It may have been our relations to the world's largest stock exchange, that prompted its President, Simmons, to visit Switzerland's banking circles in Zurich last spring, which visit assumed the character of an official reception. Finally, one should not forget that Switzerland has repeatedly made important loans in America since 1915. In addition to the Swiss Confederation, the Cantons of Zurich and Berne, have also had recourse to American money-lenders. A large Swiss banking-house in New York, the firm Iselin and Co., played an important part during these transactions.

In the course of time, several Swiss industries, after a bitter struggle for supremacy on all available markets, decided to transfer a part of their manufactures to the United States. This applies chiefly to the silk and machinery industries, of which certain firms established themselves in America, as far back as the middle of the 19th century. We will only mention here a few names of world-wide renown: Brown Boveri, Scintilla, Wander, Schwarzenbach, Stünziger, Stehli, Company for Chemical Industry, Sandoz, Geigy and Hoffmann-Laroche, Suchard, etc. The Swiss hotel industry was also successful in securing an honourable position in the larger cities of the New World. Nor should we omit to mention the numerous Swiss tradesmen who, from their new fatherland, are to-day directly or indirectly supporting Swiss commerce, the efficient co-operation of whom has largely contributed in maintaining an active economic exchange between the two Republics. Industrialists such as Heinrich Rosenberg in Galveston, John Luchsinger of Schwanden (1839-1922) Jacques Huber of Horgen (1851-1918), Robert Schwarzenbach (1875-1929), and many others remained true to their native country, in spite of their brilliant achievements and success across the Atlantic. Among the numerous American philanthropists, we frequently come across Swiss names, of which the most famous are perhaps the chocolate King Milton Hershey (Hersche) of Appenzell (1857-1918) whose splendid orphan-asylum in Pennsylvania is still looked upon as a model by all countries throughout the world, and the copper King Daniel Guggenheim of Lengnau (1856-1930) who, at his death left 500 million dollars, of which a large portion was bequeathed to charity institutions. Guggenheim financed to a large extent the expeditions of Lindberg and Byrd. The inauguration of wireless telephony between the United States and Switzerland in the autumn 1928, is also considered to be an important historical date.

Among the Swiss who emigrated to the United States during the 19th and 20th centuries, are several personalities of whom the old as well as new World may justly be proud, for example, William Wirt (1772-1834), famous as councillor of State and jurist.

President Hoover's Swiss extraction has been much discussed of late. His ancestors bore the name of Huber and were native of Ibergkulum in the present Canton of Argovie.

It is striking how many Swiss artists have gone to the United States. Although, in the course of time, a certain number of them returned to Switzerland, a good many found a hospitable welcome and highly deserved appreciation in their country of adoption.

For many years, both Swiss and American University circles have endeavoured to create a continuous and systematic intellectual exchange between the two nations, without, however, attaining a very tangible result. Nor has the splendid activity of Professor W. Rappard of Geneva met, as yet, with great success. A valuable Carnegie library has been incorporated in the municipal library of Zurich, with a view to familiarizing our country with the literary and intellectual products of the United States. The exchange of American and Swiss students, a measure now permanently introduced, is also a helpful means of bringing about a mutual understanding, as the most gifted students are given an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the most recent scientific discoveries of both nations. Instead of the former professors of modern languages, Swiss instructors are to-day employed in several American Universities and are able to strengthen the ties of intellectual comprehension. The Society [Swiss friends of the United States], created in 1920 with its principal seat at Zurich, has also done much for the promotion of reciprocal understanding. In short, intellectual exchange between the United States and Switzerland is growing steadily so that one is fully justified in anticipating a really valuable profit for both sides. A deep friendship between two

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nations cannot result solely from sporadic manifestations, business or the exchange of mechanical commodities, but far more from mutual understanding and appreciation in an intellectual sphere, the expressions of which are alone of permanent value. S.J.T.

### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Le 3 mars a eu lieu chez Pagani le réunion mensuelle à laquelle assistaient environ 70 personnes. Cette réunion fut l'occasion d'une innovation, car, au lieu des discussions interminables et souvent arides nous avons eu une soirée familiale dont le succès fut rehaussé par la présence des dames.

En fait, si l'objet de cette innovation était de donner aux dames un aperçu de ce qui se passe ordinairement aux assemblées mensuelles, je crains fort qu'elles n'aient pas dû les trouver bien intéressantes et elles doivent se demander pourquoi les membres se réunissent tous les mois avec tant d'assiduité et même penser à l'histoire de la montagne et la souris, car jamais je ne me rappelle une soirée où la partie officielle ait été liquidée avec autant de précipitation et si peu de discours. Il est vrai que plusieurs de nos discours les plus acharnés étaient absents.

Après dîner, une tombola a eu lieu avec deux souvenirs pour les dames et la pipe traditionnelle pour les hommes.

Ensuite nous avons eu le plaisir d'entendre chanter Monsieur Conrad accompagné au piano par Monsieur Seymour et Monsieur Pellet qui, accompagné par Monsieur Dick, a exécuté trois morceaux de violon.

Mademoiselle Sylvia Carmine a joué un morceau de piano et pour terminer ce petit concert Mademoiselle Olga Carmine a joué "Soleil à midi" et la Polonoise de Chopin. Le City Swiss Club a eu rarement la chance d'entendre des artistes aussi célèbres car la réputation de Mademoiselle Carmine est européenne et nous ne pouvons trop la remercier ainsi que les autres artistes qui nous ont fait passer une heure si agréable.

Après le concert nous sommes descendus au rez-de-chaussée où nous avons passé le reste de la soirée en dansant. Cela m'a rappelé les soirées d'antan de me retrouver sur le pavé en mosaique et le lendemain notre meilleur danseur m'a dit qu'il avait les jambes brisées, ce à quoi j'ai répondu que cet exercice avait dû lui faire le plus grand bien.

En résumé, soirée délicieuse et pour ma part, j'estime que notre sympathique Président a encore une fois bien mérité du Club.

Et voilà ma réponse à ceux qui veulent supprimer nos réunions sous prétexte que les temps sont durs et qu'il faut faire des économies.

Quelle sinistre idée! Si on veut vraiment faire des économies il y a bien d'autres occasions que ces réunions familiales. Il faut être logique. Si on veut supprimer, pourquoi ne pas aller jusqu'au bout et supprimer les Swiss Sports et même la Fête du 1er août pour ne pas parler de certaines réunions où les messieurs arborent de jolis rubans bleu ciel et, d'après ce que j'ai entendu dire, font des repas fort agréables. A chacun sa part de sacrifice. J'ai entendu chuchoter que l'on veut nous priver cette année de notre soirée à Hendon. J'espère que ce n'est qu'une rumeur et que le Comité ne commettra pas la maladresse de nous priver d'un plaisir aussi innocent. Du reste, en ma qualité de reporter j'ai interviewé plusieurs dames qui étaient toutes unanimes à ce sujet.

### SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.

We are pleased to inform our readers that the above mentioned Society is going to give a Grand Display on Sunday, March 22nd, at 3.45 p.m. at the Union Helvétique, 1, Gerrard Place, W.2.

A special feature of this display is the appearance of the Ladies Section in Rhythmic Exercises. The programme further includes work at Horizontal Bar, Handstand Group, Pyramids, Ballet Dancing by the Ladies Section, etc., etc.

The Society is now under the leadership of M. J. Sermier, who is well-known in the colony for his conscientious work, and we confidently hope that the Swiss Colony in London will support the Gymnasts in large numbers to carry on this old Swiss national sport in the Metropolis.

### SWISS CLUB LIVERPOOL.

Notwithstanding bitter north-easterly winds and snow flakes in the air, a very cheerful party gathered on Saturday, March 7th, for this was the occasion of the Annual Banquet and Ball of the Swiss Club, Liverpool.

The banqueting hall of the Bear's Paw Restaurant ornamented with a large Federal Flag, and prettily decorated tables, each carrying an array of Federal and Cantonal flags, very soon made one realize that London was not the only venue for Swiss functions.

The President of the Club, Mr. L. J. Fairve, accompanied by Madame Fairve very charmingly received the guests, who like all good Swiss, were somewhat behind schedule time. Soon after 7 o'clock, a select party of over 60 sat down to a very sumptuous and well served dinner. The atmosphere of homeliness and close friendship that was so evident, made this function more like a family gathering than an official banquet.

After the Royal Toast had been suitably proposed by the President, and duly honoured; Mr. E. Montag (Swiss Consul, Liverpool) made a most interesting speech and terminated by giving the Toast "Switzerland."

Mr. Fairve, in proposing "the Ladies and the Guests" expressed the great pleasure he had in welcoming so many charming ladies and such a large number of distinguished guests, which included many members of the Swiss Club, Manchester. He particularly mentioned the presence of the Swiss Consuls, Mr. E. Montag (Liverpool) accompanied by Mrs. Montag, and Dr. A. Schedler (Manchester), accompanied by Mrs. Schedler. The Swiss Colony of London, he was gratified to say, had on this occasion greatly honoured their Society. He was delighted to greet Monsieur Le Pasteur René Hoffmann-de-Visme (de l'Eglise Suisse de Londres) and Mr. Charles Chapuis, President of the City Swiss Club. The spontaneous response given to this Toast could not fail to make the guests feel how much their presence was appreciated.

Dr. A. Schedler, replying on behalf of the Guests, was most eulogistic in expressing thanks for the great hospitality tendered to them.

Monsieur Le Pasteur Hoffmann-de-Visme addressed the gathering in French. His speech, full of warm patriotism touched the heart of all present. The President, in asking Mr. Charles Chapuis, to say a few words, emphasized the fact that it was the first time the Club had had the privilege of welcoming the President of the City Swiss Club at its Banquet. Mr. Chapuis tendered hearty greetings on behalf of compatriots in London and laid stress on the necessity of maintaining the high reputation of all that is Swiss.

The oratorial fires having burned themselves out, dancing commenced at 9.30 p.m. and continued merrily until 11.45 p.m. The most amusing feature of the dancing was the Paul Jones, when the M.C., armed with a referee's whistle, gave shrill blasts whenever it was time to change partners.

Naturally, all too soon came the end of such a happy and enjoyable evening. The Swiss Club, Liverpool, which after all can only muster twenty members, is to be heartily congratulated on the uncontested success of this function.

On Sunday morning, Monsieur le Pasteur Hoffmann-de-Visme conducted a religious service in French at the Central Hall. This was very much appreciated by a good many of our compatriots and particularly by a "long lost Bernois," who had left his village at the age of sixteen and who had lived in Liverpool for 42 years, during which time he had lost all contact with his Mother-country. It brought tears to the eyes to see him produce his "Psautier" which had been presented to him in 1888 on the occasion of his Confirmation.

After conducting a small party over the new Liverpool Cathedral, which is now in the course of erection, and which will eventually be the largest in the World, Mr. E. Montag very kindly entertained to lunch a number of friends, which included the two London representatives.

C.L.C.