

**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:** - (1932)  
**Heft:** 567  
  
**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:** 17.01.2026

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

Now that the Secretaryship of the International Labour Office at Geneva has been conceded to an Englishman it is improbable that Sir Eric Drummond will be followed by another Englishman as Secretary of the League of Nations. And I am told that at Geneva — Calvin's city — it is thought necessary that the Secretary of the League should be a Roman Catholic. That being so, M. Giuseppe Motta, President of the Swiss Confederation, is being confidently mentioned for Sir Eric Drummond's post. M. Motta is sixty. The woman

correspondent who keeps me *au fait* with the personalities at Geneva describes M. Motta as an Italian-Swiss from the Tessin. He is, she writes, polished, neat, dapper in appearance. His closely-cropped, silver-grey hair, round head, cheery, pink and white complexion, sharp, aquiline nose and little, live-black eyes, united with the solid, upright bearing of the man, all proclaim, in loud tones, that "righteousness becometh a nation." Last December he celebrated a triple jubilee: his sixtieth birthday; twenty years a member of the Federal Council; and, for the fourth time, President of the Confederation. Such an anniversary of so popular a man was not allowed to pass unnoticed; and there were national celebrations at Berne. He has delivered 131 important speeches during his twenty years as a Federal Councillor in the Swiss Parliament House; he has given thirty-three orations on the occasion of the Grand National Fête Day in August; he has made twenty-nine notable speeches at various ceremonies throughout Switzerland of a public and national character; and last but not least, twenty-six great speeches have been delivered from the tribune of the League of Nations in the twelve Assemblies — all of which he has attended. He is a great patriot, a great European, and withal a great Christian, never hiding the latter fact. He was the first delegate to use the Divine Name and appeal to religious principles, in a peroration ending in a fine speech he delivered in September, 1921. Since then others have done so; but he has been fearlessly bold to bring in the highest motives whenever necessary.

Not only our compatriots from the beautiful Ticino, but all of us, I feel sure, would be proud and delighted to see the Secretaryship of the League of Nations in such capable, experienced hands, and the very fact that Mr. Motta has never been afraid of professing his deep Christian faith would render his choice to such an important post all the more desirable.

By the way, the efforts to bring the Christian Churches into more closer relationship are continuing and in this connection the following article from the *British Weekly*, 11th August 1932 will be of interest to many of our readers:

#### Lambeth and Scotland: Dr. Adolf Keller's article:

*Die Christliche Welt* of next Saturday will contain a careful study by Dr. Adolf Keller of the situation within the Church of Scotland in reference to the approach from Lambeth. Dr. Keller has himself come into close contact with the leading men of all the Evangelical Churches, in Great Britain, the Continent and America. Even when he seems to be only reporting the proceedings at the General Assembly or quoting from newspaper correspondence, there are sentences here and there in which he draws on his immense range of personal knowledge. The Church of Scotland could wish for no more competent interpreter of the decision which was taken in Edinburgh last May. Dr. Keller attaches great importance to the visit made by the Archbishop of Canterbury to the General Assembly. "Archbishop Lang," he says, "is like the late Archbishop Davidson, of Scottish birth, and is one of those innumerable (zahllosen) Scotsmen who have attained to leading positions in England. It is a significant fact, surely, that the Patriarch of the West, who receives so many visits from foreign Churches and himself makes hardly any, should have travelled to Scotland in order to give this invitation to a Church whose spiritual status has not yet been fully accepted by Anglicans and with which there exists as yet no inter-communion."

The Archbishop's appearance in the Assembly Hall seems to Dr. Keller "a recognition of the strongest and most influential Church in Britain, which holds, it may be, the key position in the Protestant world."

#### Power Through Unity.

He reminds the Christian public of Germany that Scotland's reunited Church knows nothing of the divisions which at this moment are rending the Anglican Establishment. It has an advantage over English Nonconformity, which in its relations with the State Church cannot claim to possess, either through the Federal Council or the National Free Church Council, a sufficiently strong element of unity. "The Church of Scotland has a warm Evangelical life, as is proved by its keen activity in the mission field..." This is the one church in Great Britain which has a living and official relationship to Continental Protestantism, not only of the Reformed, but also of the Lutheran Churches. A Scotsman, Dr. Mackinnon, has lately written an admirable "Life of Luther," who to the Anglican is for the most part either unknown, or as completely forgotten as is the historic connection with Geneva. Old Reformation memories are deeply rooted in the Scottish Church and people, while at the same time the theologians are in complete touch with the newer learning; everything is studied with critical watchfulness. The dialectical theology,

for example, has been examined without prejudice. The present Moderator, Dr. Mackintosh, was one of the earliest to make his brother ministers acquainted with it, and a Scotsman, Thomson, is now translating Barth's "Dogmatik."

Dr. Keller comments on the warm friendliness of the Archbishop's reception, but feels there was a certain reserve even in the affectionate greeting of his fellow-countrymen. He contrasts the scene with that when Archbishop Soederblom stood before the general Assembly in 1929. There was no reserve in his welcome because "his message was 'justification by Faith,' a message which every son of the Reformation feels to be the soul of his soul." In Archbishop Lang's address there lay, although unspoken, the principles of the Lambeth Quadrilateral, which includes acceptance of the historic Episcopate.

In closing, the Swiss Professor, himself the far-wandering Ulysses of the Reformed Churches, quotes from "Watchman's" columns the warning that we must "wait and see" how far it will be possible for representatives of the two national communions to reach agreement in "unreserved" discussions.

It has long been recognised that Switzerland, in spite of its small size, in spite of the smallness of the number of its inhabitants, yet leads in many ways. A great number of international offices are situated within its confines, a still growing number of international movements, or efforts to create such movements have their nucleus organisation in our country and speeches or articles calling for international co-operation, for international brotherhood reach the World from Switzerland weekly, if not almost daily. What could be more appropriate than Lord Baden-Powell's

#### Warning Against Dangers of Patriotism.

"The Bulletin & Scots Pictorial, 13th Aug. In opening the new Girl Guides' International Chalet at Adelboden, in Switzerland, Lord Baden-Powell, the Chief Scout and founder of the Girl Guides, said:—

"We are here to open this beautiful home which has been provided, thanks to the generosity and forethought of Mrs. James Storrow, for the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts of all nations.

"It will, in effect, be a school of universal good will and understanding among the future women of the world.

"Everywhere to-day men are striving through leagues and legislation to restore harmony and happiness to a world torn and worn out by war. But leagues and legislation are of little avail unless there is behind them the spirit of toleration and amity on the part of the peoples themselves.

#### Apostles of Good Will.

"The opening of this chalet means therefore the opening of a school of good will among the future women of all nations. The leaders will gather here, in this beautiful and inspiring centre, as Guides from all nations to meet for recreation and to learn Guiding; but they will go forth from here as apostles to all nations to spread the ideal and the practice of selfless good will and comradeship for others, regardless of any differences of country, creed, or class.

"This new spirit is one which is vitally needed in the world to-day. Patriotism for one's country is a noble aspiration, but there is often the danger of its becoming selfishly narrow in its outlook. The need then is for a wider outlook and of friendly understanding towards others.

"This spirit is essential if we are to have peace and happiness in the world. This spirit, too, has a higher attribute — it is the spirit which is essential for bringing about God's reign upon earth — the reign of peace and good will among men.

"Therefore from my heart I wish success to the chalet."

Such a call, from a man who has amply proved his patriotism, but who, nevertheless, or just because he is a good patriot, is also a good internationalist, is worth listening to, I think. Writing about PATRIOTISM, the deep love every sane human being feels for his or her native land, not the blatant commercialised, or shall we say "naturalised" patriotism one meets so often nowadays, I liked to read the following and especially the concluding paragraph:

#### THE FIRST OF AUGUST.

Children's Newspaper 13th Aug.

It is a privilege to be in Switzerland on the first of August, because then the people celebrate what we may call their Confederation Day.

Visitors are good-humouredly tolerated; but it is something in which they can take no part. The first of August touches every Swiss in his most intimate relationships; it is too deep for words: it is not for parade.

The Confederation transcends race, language, and religion: it has been a growth, but is sturdier because of it. It began in the union of three valleys in 1291, and Geneva did not join until 1815.

#### A National Holiday.

The first of August is a national holiday, but it is only in the darkness of the evening that one can see the flickering of the village bonfires, "each answering each that all is well"; the countless paper lanterns carried by everyone on the mountain paths; the gathering of the villagers round the bonfire as they sing their national hymns and songs which they know without having learned, just as they know how to speak.

Finally, a few words of deep feeling from some village leader on the sacred liberty won for them by the blood of their fathers; and all is over until another year.

In all this there is no making of programmes, there are no committees, but every town, every valley, every village, every highest-lying mountain cluster of tiny chalets, takes its fitting part, and every heart in Switzerland knows that it forms a living part of a true community — the Swiss Confederation.

To conclude this week's gleanings, I could hardly find anything better than the following report from the *LEEDS MERCURY* of August 5th, of a yet further International effort and at the same time a

#### REPLY TO AN S.O.S.

Three Leeds students, answering an emergency call from a Swiss village, are working side by side with Swiss, Germans, French, and Norwegians. They are wielding pick and shovel, pushing wheelbarrows, clearing orchards of stones and fallen trunks, mending walls, and moving the debris of a storm that occurred late last month.

The village is Safienplatz. The Service Civil Volontaire International, a Swiss organisation, that bands together peace-lovers of all nations to work together, without profit, for the common good, heard of the disaster in the village, and sent out a call for its members in all lands to offer their aid.

Leeds, which has the strongest English branch of the S.C.V.I., called in England the International Civilian Service, at once sent out a group of its members, under Mr. S. N. Pyecroft, the local secretary.

#### Three Months' Work.

Three undergraduates, Mr. G. Shaw, Mr. Kieser, and Mr. Burnett, accompany him, and others are expected to follow before the end of the vacation. They will work voluntarily under the direction of M. Schenker, a Swiss engineer who was in charge of the construction of a section of the famous Bagdad Railway.

No work will be done which normally could have been done by paid Swiss labour or by the unemployed, for had not volunteers offered themselves the villagers would have been too poor to engage labour.

The work at Safienplatz will continue until the middle of October. All volunteers work for a minimum period of three weeks, and before the end of the period a score of nations will have shared the work.

Americans, Danes, Dutch, Belgians, Austrians, students from the Central European countries, Indians, Chinese, and Japanese, all are members of the Service Civil Volontaire International.

#### New Friendships.

It seems impossible to believe that in their common work they will not make friends with each other, and so lay the foundations of lasting friendships. That is the ideal of the organisation.

The work is a means of proving that the young men of to-day are more eager to work in constructive, peaceful enterprises than in the destructive work of war. It was indeed, war-patriotism and its high ideals that moved M. Pierre Ceresole, the founder of the S.C.V.I., to form his organisation.

During the war he saw great heroism and high endeavour on both sides; when peace came he was determined to direct that idealism into peaceful channels.

## 'La Plota' Neuchâtel, Suisse

Girls  
Finishing School.

—  
Languages. House-keeping. Secretarial Work. Sports.



For prospectus, Apply to Miles BERTHOUD.

The S.C.V.I., as last year, has a Continental detachment of its peaceful army already at work in Brynmawr, one of the distressed mining towns of Wales. Another group are working at Rhos, near Wrexham, where men and women students of Leeds University are assisting in the building of a recreation ground out of a piece of waste land.

#### The Women's Tasks.

The women are up as early as 5.30 to prepare breakfast for the volunteer navvies, who include young men from Lithuania, Bulgaria, Spain, and Latvia, as well as from Germany, France, and America.

The women darn and mend, wash and cook, and in the evening there are rambles and sing-songs, socials with the townspeople, and endless talks.

Perhaps it is in these many-nation discussions of young people that the peace of tomorrow is being built up.

Surely, all these efforts on an international basis must in time bear fruit. Surely all these people, working together, playing together, aiming at a common object, must themselves first learn to appreciate each other, irrespective of nationality, and their example and their accumulated experiences must descend from them, quite naturally, to others. By and by, there will be a larger, a fast growing multitude of people in all lands who have learnt the lesson of true internationalism, which, at the same time is true Christianity or rather true brotherhood of mankind and their teachings in turn must affect those that come after them. The number of such people, I say, is growing. It must grow steadily until we get nearer to the goal, until those who know that in order to be a good patriot, one must of necessity be a good internationalist first, are superior in numbers to the old narrow-minded local parochialists.

We SWISS in general and We SWISS ABROAD in particular have a lofty mission, the mission to preach international understanding! Never forget that, Reader!

### NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

#### SWISS "LAENDLER" ABEND

##### AT THE UNION HELVETIA.

We are informed that Stocker Sepp's Erste Unterwaldner Bauern Kapelle of Zurich, will give two concerts at the above address, namely on next Monday and Tuesday evening. (September 12th and 13th from 8.30 p.m.)

To many, this famous Kapelle is undoubtedly known, having heard them on gramophone records, (Columbia and His Master's Voice) or in Switzerland, where they are very popular. Their stay in London is a very short one, but they will, if arrangements can be completed in time, visit the Headquarters of the B.B.C. in order to broadcast some of their famous songs and yodels. This, however, should not deter any member of the Colony from paying a visit, either on Monday or Tuesday, at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1., to see and hear our compatriots, and we feel sure that they will spend an enjoyable evening.

After the concerts an informal dance will be held, as a matter of fact, it is intended to give the whole character of a "Burechilbi," and those who are the lucky owners of a Swiss national costume, are requested to don it for this occasion.

We should specially recommend these two evenings to all those, who, for some reason or another could not visit our country this year, they will hear familiar songs and tunes, and in thoughts at least, they will be back home again. We are convinced that the Union Helvetia has left nothing undone in order to make these two concerts a great success, and we hope that our readers will give them their support, we have no doubt that they will spend happy and enjoyable hours.

### PERSONAL.

We are greatly delighted to inform our readers that our friend and collaborator, ck, has been blessed with the arrival of a little ck'lett, on Saturday last, otherwise that Mme. ck had a daughter, and we are glad to hear, that both are doing well. We extend to M. and Mme. ck our heartiest congratulations on this happy event.

The wedding of Mlle. Doris Barbezat, daughter of M. and Mme. Ch. A. Barbezat, The White House, Devonshire Avenue, Sutton, Surrey, is taking place to-day (Saturday) at Christ Church, Sutton, at 2.30 p.m.

We understand, that M. Barbezat, the father of M. Ch. A. Barbezat, and grand-father of the bride, has arrived by the Imperial Airways from Switzerland, accompanied by his daughter, in order to be present at this happy event. We are extending to the newly to be married couple, our best wishes for a happy and bright future.

### CK's CORNER.

Every time that something is brought into being which changes or modifies the habits or tenor of our lives, somebody will be found to rise up in pious enthusiasm to explain at much length with arguments more or less convincing, more or less fallacious, that as a result, the world in general and the country to which they happen to belong, in particular, is fast falling into decay or relapsing into a state of barbarity and wickedness.

So it was when the locomotive was invented, so it was in the early days of the automobile, and so now the outcry is raised with regard to the Cinema.

We are told that our morals are being debased, that our respect for law and order is being broken, that the seven deadly sins are being flaunted and condoned, and finally, with the introduction of the sound film, that our language is being perverted.

This last point, of course, is chiefly applicable to anglosaxon countries and is attributed to the effect of the American language, but the other evil results mentioned heretofore are common to all peoples of the world.

Is the picture really as black as some would paint it? Undoubtedly there are some nasty films, but the reality is nothing when compared to the possibilities. So are there nasty pictures, nasty books and even nasty people. However, one is not obliged to frequent them and in this corner I want to point out the possibilities on the credit side.

In my opinion, the great value of the cinema is that it can bring before the eyes of people unable to travel, events which are taking place in other parts of the world. "News pictures" today are generally to be found in most programmes.

Up to the present the language difficulty has been the great stumbling block, but the possibilities for education with regard to languages are immense. All nations are not so favoured in this respect as the Swiss, who generally possess two or more languages and lack of this gift is especially marked in this country on account of its geographical position.

The difficulty has been partially got over, either by showing descriptive captions at intervals or by the introduction of interludes in which certain characters are made to explain the story in the language of the country in which the film is being shown.

This latter method was successfully used with great artfulness in "Le Million."

For obvious reasons, the foreign product which predominates in this country comes from America.

Columns have been written on the bad effects of the "English" in these films, but nevertheless the language used is "American" and not "English" and is as much a part of the story as "French" or "German" in a French or German film.

Within the last few months a larger number of foreign films, other than American, have been shown here and the vogue started or, at any rate, received a definite impulse from "Le Million," which was one of the best of its category made up to the present time. It was remarkable for the quality of its comedy and for the delicacy with which the sentimental parts were treated. As an instance of what I mean, at the end of the story, when the two principal characters are left alone, the final scene is taken with these two standing at the back of the scene instead of the usual close up and long embrace of the American film.

It is to be hoped that as many foreign films as possible will be shown in the future. One or two theatres make a special feature of such productions and among them may be mentioned the "Academy" a Cinema theatre in Oxford Street opposite Waring and Gillow. This theatre has shown several German and Russian films and I strongly recommend readers to watch the programme.

Westfront 1918, Mädchen in Uniform, and Kameradschaft in German, and Russian films such as Earth, Blue Express, Turk-Sib, and stories dealing with the new conditions in the country have been shown. The Russian films are interesting not only from the point of psychology, but on account of their technique which differs from that employed elsewhere. This was well brought out by comparing "Shanghai Express" with "Blue Express." Both had practically the same theme, but in the one there was a strong love interest with Marlene Dietrich, whilst the other kept strictly to describing events which were supposed to have taken place during the Chinese revolution. Generally speaking, each country would appear to have a special technique which is characteristic.

The Academy also makes a feature of old films, but I shall have more to say about this later.

Other theatres, from time to time, have shown foreign films such as "The Doomed Battalion" at the Empire, "M" at the Cambridge, "Sons les toits de Paris" and "Le plaisir d'aimer" at the Rialto, etc., but I think there is something

to be said in favour of the plan of devoting the programme to this category.

Apart from the educational value of a film containing national characteristics, scenery, habits, acting the help afforded in becoming familiar with another language is great.

The action helps the audience to understand the words and gradual progress is made. It might be of greater advantage, if further assistance was given either by means of a printed explanation with translation or by the extension of some other explanatory method, or by the use of captions.

Everyone who has been on the Continent must have seen films which would be worth showing here, and I remember seeing one last year at Interlaken "Zwei Herzen in drei Viertel Takt" which I am sure would be a great success here.

As I have said, some theatres have shown old films and it is extremely interesting to note the advances made in technique, and it would be curious to compare such productions as Zigomar or the Clutching Hand which appeared just before the War, and were the forerunners of the modern "Gangster" film with the latest effort such as "Scarface."

I venture to think that the next great advance will be in the direction of giving perspective to the picture.

At the present time, everything is seen on one plane and the result of this is specially marked when attempts are made to reproduce objects moving rapidly towards or away from the spectator, such as swings or roundabouts.

Distortion is also very marked when one is sitting near the screen and at the side.

Progress in this direction will probably be found in some technique which will produce a stereoscopic effect in the pictures. This would have the advantage of increasing the cost of many "fake" effects and might even render some impossible, but it would be of great value in travel or scenery films such as that showing views of Switzerland which was recently shown in London.

Do not let us therefore be too critical of the modern drama films. In the course of time, they will find their level. Let us rather reflect on the great educational value to the people of pictures such as travel films or of those nature films, for example the evolution of the butterfly, which explain the processes of nature which to many would otherwise remain a closed book.

### HEIMATBILDER.

#### Auf dem Zürichsee.

Zwei schöne Erlebnisse, die mir in jüngster Zeit unser See schenkte, stehen mir vor Augen: die Nachtfahrt vom ersten August und eine Längsfahrt von Zürich bis Rapperswil und zurück.

Der erste August: Ein Tag wie im April. Man weiss nicht, was noch kommen wird, Wolken und Winde kämpfen einen hinterlistigen Kampf. Aber gegen Abend wird der blaue Himmel Meister. Der See leuchtet auf, die Ufer lachen sonntäglich. Nein, es ist kein Tag wie alle andern. Wir feiern Geburtstag im Schweizerland. Ein Fünkeln Freude blitzt in unsere trübe Zeit. Bewegte Vergangenheit ragt in bewegte Gegenwart. Aber Halt! Wir wollen nicht philosophieren. Freuen wollen wir uns am leuchtenden Heute, und weil wir in einem so wohlgeordneten Staatswesen zu Hause sind, Sein Aeusseres verrät schon, wie gut gefügt die Mauern und Balken noch stehen.

Wir fahren den Ufern entlang. Ein warmes Lüftchen weht. Die Dämmerung sinkt herab. Die Glocken fangen an zu läuten. Manche Augustfeier habe ich in den Bündner —, Walliser — und Berner Bergen mitgemacht. Aber diesen Abend, den ich sozusagen daheim am angestammten See verbringe, zählt zu den unvergesslichsten.

Feuerwerk flammt auf, Kirchen tauchen aus dem Dunkel, bunte Fontänen sprühen empor. Jedes Dorf feiert auf seine Weise. Turner bauen Pyramiden. Scharen wimmeln am See. Der See selber ist ein venezianisches Traumland geworden. Musik gaukelt über die Wasser zu uns. Musik haben wir selber an Bord. Dazwischen fliegen die Gedanken jubelnd im Kreis: An diesem Abend hat sich unser Glaube neu gestärkt an alle guten Kräfte, die noch wirksam treiben und wirksam bleiben werden in unserm schönen Vaterland.

Und die andere Fahrt, an einem Werktag von Stadt zu Stadt. Die sommerliche Zeit ist angebrochen. In den Bädern seauft und ab wimmelt's von Volk. Die Büsche und Bäume prangen. Die wohlgepflegten Weinberge verheissen einen guten Herbst. Unererschöpflich sind die Ufer.

Wenn man auf Deck hinhorcht, erwinnt man meist einheimische Laute. Die Fremden sind heuer nicht zahlreich. Leider! Um so mehr erfreuen sich die Schweizer und besonders auch die Zürcher unter ihnen unentwegt am zauber-vollen Wechsel aller Bilder und an der immer noch nicht genug gewürdigten und bekannten Tatsache: Unser See zählt zu den Juwelen unter den landschaftlichen Schätzen, die dieiseits und jenseits der Grenzen zu finden sind.

Ernst Eschmann.