

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: - (1933)
Heft: 609

Artikel: Work for unemployed in Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692435>

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: 09.07.2025

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

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.

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

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

Telegrams: FREPRINCE, LONDON.

VOL. 13—No. 609

LONDON, JUNE 24, 1933.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free) ..	2s 6d
	6 Months (26 issues, post free) ..	5s 0d
	12 Months (52 issues, post free) ..	10s 0d
SWITZERLAND	3 Months (13 issues, post free) ..	Fr. 7.50
	6 Months (26 issues, post free) ..	14.00
	12 Months (52 issues, post free) ..	28.00

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



(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

FEDERAL.

PROMOTION OF A MEMBER OF THE SWISS DELEGATION TO THE WORLD CONFERENCE.

M. W. Stucki, Directeur de la Division du Commerce du Département Fédéral de l'Economie Publique, and second in command of the Swiss Delegation to the World Economic Conference in London, has been promoted to the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary of the Swiss Confederation. (We take this opportunity to congratulate our countryman, who is at present in our midst, on this well merited promotion.)

WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Minister Stucki and Professor Bachmann, from the National Bank, conferred with Herr Huggenberg and Dr. Schacht, President of the German Reichsbank, regarding the decision of the German Government for a general transfer moratorium, which has caused enormous discontent in Switzerland. The conference between the four delegates has so far not yielded any practical result; but further discussion will take place at a later date.

During the meeting of the Monetary Commission, Professor Bachmann argued that without knowing whether it was talking in terms of a universal gold unit or of some other standard or standards the Committee could not possibly discuss detailed monetary questions with any advantage. On their part, they considered the gold standard the only possible one, and by gold standard they meant something different from managed currency and from the gold exchange standard.

INTERNATIONAL SHOOTING COMPETITION IN GRANADA.

The Swiss teams at the International Shooting Competition in Granada, have won two splendid victories, they are at the top in both, rifle and revolver shooting. The individual results are as follows:—

Rifle Shooting:

Demierre	...	...	...	1094 P.
Zimmerman	...	...	...	1094 P.
Hartmann	...	...	...	1089 P.
Tellenbach	...	...	...	1069 P.
Reich	...	...	...	1066 P.
Total	...	...	...	5412 P.

Pistol Shooting:

Crivelli	...	...	...	528 P.
Flückiger	...	...	...	526 P.
Dr. Schnyder	...	...	...	517 P.
Andres	...	...	...	510 P.
Bullo	...	...	...	502 P.
Total	...	...	...	2583 P.

The general placement is as follows:—

Rifle Shooting:

1. Switzerland	...	...	...	5412 P.
2. Finland	...	...	...	5356 P.
3. Sweden	...	...	...	5306 P.

Pistol Shooting:

1. Switzerland	...	...	...	2583 P.
2. France	...	...	...	2568 P.
3. Spain	...	...	...	2526 P.
4. Sweden	...	...	...	1931 P.
5. Italy	...	...	...	1005 P.

M. Demierre, from Geneva, has been proclaimed "Weltmeister" with 1094 P., and runner up is M. Zimmermann, from Lucerne.

These splendid results have been greeted with enthusiasm in Switzerland. Dr. Egger, the Swiss Minister in Spain was present when the results were announced, and he heartily congratulated the successful marksmen.

SWISS NEWSPAPERS PROHIBITED IN GERMANY.

Twenty-six Swiss newspapers have been prohibited in Germany, amongst them the "Berner Tagwacht," "Zürcher Illustrierte" and "Thurgauer Zeitung."

SNOW AND BLIZZARDS IN SWITZERLAND.

Unprecedented storms for the month of June are sweeping Switzerland. There have been heavy falls of snow throughout the Alps, together with blizzards. In certain parts of the Bernese Oberland and also on the south side of the Lake of Geneva the snowstorms broke so suddenly that cattle stampeded, and in many cases threw themselves over precipices.

SWISS TENNIS PLAYER FOR WIMBLEDON.

Mlle. Payot, the noted Swiss tennis player, who, two years ago reached the semi-final stage at Wimbledon, will compete at Wimbledon.

WOMAN PACIFIST LEADER EXPULSED.

The Swiss Government has invited the Secretary of the International League of Peace and Freedom, Mme. Camille Drevet, to leave Swiss territory. This decision has been taken because the political activity of Mme. Drevet makes her presence in Switzerland undesirable.

LONDON TO SWITZERLAND AND BACK IN A DAY.

A striking illustration of the speed of air transport is provided by the early morning summer service to Switzerland which was instituted by Imperial Airways on June 1st, and which, by connecting with the daily return service on the same route, makes it possible to fly to Switzerland from London in the morning, spend three hours there and return to London again that same evening. The new morning departure from the London air station is at 8.15 a.m., and flying via Paris, passengers reach Basle at 1.45 p.m. The return air service leaves Basle at 4.45 p.m., the London air station being reached at 10.15 p.m.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

The "Schynige Platte" Railway has celebrated its 40th anniversary, having been opened on the 14th of June, 1893. This enterprise, which was started by a private company, was taken over in 1896 by the "Berner Oberland Bahnen." Shortly before the war this line was electrified and greatly modernised. The number of passengers in 1893 amounted to 21,000, and in 1932 over 100,000 tourists were carried. The railway was built by the firm of Pümpin & Herzog in Berne.

On Sunday last the Federal Yodel Competition took place at Interlaken. 88 Yodel Clubs, and over 130 individual Yodlers competed, amongst them the "Echo Suisse" from Paris. The entire competition was broadcasted by the sender of the National Broadcasting Company in New York. Nearly 5,000 spectators attended the afternoon concert at the "Kursaal"; previous to the competition, a procession through the principal streets of the town was formed.

The "Tell-Freilichtspiele" in Interlaken will start on the 25th of June, and performances will be given every Sunday until the 10th of September.

OBWALDEN.

From Sachseln comes the news of the death of M. Josef von Flue, who was for many years a Judge and a prominent Council member. M. von Flue was the Founder of the "Bruderklause" Museum, and a great scholar and collector.

GLARUS.

A serious explosion took place at the Garage of the firm, Spitz Streiff & Co., at Ennenda, when a petrol tank exploded. Three members of the staff were badly injured, and heavy damage was done to the building.

GENEVA.

Professor Edmond Pittard, Professor of Law at the University of Geneva, has died at the age of 61. Before his appointment he was in the diplomatic service of the Swiss Confederation.

The criminal action against the Manager of the Banque de Genève, Miéville, A. Moriaud, late member of the cantonal government, and the members of the board of the Banque de Genève has now been fixed to be heard on the 10th of July. The case will last about a week. M. Marino will be the presiding judge, and he will be assisted by the judges Kupfer and Mirbach.

NEUCHÂTEL.

The private Banking house of Perret et Cie in La Chaux-de-Fonds has closed its doors owing to difficulties to meet their obligations.

The watch manufacturing firm, Eigeltinger, in La Chaux-de-Fonds, successors of Messrs. Godat et Cie, have gone into liquidation.

APPENZELL.

Shortly after the "Bank in Teufen" opened its doors, a young man appeared at the counter, brandishing a revolver, and asking the cashier to hand over a large amount in cash. The threatened cashier managed to give the alarm, and with the help of some of the staff the man was overpowered, and handed over to the police.

VAUD.

A violent storm which broke out over a large area in the vicinity of Morges caused serious damages to the vineyards. At Lausanne torrents of rain fell, so that the traffic had to be interrupted for some considerable time.

ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Theodor Wiget, a prominent pedagogue, has died at St. Gallen at the age of 83. Dr. Wiget was for several years "Seminar-Direktor" in Chur. From 1891-1895 he was Director of the "St. Gallischen Lehrerseminar," in Rorschach, and later on for about 10 years Headmaster of the Cantonal School in Trogen; he has written a number of works on educational subjects.

M. Gustav Baldamus, for many years Professor of Music at the "Kantonsschule," in St. Gallen, has died at the age of 71.

On Saturday last the "Nationale Front" held for the first time a public meeting, which was attended by over 2,000 persons. A number of young men in white shirts acted as stewards, these arrived at St. Gall in a lorry. The meeting was conveyed by the St. Gall Section of the "Nationale Front." Colonel Sonderegger lectured on "Order in the State," whereupon Dr. Tobler, from Zurich, read a paper on "Essence and aims of the National Movement." When Dr. Rittmeyer, President of the "Liberalen Jugend der Schweiz," asked to be allowed to take part in the discussion, pandemonium started, and he was shouted down both by Colonel Sonderegger and Dr. Tobler, and some of the stewards attacked him. The meeting ended amongst much noise and bustle.

FOOTBALL.

CHAMPIONSHIP—FINALS. 18th June, 1933.

Young Boys	3	Bern	0
Grasshoppers	1	Servette	1

Strange to say, we are still right as regards F.C. Bern, who lost their second game, are definitely out of the running. Servette and Grasshoppers with 3 points each are ahead of Young Boys, 2 points. The third round next Sunday will see Servette at home to Bern and Grasshoppers at home to Young Boys. The latter must win to have a chance, but even so, only if their local rivals do them the good turn of beating, or at least drawing, in Geneva. The odds are that Grasshoppers will fail to beat Young Boys, and that Servette, by accounting for Bern, will be champions. We shall soon see!

WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED IN SWITZERLAND.

The Swiss labour market deteriorated steadily during 1932, especially towards the latter half of the year, and at the end of February, 1933, unemployment figures rose to the unusually high level of some 101,000 fully and 75,000 partially unemployed. There has since been a slight seasonal improvement, especially as regards agricultural labourers, but the situation continues serious.

Federal and Cantonal authorities, as well as private enterprises, are doing their utmost to create work by the introduction of new industries in those districts which are particularly affected by the prevailing crisis. The Federal Council has also restricted the import of certain articles which

might compete with Swiss products. It has been urged to examine the possibility of organizing a voluntary "civil service" for those of the unemployed who are unmarried; "working camps" for the execution of public works by unemployed; and an obligatory "civil" service for out-of-work men of a specified age (similar to the "voluntary civil service" experiments which have given satisfactory results in Germany and — on a very small scale — among students in Switzerland).

Public Utility Schemes.

It is proposed that only such work as will not affect the opportunities offered by the labour market should be considered, and it is suggested that works of public utility in the Alpine districts might be undertaken, the majority of young men unemployed being willing to proceed to distant work camps for voluntary civil service of limited duration. They would receive no salary, but food, lodging, and working clothes would be provided, together with pocket-money, estimated at 1fr. per working day. The Association of Swiss Students, who have already experimented in this direction, have offered their collaboration for the organization of this scheme. It is pointed out that with the help of "voluntary civil service" it will prove possible not only to combat the evil effects of unemployment on young men, but at the same time to accomplish necessary public works, which would be hardly realizable under normal conditions, such as the improvement of pasture lands, construction of mountain roads, and protection against avalanches.

Electrical Manufacture.

Meanwhile, energetic efforts are being made to establish new industries in the watch-making centres, such as Bienne, Neuchâtel, Chaux-de-Fonds, and Le Locle, where there are approximately 20,000 unemployed. It is hoped to absorb several thousands within the next 12 months, through the establishment of a radio industry. Within the last three years, Switzerland has imported wireless apparatus to the value of 60,000,000 frs. Stringent import restrictions have now been introduced on this apparatus and a factory has been erected at Chaux-de-Fonds, which will employ some 450 workmen. This factory is a branch of the Dutch firm of Philips. In addition to this firm and the "Autophon" A.G. of Solothurn, which formerly specialized in automatic telephone and light signal installations, but has now turned its attention to the production of radio apparatus, there are several other concerns which have taken up the manufacture of radio receivers. Expert opinion, however, does not consider that there is much scope for the development of the Swiss radio industry, owing to the patent question and the lack of the necessary capital and experience to enable it to evolve new types of receivers not covered by the master patents held by the big concerns.

A former watch-making factory is now busy producing a special metal label-holder. Another has succeeded in carrying out successful experiments in the manufacture of a light metal alloy, intended for doors, show-windows and ornamental purposes. In Val-de-Joux a group of watchmakers have begun to make accumulators under the direction of experienced technicians.

In the Canton of Vaud, the authorities have decided to encourage the making of surgical and dental instruments, of which Switzerland has been an exporter annually to the value of only 500,000fr., while importing them to the value of some 2,700,000fr. The Cantonal authorities have, therefore, expressed their willingness to support this scheme by subscribing 50,000fr. for shares and 125,000fr. for debentures. These sums will be drawn from a special fund earmarked for the alleviation of unemployment. As German competition is particularly keen in respect of surgical instruments, it is feared that no profit can be expected for two years at least.

T.

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 - - £2,120,000
Deposits - - £44,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and
Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

: : Correspondents in all : :
: : parts of the World. : :

REWARDS OF A MOUNTAINEER.

By LT.-COLONEL GRAHAM SETON HUTCHISON,
D.S.O., M.C.

Three things are essential to the mountaineering holiday: good comradeship, good health and good climbing. The last is only attainable when the other two are quite secure. Although the declared object is climbing, a holiday and leisure are the first needs of every worker, and so good-fellowship and renewed health may be considerations even more important than achievement in ascent or the technique of mountain craft.

I am writing for the unskilled, and for the novice mountaineering remains the only sport untainted by professionalism; which for me is one of its most subtle attractions. In a worldly sense this pastime offers neither money prizes nor cups, no honours, no championships; yet its rewards are the richest, of the finest quality, offered by a civilized world. The stimulation to the mind and spirit of attaining to heights sublime, through tempest and difficulty, is unmatched. The emotions experienced during a struggle with the elements, with sometimes a thousand feet of sheer space between the physical body and eternity, moving foot by foot up the rocky face of some defiant Colossus, or creeping stealthily across mountains of jagged ice, remain rich in the memory.

These are the feelings which give renewed zest to the weary soul, fresh impetus to ambition, a strengthening of the whole moral fibre. Nor is the reward alone of the spirit; the whole physical being responds to the strident, triumphant appeal to the emotion. The moment of conquest is intoxicating to the whole being. Every muscle, every fibre, every nerve is braced for the effort. Man becomes tempered like wrought steel, supple as a rapier blade.

These are the rewards of the mountaineer; physical, moral and mental tonics elsewhere unobtainable. There can be no relaxation, no turning back or aside, no rest, until the task is completed. Man is matched against grim Nature in all her rugged majesty, buffeted by tempests, tortured by thirst, famished with hunger, subjected to extremes of heat and frost; and not least is he matched against himself—all his weakness and cowardice, his disappointments and failings, during the long hours of silent struggle, are mirrored before the mind, and, as he triumphs, so he realises his power. No pastime offers such rewards: in no other leisure task can the whole being attain such heights, such a renewal of the divine. In no other way can age be thrust into the background, the drooping spirit be raised to a fresh consciousness of its dominant, creative mission.

Novices, whether young or elderly, but especially the young, have opportunities equal with the most skilled. Mountaineering is a craft; the unthinking believe that any fool can climb. There are natural climbers, but there is also a technique; even the climber most gifted with courage, strength, speed, capacity for instant decision, of iron nerve, will fail if he neglects the simple rules of the mountains. But the ranks of the mountaineers may be increased a hundredfold; and, indeed, when I witness each summer thousands of English people travelling in Switzerland, enjoying its majestic scenery, matchless motorways, the hospitality of its hotels, I wonder if they realise what they miss. How many have tried even the rugged pathway to the refuge hut? How many have dared to test themselves, and to go higher among the eternal snows, to scale some gaunt rocky peak upon its icy throne?

The novice should not attempt the larger exacting ascents, on which he will have no leisure to observe. He should confine himself to less travelled regions, wherein he can find his own route, and to glaciers and rock peaks, whereon points of technique may be studied in variety and in repetition. Such points are common to small and big ascents alike, and they are essential to the mountaineer's education.

A party of three, four or five persons, in good health, well shod, with a good rope as a precaution, and with trusty ice axes, may penetrate far among the mountains, even without a Swiss guide, may enjoy all the exhilaration of the passage of a high pass, may spend long days above the snow-line, or clambering among lesser peaks with matchless views of the giants, without fear, in perfect safety. Such a party may find itself journeying, high above the world, from one refuge hut to another, to spend the nights at these log and stone cabins in the fellowship of men and women who are enjoying emancipation from the bonds of our ordered modern life. Among the forests and highlands it can seek a life of adventure, and set up in the individual memory lasting monuments of its own prowess, courage and ingenuity.

A guide is often a desirable asset. Among the qualities of Swiss guides are a sense of weather, and a knowledge of rock, snow and ice conditions, which may at least save time and possible exhaustion. The influence of the mind upon the body is sharply defined in mountaineering. "Mountaineering," says Winthrop Young —perhaps the greatest climber of any age, and certainly its finest exponent—"owes to its infinite variety of motion and interest a record of feats of sheer endurance such as no other human pursuit or sport has excelled." The guide will not necessarily be the most efficient leader. Leadership should be vested in that one of the party who best can protect it against influences which irritate the nerves. He must take his precautions against disappointment, fatigue, and even the after-effects of exaltation. The function of the guide is properly, and better, confined to knowledge of ground, technique, and route, though even the latter should be left to the choice of the party itself, unless the guide can urge some potent reason against its selection at a particular season, or on a particular day.

The Swiss maps define all known ways across the Alps and high passes; and, contrary to popular opinion, guides are inexpensive if shared by a party. Indeed, one can balance an account between an hotel life and that spent with a guide in the huts of the Swiss Alpine Club. But whereas the hotels offer convention, life in the mountains gives rare spiritual rewards, and health and efficiency of both the mind and the body.

There are many who at this season begin to make plans for those few days of leisure which modern industry affords to its servants. The drudgery and routine of life does not hold out many great opportunities for those psychological changes which, as all students of such matters are agreed, supply the poignant needs of the spirit and promote the health of the body. But he who has chosen a mountaineering holiday is able to refresh himself during many long months with inspiring reflections of danger and difficulty conquered, with memories of wonderful nights and deep reposeful rest in the quiet of an Alpine cabin, of good comradeship of a quality which in the humdrum of daily life long afterwards will revitalise jaded emotions and the fires of affection and friendship.

The Isis.

PARLONS DE TOUT.

Un lecteur écrit à "l'ami des femmes" pour lui demander de remonter à l'Eve moderne que le flirt fait souffrir pas mal de cœurs d'hommes et que l'infidélité, lorsqu'elle va jusqu'à l'acte et qu'elle est l'effet d'un caprice, cesse d'être un divertissement tolérable.

Je crois avoir déjà écrit du flirt qu'il est le plus souvent, et aussi innocent qu'on le veuille au fond, une forme de coquetterie à laquelle nous marquons trop d'indulgence. Entendons-nous, cependant. Je ne saurais être exagérément sévère à une "flirteuse" lorsqu'elle n'a pas marqué à un homme une préférence telle qu'il puisse se laisser à l'aimer en se croyant payé de retour. Le flirt ne m'apparaît un amusement cruel qu'autant qu'il y a un cœur qui en souffre, et que la "flirteuse" le sait, pour ne point l'avoir déçu—au contraire! Mais vraiment, y a-t-il tant de femmes qui poussent la coquetterie jusqu'à cet apparent oubli de leurs tendres engagements?

Il faut aussi d'ailleurs que les hommes consentent de vivre avec leur temps et de ne pas s'exagérer la portée de certaines camaraderies qui sont devenues si courantes que la sagesse commande de s'y résigner. La jeunesse masculine d'aujourd'hui a généralement assez peu de souci de la galanterie. Elle entend s'affranchir vis-à-vis de la femme de ces attentions et de ces petits soins qui, naguère, faisaient partie de "l'art du tendre." Il y a très peu de tendre, de notre temps. Le flirt féminin est la raison de ce qu'il faut bien que je nomme une certaine "mufferie" masculine. Les jeunes filles et les jeunes femmes ne flirtaient pas lorsqu'elles avaient ce qu'on appelait des "cavaliers servants," et l'affreux mot anglais "flirter" prenait, dans notre langue, une tout autre signification quand nous disions "conter fleurette," ce qui était aussi joli à la forme qu'aimable dans le fait.

Je veux pourtant conseiller à l'Eve contemporaine de ne pas abuser du flirt: si elle y trouve une juste réplique à la mufferie masculine, je lui demande aussi d'y voir une manière de jouer avec son propre cœur qui n'est pas sans danger pour elle-même, car, très certainement le flirt ne va point sans beaucoup d'abandon de ce qui constitue l'essentiel du charme féminin, la pudeur.

Voilà ma petite homélie. Retiendra-t-elle des femmes sur cette pente, qui est glissante? Je le souhaite sans oser trop l'espérer. Ce qui passe dans les habitudes est, si discutable que ce soit, innocent par l'usage. L'usage ne saurait tout justifier cependant, surtout lorsque la délicatesse en est froissée et la bonté méconnue.

M. X., ami des femmes.