

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: 617

Artikel: In Switzerland
Autor: [s.n.]
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693407>

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: 12.12.2025

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

"NEBELSPALTER" PROHIBITED IN GERMANY.

The Swiss humoristic Paper the "Nebel-spalter" has been prohibited throughout Germany. (We have always maintained that the Nazis have no sense of humour).

INTERNATIONAL GOITRE CONFERENCE.

Federal Councillor Häberlin opened the International Goitre Conference in Berne on the 10th inst., he welcomed the 150 delegates who have come from all corners of the globe, on behalf of the Swiss Government, expressing his wish that the deliberations may bear fruits in combatting this devastating disease. The Conference lasted four days.

SWISS BANKERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Swiss Bankers' Association will take place on September 9th at Brunnen. Dr. Max Stahelin, President of the Swiss Bank Corporation, will read a paper on "Swiss Finances."

AUTUMN MANOEUVRES OF THE 2ND DIVISION.

Owing to the state of health of Army Corps commander Sarasin, the autumn manoeuvres of the 2nd division will take place under the command of Army Corps Commander Roost, chief of the General Staff.

FAREWELL PARTY AT THE GERMAN LEGATION.

On the occasion of the retirement of the German Minister, Dr. Müller, a reception was held at the German Legation at Berne, at which several Federal Councillors and high officials were present; as well as the members of the diplomatic corps. Dr. Müller will spend his retirement at Merlgen on the Lake of Thun.

DEATH IN THE MOUNTAINS.

The lure of the Edelweiss, that white Alpine flower which so many climbers like to pluck from its often almost inaccessible niche, has just cost three more lives.

A Lausanne tourist named Meystre, who was climbing the Argentine peak, above the Rhone Valley, with some friends, tried to obtain a specimen on the face of the cliff, but lost his footing and was dashed to death 1,000ft. below.

Meanwhile, another climber on the Chamosaire, an adjoining peak, was similarly killed; and a third lost his life on the Alpstein, in the Canton of Appenzell.

Besides these, a young Swiss named le Bourgeois, climbing the Salève peak, fell 1,000ft. to death.

ROYAL VISIT AT THE FEDERAL PALAIS.

On the occasion of a short visit in Berne, the King of Bulgaria has paid a private visit to M. Motta, Foreign Minister and Doyen of the Federal Council. The Swiss Government offered a luncheon, at which all the Federal Councillors at present in Berne, took part, as well as Minister Stucki and the Bulgarian Minister, accredited to the Swiss Confederation.

MEETING OF SWISS DIPLOMATS.

The Annual Conference of the Federal Council with its foreign representatives will take place on September 2nd.

LOCAL.**ZURICH.**

M. Huldreich Baer-Appli who recently died at Zurich, has left an amount of 200,000fr. to various charitable institutions.

The collection which was made amongst the former students of the University of Zurich, on the occasion of its Jubilee, has reached the amount of 760,000fr.

BERNE.

The Interlaken region was devastated on Saturday by a violent thunderstorm.

Not since 102 years has anything like this occurred. The whole valley from Stechelberg to Trümmelbach and as far as Zweilütschine is partly covered with stones and mud, big lumps of rock, boulders, bridges are torn away, the railway line undermined and at places hanging loose with the foundations washed away from underneath. The Inn at Stechelberg is up to the windows surrounded by stones, the water ran through it, up to the first story. The electric power station is ruined, full of rocks, trees and mud. A tree was driven right through the dynamo. The works manager in his attempt to telephone, was caught up to his armpits in mud, and had to be dug out, his wife and children had to be released by a gang of men roped together, all the windows and doors were blocked.

Six cows were washed down from the Schiltalp, (a great distance) and were found at the power station at Stechelberg. For 18 hours the water came rushing down the valley. It must have been terrible to hear the roar and to be amidst all this for so many hours in the dark.

National Councillor, Dr. med. Rikli has died at Langenthal at the age of 70. The deceased was for many years chief surgeon of the 3rd division, and was well-known in political circles.

LUCERNE.

Dr. Jakob Siegrist, member of the cantonal government has celebrated his 25th anniversary as "Regierungsrat," he entered the cantonal government in 1908 as successor to M. Schobinger, who was elected a Federal Councillor.

Dr. Jakob Bucher, since 1930, 1st Public Prosecutor of the Canton of Lucerne, has died at the age of 46.

GENEVA.

The Geneva poet M. Henri de Ziegler has received the "Prix littéraire des Alpes française" for his book "Idylle." The prize consists of an amount of 2,000fr., and has been given by the "Petit Dauphinois" for works glorifying the French Alps.

The 18 years old Henri Debourogne from Geneva, fell over a rock when climbing the "Roche Pourrie" and was killed instantly.

THURGAU.

The Swiss steamer "Rhein" grounded last Sunday on the Horn, near the Konstanzer Bay, the passengers numbering about 250 had to be transferred to another steamer, who landed them safely at Romanshorn.

GRISONS.

M. Werner Keller, a twenty-two year old student of Frauenfeld, was killed when traversing the Bianco-Grat in the Bernina district. A rescue party, consisting of several guides from Pontresina managed to locate the body on the Tschierva glacier. M. Keller was the son of the rector of the "Kantons Schule" at Frauenfeld.

Large forest fires have occurred in the valley di Ley, which, owing to the scarcity of water have assumed alarming dimensions. The fire brigades of Zillis, Andeer and Ferrera have been mobilised.

VAUD.

The death is reported of M. Monneron, one of the managers of the Swiss Bank Corporation at Lausanne, at the age of 67. M. Monneron was secretary of the Lausanne Stock Exchange, and for many years a director of the "Gazette de Lausanne."

M. Jules Séchaud, head of the well-known Chocolate firm Séchaud has died at Montreux.

TICINO.

M. Tobia Pertelacci, who recently died at San Francisco (U.S.A.) has left an amount of 15,000 dollars to the cantonal hospital at Bellinzona.

**IN SWITZERLAND.
SOME NEW EXPERIENCES.**

By "HOB CARTON."

Each day one has some new experience: little things they may seem on the surface, but often they express a great deal of the soul of this wonderful country.

Take, for example, the other evening. I was in the public room of the hotel and my landlady pointed out to me eight natives who had come in for a chat and perhaps a quiet game of cards.

She whispered to me their occupations giving a short character sketch, in excellent English, of some of them. You would surely very rarely if ever see such a collection of men meet together in England on a common basis of friendship.

I jotted down in my notebook the list of trades and profession and here they are: — a cabinet maker, a butcher, a banker, an architect, a chimney sweep, a teacher, an ironmonger, a chauffeur. She added that very often the local Judge (a sort of Stipendiary Magistrates I imagine) and Doctor also came, and they all play cards together.

I was glad to have such an excellent account of the Doctor, who, I learned, did much work for love and helped with food and clothing.

Democracy in Action.

This small incident seems to explain much of that real fraternity and friendship which one finds all over Switzerland. Surely it is real democracy in action. Perhaps it is one of the reasons why the Swiss can do so much in the way of big schemes — engineering, educational and social — they are used to combine and discuss freely together, they consider the good of the country, and the country benefits and they benefit individually.

Of course, their national hero is William Tell, and the great play by Schiller is produced here once a week all the summer.

One day I went to this play. It is quite different from anything I have ever before seen — and most, perhaps, resembles a W.E.A. play at its best.

Interlaken is only a small town, yet here before were some 200 people producing this national play in the open air on an enormous natural stage which is actually part of the forest adjoining the town. They were local people and acted for love not pay.

The audience were protected from the weather by a large awning. The play lasted three hours, and though in a foreign tongue one followed the acting and the plot quite easily. A country

wedding with singing guests all in national costume; the cattle coming from the hills into the hamlet; the building of the cruel Gessler's castle; the home life of William Tell in his small chalet — his wife and son, Walter, and finally the shooting of the wicked Gessler; and then formation of the Swiss nation, now freed from the yoke of the Austrians was all produced to the life.

Of course, the great scene was the famous apple incident, where Tell refuses to salute the cap of Gessler and is taken prisoner and commanded to shoot an apple from the head of his boy Walter (a perfectly charming flaxen haired lad of twelve).

The dramatic emotion is intense, and the rabe of Gessler (acted by a local veterinary surgeon) on his prancing charger is terrific. The people defy him, and his humiliation is increased when one of his nobles goes over to the Swiss side. The gallop into the forest by Gessler's troupe of charges is thrilling.

The final rejoicings are very real and one felt that there was national history and spirit behind the play and the people had entered into another happier, freer and better state.

Another day we heard a jodelling exhibition.

The Jodel.

Now many other mountain peoples "Jodel" but I never heard of anything of the kind at Wasdale or Buttermere! However be sure they jodel here. It is not all like the imitation "stage" jodelling one may sometimes hear at home, though much of it is so. The great beauty is the curious echoing effect in rich, deep, solemn tones all in their respective part of tenor, bass, and baritone. The volume of sound gradually dies away, just as the music of the Alpine horn sounds, echoes and re-echoes and finally dies among the ice and perpetual snow of the high Alps.

And speaking of the high Alps reminds me that last week I have never seen much new ground.

One is deeply impressed by the grandeur of the ice-capped Eiger, Monch and Finsteraarhorn, Jungfrau and Silberhorn, of which enough can hardly be said, but some of the Waterfalls are world famous too.

How many people in England, after a visit to Switzerland, speak of the wonderful Staubach fall and how many hundreds have that very beautiful fall in brilliant print form (they are rarely subdued tones!) framed and hanging over their dining room mantelshelf? You have all seen such rattier hackneyed and garish productions, but I assure you the real thing makes one want to remember it in every detail for all time. There is the stream pouring over a thousand foot precipice into the green valley below. At the top it is a torrent of water, half-way down it spreads out three times its original width and at last it falls to the ground in a wide spray little denser than mist, while opposite is a steep crag, and beyond, filling in the picture is the dazzling white of the "The Lady of the Snows."

A waterfall of quite another kind is the much advertised Trummelbach falls which you see produced in posters at the railway stations and where the most marvellous rainbows show.

Well the reality is much better and a good deal different from the advertisements.

A Spiral Watershoot.

It is best described as an enormous spiral watershoot, crashing from side to side down its "staircase." The noise of the falling waters is awe inspiring; the cool spray is most welcome after a very hot walk in the valley with the afternoon sun heating the rocks which reflect their accumulated heat on the walker; most beautiful of all is the spray rainbow at the foot of the falls which plays gently over the dashing roaring waters.

You may be interested in hearing which, of all the walks we have enjoyed here has been most generally popular.

There is no doubt that this is the woodland walk of Mürren.

You can go, as we did, up the great valley leading to Lauterbrunnen by train and here you change into the funicular which hoists you up, very slowly some 2,000 feet.

Here you are in another atmosphere, for the heat of the valley has gone and a sharp dry, clarified air blows right off the precipices of those great snow mountains standing in a row and over 13,000 feet high—the Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau, down whose sides perpetual avalanches roar. For 4½ miles you walk through a pine forest with the most amazing views at every turn of little mountain track and beds of wild flowers blue, mauve, pink, yellow and white all seeming to revel in the sun with blue sky above and the sleepy narrow valley below. The scent of wild thyme and other hill flowers is ever with you.

At last you reach the little hamlet itself which is a collection of wooden chalets and farms with three modern hotels. The main street ends abruptly in a mountain track and above are rich cow pastures, full of flowers and called in fact the Blumenthal or as we should say in English "the valley of flowers."

But such places must be seen to be believed.

West Cumberland News.