

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: - (1935)

Heft: 697

Rubrik: Home news

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

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

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595.

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

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 14—No. 697

LONDON, MARCH 2, 1935.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3/6
	12 " " " " " "	12/6
SWITZERLAND	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	Fr. 7.50
	12 " " " " " "	14.-

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



HOME NEWS

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

FEDERAL.

SWISS ARMY REFERENDUM.

By a majority of 75,000 votes (1907: 62,000) the Swiss people declared themselves in favour of an increase in the period of recruit training from 67 to 90 days.

In the referendum, which was held throughout the country, 506,845 votes were cast at the polls in favour of the increased period, while 431,902 people declared themselves opposed to the proposition.

About 80 per cent. of the population entitled to vote voted to the polls. In support of the measure it was pointed out that the period of 67 days was fixed in 1907 since when the duties of an infantry-man have become much more complicated and take longer to learn.

		(In 1907)	
Cantons	Yes	No	Yes
Zurich	92,252	65,438	58,431
Berne	80,519	72,964	55,465
Lucerne	22,771	19,327	14,170
Uri	2,693	2,567	1,534
Schwyz	4,810	8,122	2,925
Obwald	1,651	2,485	1,311
Nidwald	1,273	2,084	947
Glaris	5,089	3,302	2,585
Zoug	3,324	4,145	2,526
Fribourg	14,428	17,350	9,957
Soleure	20,021	14,645	10,522
Bale-Ville	20,239	16,037	11,894
Bale-Camp	9,048	12,447	6,881
Schaffhouse	8,139	4,438	5,873
Appenzell (R. E.)	5,418	5,949	7,595
Appenzell (R. I.)	819	1,979	1,152
Saint-Gall	33,381	30,618	28,658
Grisons	14,544	11,909	13,408
Argovie	34,900	28,862	24,689
Thurgovie	20,823	11,306	16,639
Tessin	17,819	12,700	8,011
Vaud	48,975	41,603	24,792
Valais	10,856	11,970	4,348
Neuchâtel	12,634	13,161	7,330
Genève	19,472	14,521	8,130

Total 506,845 431,902 329,963 267,605

SWISS MINISTER APPOINTED.

The Federal Council has appointed M. Henry Martin, at present Minister at Angola, to be Switzerland's Minister plenipotentiary to Egypt. M. Martin will occupy both posts. (M. H. Martin was at one time, Commercial Attaché at the Legation in London).

DIPLOMATIC RECEPTION.

M. Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation, and M. Motta, head of the Political Department, have received the new Minister of Iran, M. Mostapha Khan Adle, at the Federal Palais, on the occasion of his presenting his credentials to the Confederation.

SWISS TRADE WAR WITH ITALY.

Italy has closed her frontier to goods from Switzerland, and the negotiations started in Rome between the Swiss Minister and the Italian Government so far have had no result. The Swiss Federal Council was therefore compelled to take retaliatory measures and has stopped the import of Italian products, but only of those submitted to import quotas.

Negotiations will be resumed next week, and it is hoped they will lead to some arrangement. The balance of commercial exchanges is in favour of Italy, who exports 116,000,000 francs' worth of goods to Switzerland and buys from her only 76,000,000 francs' worth.

GERMAN-SWISS TRADE AGREEMENT.

The German-Swiss trade negotiations in Berne, now concluded, have resulted in an agreement on several points affecting the practical working of the clearing agreement, and a new regulation of imports of Swiss cheese into Germany.

No agreement was reached on the Swiss suggestions for alterations in the German tariff system, nor as regards the German application for a rearrangement of the Swiss import quotas. Consideration of these questions was postponed.

SWISS RAILWAYS LOAN.

The Swiss Federal Railways has now completed arrangements with the Government for the issue of a new loan. This, with the six series of three and a-half per Cent. Treasury bonds to the amount of Frs. 100,000,000 just issued, will serve to redeem or convert the Five per Cent. Sixth Electrification Loan of 1925, which falls due to the amount of Frs. 50,000,000 on 15th March, and the Five per Cent. Fourth Electrification Loan of 1925 of Frs. 150,000,000, which is repayable on 15th April.

The new loan, which will be of a Three and a-half per Cent. type, will be issued at 94½ per cent., and will be redeemable in 25 years.

FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF THE FEDERAL POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE ADMINISTRATION.

The net profit of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration for 1934 amounts to 17 million francs or 9 million more than anticipated.

SWISS AUTOMOBILE STATISTICS.

According to statistics, for every 100 cars in Switzerland, 45 are of American, 21.5 are French, 19 Italian, 9 German, 3 English and only one is made in Switzerland.

SWISS LITERARY PRODUCTION.

During the course of these last years, literary production has developed in Switzerland in the following manner: 1922, 1,419 volumes; 1925, 1,748 volumes; 1931, 2,049 volumes; 1932, 2,444 volumes; 1933, 1,967 volumes. The statistics only apply to publications put on the market.

THE RESULTS OF SWISS AIR TRAFFIC.

From the 1st May to the 31st October, 1934, the international and Swiss internal air lines carried 41,363 paying passengers representing an increase of 27.7% on the preceding season.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF POSTAL CHEQUE ACCOUNTS IN SWITZERLAND.

At the end of 1933, date of the last control, there were 103,000 holders of postal cheque accounts in Switzerland, i.e., 39.3 inhabitants per account. In this direction, Switzerland occupies the third place in Europe, after Belgium and the Netherlands.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

M. R. Stehli-Zweifel, senior partner in the well-known Silk firm Stehli and Co., in Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary on the 24th of February. Mr. Stehli is a member of the Board of the National Bank. On this occasion he has made a donation to the Pension Fund of his firm of 400,000 frs.

BERNE.

Dr. G. Schaller of Lucerne has been elected President of the Swiss National Bank, he has been a member of the Council of the National Bank for 18 years.

Dr. Alfred Sarasin of Basle, who has been President of the Bank since 1927, declined reelection on account of health.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 16th, 1935

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

MAY FAIR HOTEL, Berkeley Square, W.1.

The population of the town of Berne, on December 31st, 1934, amounted to 120,335 (1933: 119,025).

* * *

The death is reported from Corcelles of M. Fritz Rosset-Delacour a former National Councillor at the age of 82.

AARGAU.

M. J. Rüttimann, an advocate in Muri was elected member of the cantonal government, in succession to M. Stalder, who recently resigned his post.

ST. GALLEN.

Dr. Emile Mäder, for the last 14 years a member of the cantonal government, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Dr. Mäder entered Parliament in 1928 (National Council).

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

From Schaffhausen comes the news of the death of Dr. Bernhard Joos, who was for many years "Bezirksarzt." Dr. Joos was also a member of the Grand Council and Chairman of the Board of the "Spar and Leihkasse Schaffhausen." He reached the age of 70.

GRISONS.

An accident happened near the station of Peist of the Chur-Arosa Railway, when an engine ran into a stationary train, several passengers were injured.

TICINO.

The final results of the elections for the Grand Council are as follows: Conservative-Popular Party 22 seats (before 23); Liberal-Radicals 19 seats (before 17); Liberal radical Democratic party 9 seats (before 12); Socialist Party 10 seats (before 9); Peasant Party 3 seats (before 4); Lega Nazionale 2 seats (before 0). The Fascist and Communist party gained no seats.

FOOTBALL.

24th February, 1935.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Grasshoppers	.....2	Chaux-de-Fonds	.....2
Concordia	.....2	Young Fellows	.....1
Nordstern	.....2	Biel	.....2
Bern	.....6	Basel	.....0
Locarno	.....3	Carouge	.....0
Servette	.....3	Young Boys	.....2
Lausanne	.....2	Lugano	.....0

No change among the leaders, but Bern go from seventh to fifth, 21 points, same as Basel and Grasshoppers. F. C. Bern appear to be back in form such as in the early part of the season. At the end of the table we have now three clubs with 14 points each ninth, tenth and eleventh, i.e., Chaux-de-Fonds, Locarno, Nordstern. Twelfth remains Young Boys with 11 points, Concordia next with 10 points and a game in hand (!) and last, and I am afraid also least, Carouge, 3 points. So Concordia can still make a fight of it; to beat Young Fellows is a good performance, although the Zurich team is somewhat inconsistent.

What did I tell you about Lucerne? Well, they have done just what we all thought they would do: The lost again, this time in Zurich against Blue Stars. As St. Gall beat Bellinzona 4:0, there is now every probability for the promotion fight to become of a more exciting nature.

M.G.

LENDEMAIN DE SCRUTIN.

Le peuple suisse a accepté la loi sur la défense nationale par 506,845 oui, contre 431,902 non, soit à une majorité de 74,943 voix. D'aucuns argueront que cette victoire du sain patriotisme sur l'égoïsme et la rancœur n'a rien de spécialement brillant, et ils chercheront à la minimiser. Pour nous, elle nous satisfait, étant donné les circonstances exceptionnellement difficiles dans lesquelles la bataille avait été engagée. A titre de comparaison rappelons que la loi de réorganisation militaire de 1907 n'avait passé qu'à une majorité de 62,348 voix, à une époque où les conjonctures économiques et politiques étaient autrement favorables qu'en l'an de disgrâce 1935.

Fait intéressant à noter, ce sont les cantons qui sont le plus travaillés par le socialisme et le communisme qui ont — à l'exception de Neuchâtel — fourni les plus fortes majorités, accep-