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# The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

**The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.**

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## HOME NEWS

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### 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 went 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 Angora, 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-

tantes, alors que les cantons de la Suisse primitive, les petits cantons agricoles qu'habitent "les vieux Suisses aux bras noueux," ont repoussé la loi — sauf Uri — quelques-uns avec une majorité négative qui en dit long sur le mécontentement qui règne dans ces régions du pays. Mécontentement contre le pouvoir fédéral dont la politique économique n'a pas donné les résultats que permettaient d'escompter les mirifiques promesses venues de Berne, notamment en ce qui concerne l'application de la nouvelle législation sur l'alcool. Dans le Valais et à Neuchâtel, l'impôt sur les vins a joué un rôle déterminant, et, sans lui, la majorité acceptante dans le canton de Vaud eût certainement été plus considérable. A souligner que Lausanne, dotée comme on sait d'une majorité socialiste, a donné une majorité d'environ mille voix en faveur de la loi.

Significatif est le résultat du scrutin au Tessin, et plus encore à Schaffhouse. D'une manière générale, les cantons frontiers du nord de la Suisse ont senti, davantage que d'autres, la nécessité d'un renforcement de notre puissance défensive. Et cette attitude en dit plus long que de longs discours sur la mentalité qui règne au bord du Rhin et sur les craintes qu'on y nourrit! Quant au résultat de Genève, point n'est besoin d'insister sur la satisfaction qu'il nous a causée. La campagne avait été particulièrement vive dans notre canton où — M. le conseiller fédéral Pilet-Golaz le relevait lui-même l'autre jour en termes discrets mais suffisamment nets — le scrutin revêtait une importance et une signification particulières. Une victoire des adversaires de la nouvelle loi militaire aurait signifié l'abdication définitive des partis d'ordre; elle aurait été exploitée, et avec quelle ardeur, par le parti au pouvoir, ce qui eût d'ailleurs été de bonne guerre. Mais Genève, qui avait repoussé la loi de 1907, s'est, une fois de plus, ressaisie et son vote d'hier, comme celui du 18 novembre dernier, montre que le redressement nécessaire est en train de s'accomplir.

Enfin, considéré au point de vue international, le résultat du scrutin du 24 février est on ne peut plus réjouissant. La décision que le peuple suisse a prise librement dans le but de renforcer notre défense nationale sera comprise et appréciée à sa juste valeur par nos voisins immédiats. Ils y verront la preuve que notre pays est fermement décidé à se défendre en cas d'agression et à tenir ses engagements. Et chacun d'eux en tirera la leçon pour son propre compte.

La journée de dimanche est donc une bonne journée pour la Suisse et pour la démocratie.

Edgar Junod.  
(Tribune de Genève)

## NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

### SWISS PRESIDENT'S REPLY TO N.S.H. TELEGRAM.

On the occasion of the reception held at the "Foyer Suisse" on the 15th of February, in honour of Mlle. Briod, the following telegram was sent to Monsieur Minger, President of the Swiss Confederation:

"Bundespräsident Minger  
Bern.

Die Gruppe London der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft und die übrigen Vertreter der hiesigen Schweizerkolonie ersuchen mich einstimmig dem Schweizervolke gegenüber der Hoffnung Ausdruck zu geben dass dieses Volk am 24. Februar eingedenk seiner Vergangenheit Ihnen die Gefolgschaft nicht versagen und so einstimmig wie möglich seinem festen Willen Ausdruck verleihen möge die geforderten Opfer im Interesse seiner Landesverteidigung zu bringen.

Paravicini."

In reply, Monsieur Minger has addressed the following letter to our Minister:

Der Bundespräsident der  
Schweizerischen Eidgenossenschaft

Bern, den 20. Febr. 1935.

Herr Minister,

Die mir übermittelte Sympathiekundgebung der Gruppe London der Neuen Helvetischen Gesellschaft und der übrigen Vertreter der Schweizerkolonie hat mich mit ganz besonderer Freude erfüllt und bestärkt mich in der Hoffnung, dass das Schweizervolk am kommenden Sonntag einen eindeutigen Entscheid fällen möge, der auch die Schweizer im Auslande mit Stolz erfüllen wird.

Ich bitte Sie, sehr geehrter Herr Minister, meinen warmen Dank für das tatkräftige Eintreten der Schweizer in London zu Gunsten der Wehrvorlage entgegenzunehmen.

Genehmigen Sie, Herr Minister, die Versicherung meiner vorzüglichen Hochachtung.

(sig.) R. Minger  
Bundespräsident.

Herrn Minister C. R. Paravicini  
Schweizerischer Gesandter  
London.

## SWISS SPORTS.

A fairly well attended meeting of the delegates took place on Thursday, 21st February, at the premises of the Union Helvetia Club, with Mr. Barbezat, the President, in the Chair.

The programme of the next sports meeting, which is to be held on Saturday, 25th May, at the Herne Hill Athletic ground, was settled in its outlines. A suggestion that future sports meetings might be held in a ground nearer town, and which has now become available, was referred to a committee of three for investigation.

After due consideration, some of the events in last year's programme were dropped, such as the 100 yds. Flat Handicap (Ladies in sports costume) on account of the little interest shown by our fair compatriots, the 880 yds. Flat Handicap for lack of support, and the "Pushball" for insufficient training facilities. The 440 yds. Veteran's walking handicap will be converted into a comic obstacle race.

Two new races for boys of Swiss parentage will be introduced; one will be an obstacle race, and the other a relay race, the different clubs in the London Colony being invited to form teams to run under their respective patronage.

The closing day for entries has been fixed for May 13th, and the next delegates' meeting for May 16th. O.F.B.

## CONCERT NEWS.

A Concert will be given on Thursday, March 7th, at 8.30 p.m., at the Pleyel Music Room, 20, Gloucester Place, W.1. by M. Leon Hochloff (Bass Baritone) and Signorina Violetta Montuschi (Pianoforte). Signorina Montuschi is well-known in the Swiss Colony and we hope that our readers will attend this concert. The accompanist will be M. Alex. Alhazova.

A recital will be given by Madeline Jean, (Violin), Florence Bass, (Cello), and Olga Carmine (Piano) on Saturday, the 9th of March, at 8.15 p.m., at St. Peter's Hall, Cricklewood Lane, N.W.2. Mlle Olga Carmine has often appeared at various concerts held in the Swiss Colony, and we are sure that many of our readers would like to renew their acquaintance with this fine artiste.

## PERSONAL.

The engagement is announced between Mr. Eric Kessler of 38, Markham Square, Chelsea, and Miss Mary Lily Zaehner of Oak Hill Lodge, Sevenoaks. The marriage will take place quietly early in May.

## SWITZERLAND POINTS THE WAY.

Confederacy Shows a Quarrelsome World How Peoples of Diverse Languages and Interests May Yet Live Amicably With One Another and With Their Neighbours.

By MEINRAD SCHNEULIN.

It is a fact known all over the world that during the World War there was in the middle of Europe a small country that did not partake in the war: Switzerland. During the long years of war, the western front of the fighting armies reached from the coast of the North Sea up to the Swiss frontier near Basel, and from the south-east corner of Switzerland down to the Adriatic.

Neutrality in general is defined as the condition of being unengaged in contests between others, a state of taking no part on either side. The Peace Conference of The Hague, in 1907, gave a definition of military neutrality which states that the territory of a neutral power is inviolable, that a neutral power must not tolerate within its borders specific measures in direct connection with the war, that, on the other hand, a neutral country is not obliged to take a number of other measures: if however, the neutral power does do so, both belligerent parties must be treated the same way.

Many countries have remained neutral in wars without making neutrality a principle to be observed in every case. With Switzerland neutrality is different; it is the self-chosen and self-maintained decision of the Swiss of taking no part in conflicts between others in any case. It is therefore, called a perpetual neutrality, and at the same time an armed neutrality, holding itself "ready to resist by force any aggression of either belligerent," as Webster defines it.

A certain understanding of the history and the geographical situation of Switzerland is necessary to comprehend the origin and justification of its neutrality. The Swiss Leagues started in the thirteenth century for the purpose of uniting the forces of their members against powers menacing their idea of and their desire for self-government, and they maintained their stand in a number of wars and many battles, and this they did in spite of their inferiority in number and equipment.

After 1499 there was no more necessity for the Swiss Leagues to go to war, and yet they took

part in the contest over the question of who should be the Duke of Milan in Italy. There the Swiss neither fought for their own liberty nor that of the inhabitants of Lombardy, and in 1515 they experienced an overwhelming defeat at Marignano, due in part to discord among themselves. This event marks a turn in their history: the Swiss decided for neutrality.

The ground was not unprepared for the idea of neutrality. They had had many quarrels among themselves, even a civil war for many years, and when, in 1501, Basel became a member of the Confederacy they stipulated that in conflicts between the members of the League Basel should remain neutral and try to reconcile the quarrelling brothers.

After 1515, Swiss neutrality might have gone to pieces again, if the subsequent historical events had not worked for its preservation. In 1519, the Reformation started in Zurich, and in the course of the following years more than half the inhabitants, but less than half the states, joined this religious movement, the rest remaining Roman Catholic.

This caused a split in the unity of the Swiss, and if in the wars of the neighbours, one of the two camps had joined in, civil war among the Swiss would have been inevitable and this might have led to the extinction of the Confederacy and the self-government of the states. During the Thirty Years War this was several times within a hair's breadth. And yet, they kept out of it: in 1647 they even agreed on a common military organization, called "Defensionale," to resist the aggression of either of the belligerents, and they kept up their neutrality during the wars of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

(To be continued).

## S.M.S. GENERAL MEETING.

An account of the General Meeting of the Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. will appear in our next number.



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