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: 709

Artikel: Professor Dr. Adolf Keller's lecture

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690892

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: 27.11.2025

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

LA CAMPAGNE CONTRE L'INITIATIVE

A mesure qu'approche la date fatidique du 2 juin, jour où le peuple suisse sera appelé à se prononcer sur l'initiative de crise, il semble que l'opinion publique devienne de plus en plus consciente du danger qui menace notre pays.

Signe de bon augure: la campagne s'est engagée sur le terrain même où il convenait de livrer bataille. Les citoyens auront à choisir, en effet, entre le maintien de nos institutions — qui n'exclut pas certains redressements, devenus nécessaires, de notre politique économique, — et l'étatisme socialiste, allant de pair avec la dictature du parlement. Il faut poser franchement la question et arracher aux auteurs du funeste projet leur masque humanitaire pour découvrir leur vrai visage: celui de politiciens désireux de conquérir le pouvoir à la faveur d'un bouleversement total de notre vie publique et privée. Les manœuvres de ces habiles tacticiens tendaient à tromper le peuple sur leurs véritables intentions: de plus en plus, on a l'impression que les masses commencent à se rendre compte de la supercherie, ainsi que des conséquences terribles de l'iniative, si elle passait.

Mais on n'a point encore suffisamment éclairé l'opinion sur ces réalités. Il importe donc qu'au cours des deux dernières semaines qui précéderont le scrutin, on dise avec clarté et précision, dans les assemblées, que l'initiative de crise est un mouvement révolutionnaire, que l'on montre à quel désastre financier elle aboutirait, qu'on ne laisse subsister aucun doute, enfin, sur les effets de la dévaluation du franc, qui enrichirait peutêtre quelques spéculateurs, mais consommerait la ruine générale et réduirait à la misère en particulier les salariés, les petits épargnants, etc.

Seule une campagne très bien conduite et faisant appel à la raison et à la réflexion des électeurs pourra triompher des sollicitations démagogiques auxquelles notre peuple se trouve en butte.

L'attitude des partis nationaux, à cet égard, est certes réconfortante. Le parti conservateur a pris position avec une extrème netteté et une unanimité réjouissante. Les élections cantonales de dimanche, à Lucerne, ont été triomphales pour la droite et cette victoire contribuera à lui donner de l'élan pour le 2 juin. Le parti radical, dont l'aile gauche, encline à se rapprocher des socialistes, compte quelques partisans, plus ou moins avérés, de l'initiative banqueroutière, a eu, le 12 mai également, son congrès à Olten et s'est prononcé, à une majorité considérable — 235 voix contre 8 — contre le funeste projet. Les agrariens, comme nous l'avons dit déjà, ont manifesté leur ferme volonté de barrer la route à la révolution camouflée; et c'est d'autant plus heureux qu'il y a pas mal de dissidents dans leurs rangs, sous la conduite du dangereux prophète de Grosshechstetten.

Mais n'oublions pas que les partis s'expriment par la bouche de leurs délégués, qui sont, le plus souvent, des hommes relativement pondérés, au jugement mûr. Il peut arriver que ces mandataires ne soient pas suivis par les masses; ce sont les masses qu'il faut renseigner et convainere, sans recourir à aucun des procédés tortueux dont les protagonistes de l'initiative, comme on le sait, ne font pas fi, mais en exposant tout simplement la vérité. C'est ainsi que les bonnes causes veulent être défendues.

Ici ou là, des défections seront inévitables. Le vote du canton de Berne apparaît d'ores et déjà comme douteux, pour ne rien dire de plus. On y a vu — entre autre fâcheux symptômes — l'association des instituteurs primaires donner son adhésion à la démagogie. Motif de plus pour que la Suisse romande se dresse le 2 juin pour la défense de notre constitution démocratique et contre les naufrageurs du franc suisse!

Léon Savary. (Tribune de Genève).

THE "KRISENINITIATIVE."

In our last issue of May the 18th, we published an article which recently appeared in the "Statist" entitled "A Dangerous Experiment."

The article contained an obviously erroneous statement, namely the one that the Federal Council was responsible for putting the referendum before the Swiss people on the 2nd of June next, whilst, of course, a specially formed "Initiativ Komitee" has collected the necessary signatures and thus forced a referendum.

The statement was so obviously erroneous that no commentary on our part was necessary, as far as our readers are concerned, but steps have been taken to have this misleading article corrected in the columns of our English contem-

THE ROMANTIC CANTON OF THE GRAY LEAGUES.

By SYDNEY A. CLARK.

Of Switzerland's twenty-two cantons the largest, the loftiest and the most "different" in background is the Grisons, whose German name is Graubünden. This is the canton of the Lia Grischia (Gray League), which was pluralized in name in 1471 when the League of the House of God and the League of the Ten Jurisdictions in lower valleys joined with the Gray League in "perpetual union." Jürg Jenatsch was the Gray Hero and he so fired the spirit of these remote valleys that the people maintained themselves as an independent nation actually until 1803, which is only "yesterday" in European history.

There is nothing gray about this glorious Swiss canton to-day except its name and the Graues Haus (Gray House) of government in lovely Chur, the cantonal capital. The colors of the Grisons are the lustrous greens of Engadine firs, the blues of lake and sky, the dazzling white of virgin snow fields.

In sheer variety no other canton in Switzer-land can match this largest one. It contains one hundred and fifty Alpine valleys and in some of them life is almost as primitive as anywhere in Europe. Yet it also contains St. Moritz, a leading world centre of fashionable sport, besides numerous other resorts of hardly less fame, such as Pontresina, Arosa and Davos. Its climate is quite as varied, for it includes a great part of the lofty Swiss-Italian watershed and hundreds of sky-piercing peaks, and yet in the region about Chur peaches are grown and even grapes and figs. The religion of the Grisons is strangely assorted, as though the different villages had chosen their faith by lot. It is almost evenly divided between Catholic and Protestant, but one often finds Catholic straying in Protestant valleys and Protestant villages in Catholic valleys. Occasionally, and very sensibly, the same church serves both congregations at different hours and the same pulpit welcomes priest and Zwinglian pastor.

In language the Gray Leagues canton is delightfully scrambled. German is predominant and yet fifteen per cent. of the inhabitants speak Italian and over thirty per cent. still speak that curious "village Latin" called Romansch. It is, in fact, the last stronghold of the dying tongue and I have seen public notices in remote valleys posted only in Romansch. A conspicuous sample of the tongue is seen in the words painted on the façade of the town hall of St. Moritz:

IL SEGNER BENDESCHA LA PRUMA CUORSA DELLA VITA DA NOSS CHERS INFAUNTS.

Another sample which I noted on a labourer's dwelling in St. Moritz exhibits the same odd mixture: LAVUR DEL HOM AIS L'ORNA-MAINT PU BUN.

A "Rhaeto Romansch Society" exists in the Grisons for the preservation of this ancient tongue. Cantonal and Federal authorities give it their protection and Romansch literature and song have actually taken a new lease of life to-day.

The Grisons, and especially its upper portion, the Engadine, has won its immense popularity not by any fluke of chance, but by its beauty, its crisp air and the intelligent development which man has given it. I always grow belligerent, not to say wrathy, when I hear tourists deplore the "civilization" of Switzerland. There is enough pristine savagery left in the world, even in the Swiss world, to satisfy the lustiest vagabond. Let him walk to Saas-Fee in the Valais and beyond. Let him climb to the glacier lake of Oeschinen in the Bernese Oberland. Not every peak has been tamed by the funicular nor every valley by the motor road, but it is very wonderful to see how much of their superb country the Swiss people have brought within reach of everybody.

The Engadine would be a sealed book to almost all of us were it not for Swiss enterprise and skill, and we would thereby miss one of the grandest parts of this planet. As it is we may visit in comfort such scenes as dreams are made of and we may live in comfort amid our dreams. The express railway curves its way gently up to grandeur; the cog-wheel railway and funicular climb still higher "hand over hand;" the great yellow post buses, sounding their musical hallali, cork-screw up-over-and-down through glorious forests, beside sky-lakes of cobalt blue, past grim glaciers whose ice was formed before Caesar's day. As if this were a decade of experiment, a true snow-bus which makes even the upper Engadine resorts available in winter. Preceded by a giant rotary plow to chew a path through twenty-foot drifts, the snow-bus passes on its way with utmost assurance. It has six giant wheels two of which may be lifted and tucked under steel petticoats when the going is good.

To come from the general to the specific and personal, I think of certain very special occasions in my own Grisons experience when Swiss enter-

prise has made actuality greater than my dreams. I remember a breakfast on the terrace of the station restaurant at Alp Grüm on the Bernina railway. This is the only railway which has the temerity to climb over the Alps instead of burrowing through them. At the top of the pass it skirts two little lakes, one called Lej Nair (Romansch for Black Lake) and the other Lago Bianco (Italian for White Lake). They are on the ridgepole of the world. The Black Lake's waters tumble north and east many hundreds of miles to reach at last the Black Sea. The White Lake spills its waters southward to reach Lake Como, the Po and finally the Adriatic. If a dam were built to raise the Black Lake a mere sixty feet it would lose interest in Germany, Austria, the Danube and the Black Sea and would join its white colleague in trying to raise the level of the Adriatic.

Breakfast on the Alp Grüm terrace was made possible for me by the wonderful Bernina railway, and what a spot for coffee and Hörnchen and honey! It hangs in mid-air opposite the clean blue Palü Glacier, a mile or so above the luscious Poschiavo Valley, which is still Switzerland, though it looks like Italy, and a mile below the shimmering glory of the peak called Piz Palü.

The sturdy post buses of the Grisons made possible for me two sights whose loveliness and grandeur my imagination could never have pictured. One was the Lenzerheide Pass from Chur to Tiefencastel, a station on the Rhaetian Railway. The last three miles of this ride, the descent to the "deep Castle," unfolded a vision of lake and pine perfections hardly to be equalled elsewhere even in the glamorous canton of the Lia Grischia. The other special sight was the Viamala Gorge of the pass which leads through the Hinterrhein valley, one of the most exciting spectacles in all Switzerland. Viamala means, of course, Bad Road, that is Viscious Road, but its fangs have been drawn by Swiss highway engineers. The pass which was once the terror of the boldest muleteers is now traversed by comportably upholstered post buses. Below the formerly Vicious Road, in fact one hundred and sixty feet below it, the young "Hinter Rhine" boils through a very deep slit in the rock which it has carved. They say the river is five feet wide and eighty feet deep. In some places the rock walls all but touch.

At a bridge called Zweite Brücke occurred a strange and ghastly tragedy in 1917. A company of Swiss cavalry was posting over this bridge when one of the mounts grew skittish and whimsically leaped the parapet. In less time than it takes to put it into words horse and rider plunged to oblivion and no trace of either was ever found. The Young Rhine swallowed them as an unexpected little tidbit and gaily raced on. It may be remarked in this connection that Swiss buses, equipped with every known brake, never grow skittish. Nor do Swiss railways and funiculars. Dizzy gorges, corkscrew tunnels, lofty bridges, forty-five degree gradients are everyday affairs to them and they take them in their stride.

The canton of the Gray Leagues is something which gets into one's system and becomes chronic. One visits St. Moritz and is lured on to Silvalpana and Maloja. One visits Davos and is lured to Schuls, Tarasp and Vulpera. A stay in Chur is unthinkable without a side trip by the little blue electric train to glorious Arosa. These names with many others that spring into the mind, Bevers, Samaden, Filisur and Klosters, Pontresina, Celerina, Thusis, Flims and Disentis, have the promise of magic in them and they richly fulfill their promise. The villages that bear them, whether simple or sophisticated, whether clad in sport garments or robed in luxurious satin, nestle in their lofty valleys in perfect confidence that as long as mankind continues to seek beauty and romance they will never be forgotten.

PROFESSOR DR. ADOLF KELLER'S LECTURE.

Dr. Keller is no stranger in the Swiss Colony, He has preached already years ago from the pulpit of our Churches and spoken to certain groups of our compatriots.

None is more au fait, as to the religious situation of the world at the present time, travelling, as he does, from one country to another and probing everywhere the spiritual pulse of the nations.

His impression of England as compared to that of the Continent was one of happy surprise, he said, in his lecture at the Foyer Suisse on Saturday 18th inst. — England seems still to enjoy the old security which existed elsewhere formerly. On the Continent, on the contrary, that sense of security is gone. Gigantic forces, demoniacal forces seem to be leading towards a terrific crash. There is the famine and the persecution in Russia. Only those who do not know or do not wish to know, can say the contrary. And in Germany, the octopus of totalitarianism is crushing the souls of many who want to give to Cesar's what is Cesar's but reserve to God what should be His.

There and elsewhere the Church of Christ is driven down to the catacombe — yet even that will not destroy her. She has become a witnessing Church and we see a revival which means the rebirth of the faith — the real faith which is living trust in God. —

Even in Switzerland that shaking of the old fundaments is to be felt: the activity of the Godless movement is clearly felt and anxiety as to

Our only hope is God, a living trusting faith in God.

All who heard Dr. Keller have taken home ample food for deep reflections and feel very grateful to him for his prophetic speech. X.

SOME OF THE FORTHCOMING EVENTS 1935.

June

International "Public Hygiene Work" Congress at Geneva.

June 2

VIIIth Summer Ski Races Weissmeilen Fursch at Flums.

Second Automobile Grand Prix of Montreux at Montreux.

Federal "National Gymnastics Day" at Lucerne.

Golf Match "Mixed Foursomes" at Lucerne.

International Labor Conference at Geneva. June 15

Golf Match " Tagblatt Cup " at Lucerne.

June 15-30

Fencing Championship of Europe at Lausanne. June 18-29

Bach Festival at Zurich.

June 20

Corpus Christi Procession at Fribourg.

Corpus Christi Procession in National Costumes at Appenzell. Corpus Christi Procession at Einsiedeln.

Corpus Christi Procession in Ancient Costumes in the Lötschen Valley.

Corpus Christi Procession and observation of "Burghers' Drink" at Naters near Brig.

June 22-23

Flower Festival at Geneva.

June 22 and following days Golf "Club Match" at Lucerne.

Summer Ski Race above Klosters.

June 29 and 30 and July 1 Federal Singing Festival at Basle (III Category).

July 5, 6 and 7

Federal Singing Festival at Basle (II Category).

July 7, 8 and 9 Federal Singing Festival at Basle (I and IV Category).

July
Fourth International Conference for Public Instruction at Geneva.

July-August
Course of the Geneva School of International
Studies (Prof. A. Zimmern) at Geneva.

American Independence Day Celebrations will be observed at the leading resorts.

July 4-October 12

Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Geneva.

July 6 Golf Match "Pilatus Cup" at Lucerne.

July 6 and 7

Lucerne Cantonal Gymnastics Festival at

Swiss Light Athletic Championship at Lucerne.

July 6, 7 and 8 Music Festival of French Speaking Switzerland at Lausanne.

July 6-14

International Concours Hippique at Lucerne.

July 7 Summer Ski Races on Piz Corvatsch, St. Moritz.

 $\begin{array}{c} \hbox{July 7 or } 14 \\ \hbox{Bernese Oberland Wrestling Festival at Steffis} \end{array}$ burg near Thun.

July 7, 14, 21, 28 Open-air William Tell performances at Interlaken.

July 13 and 14
7th "Swiss Furriers Days" at Lucerne. 18th International Summer Ski Races on Jungfraujoch.

July 14, 21, 28 William Tell performances at Altdorf.

July 15

Hnd Diavolezza Summer Ski Races above Pontresina.

YOU WANT THE BEST BUY

CHOCOLATES



"ART DESSERT"

ASSORTMENT

5/- 1b.

C. KUNZLE LTD.,

Five Ways, Birmingham, 15. London, 101, Regent Street, W.1

July 15- August 8 Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Neuchâtel.

July 15-August 24 Vacation Courses for Modern French at the University of Lausanne.

July 20 Venetian Night Festival at Lucerne.

Golf Match, "Richard Winch Cup," at Lucerne.

July 20 and 21

International Rowing Regattas at Lucerne.

July 24-29 Vacation Course of the Institute of the Sciences of Education at Geneva.

Telephone Numbers: MUSEUM 4302 (Visitors) MUSEUM 7055 (Office) Telegrams: SOUFFLE WESDO, LONDON

"Ben faranno i Pagani.
Purgatorio C. xiv. Dante
"Venir se ne dee giû
tra' miei Meschini."
Dante. Inferno. C. xxvii,

Established over 50 Years.

PAGANI'S RESTAURANT

GREAT PORTLAND ST., LONDON, W.I.

LINDA MESCHINI
ARTHUR MESCHINI

| Sole Proprietors.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines:—Per insertion 2/6; three insertions 5/Postage extra on replies adressed c/o Swiss Observer.

BOARD RESIDENCE. Direct Line City and West-end. 1 min. bus Chalk Farm. Continental cooking. Large garden. Piano, Phone. Sunny rooms, some with running water. Moderate Terms. Enquire: H. Simmen, 17, Fellows Road, N.W.3. (Tel. Primrose 3181).

MITTELHOLZER, BIEDER, Rare Air Mail Covers 1913 onwards, also old and modern Swiss Stamps for Sale. Approval against References. Schmid, 19, St. Philip's Avenue, Eastbourne, Sussex.

BONNE à tout faire, non couchée; très peu cuisine; sachant un peu coudre; bonnes références. Week ends à la mer. Ecrire: Madame Daston, 148B, Sloane Street, S.W.1, qui convoquera.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, May 25th, at 2.45 p.m. — Swiss Sports — at Herne Hill Athletic Grounds. — Admission free by ticket only.

Saturday, June 1st at 3.30 (tea at 4 p.m.) urday, June 18t at 3.30 (tea at 4 p.m.)—Sunday School of the "Schweizerkirche"—Social afternoon — at the Foyer Suisse, 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.I. A series of Lantern Slides, as well as a film will be shown of "The children's journey to Switzerland last Autumn."

Tuesday, June 4th at 7.30 sharp — City Swiss Club — Réunion d'été — at Brent Bridge Hotel, Hendon. (See Advert.).

Wednesday, June 5th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

Thursday, June 27th, from 7—10.30 p.m. (Tea from 6 o'clock, buffet from 8—9 o'clock) Fête Suisse — at Central Hall, Westminster. (opposite Westminster Abbey).

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2. and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

> Capital Paid up £6,400,000 Reserves - £1,560,000 Deposits - - £39,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

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

Drink delicious Ovaltine at every meal-for Health!

Divine Bervices.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762). (Langue française). 79, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2. (Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche 26 Mai — 11h. — Mr. le pasteur F. Christol — pour échange.

7h. — Prédication M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme. Dimanche 2 Juin 11h. — Confirmation.

R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6 S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses les mariages et autres actes religieuses, les mariages et autres actes ecclésiastiques.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2. (near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 26. Mai 1935.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntag-

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

Mittwoch, den 29. Mai 1935. Wochenabendgottesdienst um 6 Uhr 30.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmanden-stunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Tele-phon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch 5-6 Uhr im "Foyer Suisse."

Printed for the Proprietors, by The Frederick Printing Co., Ltd., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.