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:	- (1936)
Heft:	740
Artikel:	Switzerland - a country that shies at change
Autor:	[s.n.]
DOI:	https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686969

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. <u>Mehr erfahren</u>

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. <u>En savoir plus</u>

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. <u>Find out more</u>

Download PDF: 17.09.2025

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

Che 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. 15-No. 740

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{UNITED KINGDOM} \\ \textbf{AND COLONIES} \end{array} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} 3 \\ 6 \\ 12 \end{array}, \begin{array}{c} \textbf{Months} (13 \text{ issues, post free}) \\ 12 \\ \textbf{math solution} (52 \\ \textbf{math solution}, \textbf{math solution}) \end{array} \right. \\ \end{array} \right.$ { 6 Months (26 issues, post free) - Frs. 7.50 12 (52) - 14.--SWITZERLAND (Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postschech-Konto Basle V 5718).



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

FEDERAL.

SWITZERLAND'S TRADE WITH ITALY.

SWITZERLAND'S TRADE WITH ITALY. The Swiss Government is applying the econo-mic and financial sanctions adopted by the League against Italy. But, owing to Switzer-land's peculiar situation, she has not stopped commercial exchanges with Italy. She has in-stead reduced them by quotas calculated on the trade figures of 1934, which was a low-record year. Switzerland being a neutral country, as recognised by the international treaties and the League, has also suppressed the transit and ex-portation of arms, and war materials both to Italy and Abyssinia. The conscouences of these measures are

Taty and Adyssina. The consequences of these measures are already shown in the November trade returns. During that month, imports from Italy were 7,600,000 francs, as against 8,200,000 francs in November, 1934, and 7,700,000 francs in October, 1935. Exports to Italy were 6,400,000 francs against 9,000,000 francs in November, 1934, and 6,600,000 frances in October 1925. 6,600,000 francs in October, 1935.

The movement of goods through the St. Got-hard tunnel was very active until November 18th, when it declined for a few days, as German coal when it declined for a few duth November 18th, when it declined for a few days, as German coal consignments to Italy went through the Brenner. After some time, however, the transit traffic again increased. In November the Federal Rail-ways carried 237,000 tons more goods than in October, 1935, and 600,000 tons more than in November, 1934. Though no exact figures are available before the beginning of 1936, it may be surmised that a great part of the increase is due to the movement of goods sent to Italy by some North European countries. It is impossible for Switzerland to stop this traffic — except in the case of war material and arms — as the St. Got-hard line is ruled by an international convention concluded with Germany and Italy when these countries supplied funds for the completion of the line and tunnel. The convention cannot be de-nounced by Switzerland alone. It can only be broken with the consent of the other parties. U.S.SWISS TRADE PACT SIGNED.

U.S.-SWISS TRADE PACT SIGNED.

It is announced that a trade agreement has just been signed between the United States and Switzerland at Washington, after negotiations lasting several months.

TOURIST TRADE WITH SWITZERLAND.

Tourist traffic from Germany to Switzerland, which was suspended a fortnight ago, is to be resumed. The suspension was the German reply resumed. The suspension was the German reply to the Swiss decision to stop advancing money on German tourists' letters of credit from January 15th. The working of the clearing agreement, which was based on an exchange of German coal for Swiss services to German tourists, had resulted in large German debits to Switzerland and the Swiss were reluctant to see these in-crease. Negotiations were then begun and an agreement was reached on Saturday.

BANQUE FEDERALE, S.A.

The Banque Federale S.A. is the first of Switzerland's leading banks to announce its net profit for 1935. This amounts to Sw.Frs. 3,476,752 (£231,783), compared with Sw.Frs. 3,857,096 (£257,139) for 1934.

The Administrative Council does not pro-pose to pay a dividend (a 3 per cent. payment was made for 1934), but to use Sw.Frs.2,106,000 (£140,000) for amortisation of 16,479 Banque Fédérale shares, which were bought up by its subsidiaries during 1935.

At the end of 1934 the bank's frozen assets in Germany were valued at Sw.Frs.135,000,000 ((29,000,000)). During the past year part of these assets were liquidated and entailed heavy losses. The council proposes to use £1,000,000 from extra-ordinary reserves and another £60,000 from the profits to cover these losses and for depreciation.

LONDON, JANUARY 18, 1936.

LEAGUE PAYS A DIVIDEND.

The 1935 League of Nations Budget figures, which have been published by the Secrétariat, reveal a pleasant surprise for States members.

They show that the cash balance held by the League on December 31st amounted to 8,998,000 Swiss francs, approximately £600,000 at the pre-sent rate of exchange. After deduction of 1,000,000 francs, which is to be transferred to the reserve fund, the balance

will be shared out between Governments. Contributions received during 1935 in respect of the current year were a record in the League's history.

SWITZERLAND AND THE GOLD STANDARD.

Dr. Mever, President of the Swiss Confedera br. heyer, resident of the swiss concernation tion and Minister of Finance, speaking in the National Council, said the Government would offer a determined opposition to monetary devalu-ation because it could only lead to a disastrous rise in prices

FAREWELL OF MINISTER WAGNIERE.

FAREWELL OF MINISTER WAGNIERE. M. Wagnière, Swiss Minister in Rome, took farewell of the Swiss Colony on Saturday last. The Swiss Colony offered a Banquet to the departing diplomat, at which over 200 people took part; amongst them all the Swiss Consuls in Italy. M. Motta, chief of the political Dept., sent a telegram of congratulation. Many speeches ware made. The demorting Winister veroeixed a

were made. The departing Minister received a present from the Swiss Colony. UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES IN SWITZERLAND.

According to figures just published, there are at present 118,775 unemployed in Switzerland or 25,579 more than at the same period in 1934. Fifty per cent. of the unemployed belong to the building trade.

LOCAL.

M. E. Thormann, a former judge at the Superior Court of the canton Berne for 35 years, has died in Berne at the age of 81. M. Thormann was a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Berne. In the army he held the rank of a com-mander of an Infantry Brigade.

BERNE.

From Grosshöchstetten comes the news of the death of Dr. Fritz Bühlmann at the age of 88. He was for many years (31) a member of the Grand Council and the National Council (43), and played an important part in Swiss political circles. In the army he reached the rank of an Army-corps Commander.

M. Friedrich Haller, formerly "Direktor des Eidgenössischen Amtes für geistiges Eigentum " has died in Berne at the age of 92.

ZURICH.

M. H. Naegeli-Fröhner, the oldest inhabitant of Zurich has celebrated his 95th birthday anni-versary. M. Naegeli is a landscape painter.

Professor J. J. Hess-von Wyss, the well-known Orientalist at the University of Zurich, has celebrated his 70th birthday anniversary. Dr. Hess has been since 1918 a lecturer at the Uni-versity of Zurich; at the early age of 23 he held already the post of a Professor at the University of Freiburg.

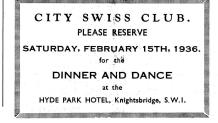
BASLE.

Dr. Friedrich Zschokke, formerly Professor of Zoology at the University of Basle, has died in Basle at the age of 76. Dr. Zschokke has been connected with the University since 1887; he is the author of many books connected with Zoology.

NEUCHATEL.

M. Paul Benner has been appointed head of the Academy of music in Neuchâtel, in succes-sion to the late M. Georges Humbert. URI.

The death has occurred at Schattdorf of M. Joh. Walker, a former "Landrat" and "Oberrichter " at the age of 97.



TICINO.

Owing to sanctions having come in force against Italy, three Forwarding Agents Firms had to reduce their staff by altogether fifty employees.

PRICE 3d.

ST. GALLEN.

ST. GALLEN. Dr. Mächler, a member of the cantonal government, and President of the Liberal Party of the canton of St. Gall, has intimated that he wishes to retire from his post. Dr. Mächler entered the cantonal government in 1902 at the age of 34; on several occasions he held the post of "Landammann." Dr. Mächler was a member of the National Council from 1905-1933 over which he presided in 1924. AARGAU.

AARGAU.

M. J. Buser-Morf, senior-chef of the well-known firm Buser-Keiser and Co. A.G. in Laufen-burg, (manufacturers of knitting goods) has cele-brated recently his golden wedding anniversary (50 years).

AS OTHER'S SEE US.

SWITZERLAND - A COUNTRY THAT SHIES AT CHANGE.

A National Characteristic and What it has Led to. By FERDINAND TUOHY (Sphere 21.12.35).

These are the times when many English thoughts turn zestfully to Switzerland.

thoughts turn zestfully to Switzerland. Sanctions are unlikely to be discussed more than fitfully in St. Moritz and the Engadine. They are not going to be discussed here save as the imposed peg upon which to suspend the balance of this story. For (regardless of whether skis and rink beckon at this juncture) something so odd has latterly occurred with Switzerland as to warrant one's taking a close-up of this small but nodal nation and of its affairs : the oddity arising out of Sanctions.

President Wilson, let us remind ourselves, not only held out for Geneva as seat of his League not only held out for Geneva as seat of his League of Nations against opposing claims for Brussels and Vienna, but did not cease lauding the Swiss spirit as demonstrated over long years by the comprehending and amicable living side by side of twenty-two different little States or Republics of varying race, language, and interests, the Swiss Cantons. The Princeton professor pointed to their political organisation, and asked, "Why cannot we mould a larger Switzerland to com-prise us all?"

And, lo, it was so. All the twenty-two Swiss Cantons, big and little, enjoy the same rights in the Confederation, but there are two or three "director" Cantons which retain the privilege of always being represented on the Federal Coun-cil. All the fifty-six States-Members of the League, big and little, enjoy the same rights in the Assembly, but there are five or six "direc-tor" States which retain the privilege of always being represented on the League Council (blux) being represented on the League Council (plus seven or eight others that enjoy such privilege for three years with claim to renewal.)

When, therefore, having squatted at Geneva and copied the Swiss Constitution, the League of Nations, on its first major attempt at self-asser-tion, found Switzerland among the four States-Members that refused to "march" in conformity with the Covenant, its reactions varied from surprise to disapproval and even indignation. Switzerland would not go the whole hog, or even hedgehog. Why?

hedgenog. wny: The Swiss will reply by pointing to their strictly republican ideology — independence, equality, neutrality. For present purposes the first two may be accepted and passed over. "Neutrality" is what M. Motta, Switzerland's perennial spokesman, pleaded in extenuation of weant babaviour recent behaviour.

recent behaviour. "To understand the peculiar character of Swiss neutrality," observes Professor François, of Geneva University, and a leading figure in Swiss literary life, "it is necessary to consider the make-up of the Swiss people. Its perpetual neutrality dates from the beginning of the six-teenth century, when the Swiss soldiery as such ceased to play an active rôle on the battlefields of Europe. From that time on Switzerland nas, as far as possible, kept out of quarrels of the great Powers of Europe. Our neutrality became a guaranteed one by the treaties of 1815, when the Powers recognised that Switzerland's special position as guardian of the Alpine passes was of European interest. Foreign critics have imputed Switzerland's voluntary meutrality to weakness Switzerland's voluntary neutrality to weakness and even to cowardice. This charge can be dis-

posed of by simply pointing out that Switzerland's political neutrality in no wise implies moral neu-trality. The great majority of the Swiss people applanded the Allied victory of 1918. For them applauded the Allied victory of 1918. For them it meant the end of four long years of anguish, privation, armed vigilance, and philanthropic effort. Neutrality for the Switzerland of the twentieth century is primarily a form of its inde-pendence. The Confederation, encircled by three or four Powers all of which on occasion try to draw it into its orbit, must remain friendly to-ward each without binding itself to any of them.

"The voluntary neutrality practised by Switzerland is also essential to its system of equality. In this way only can there be an equili-brium of twenty-two Sovereign States, three brium of twenty-two Sovereign States, three races, and three or four linguistic communities. Each of these communities draws part of its spiritual strength from the larger communities to which it is outwardly attached. Switzerland, as a nation, would perish if it could not refresh itself at the living sources of the great cultural traditions which its diverse races and languages represent. The French-Swiss mind looks primarily towards France, the Italian-Swiss to-wards Italy, and the German-Swiss towards Ger-many. Each of them feels that in its Swiss assomany. Each of them feels that in its Swiss asso-ciation it represents its own cultural homeland, while neutrality becomes a form of tolerance and opens the way for the interpenetration of Swit-zerland's three minds and three cultures, which are otherwise perfectly independent.

are otherwise perfectly independent. The foregoing was enunciated before Sanc-tions. The trouble is that it might also have been enunciated before the League of Nations. Like others, Switzerland is agt conveniently to over-look that in 1919 she signed things — undertook without reserve to join in collective action in certain eventualities. That the Confederation stands in special case, no one would dream of denying, yet its special case was no different in 1919 from what it is to-day. It will be for the Swiss themselves to experience whether a truer and a safer "neutrality" may not have resided in stricter fidelity to the League: also time will in stricter fidelity to the League; also time will show whether, having acted as turntable in so many things — international transport and in-

A YORKSHIREWOMAN IN SWITZERLAND A HUNDRED YEARS AGO.

By MOLLIE GREEN.

(Continued).

Slept at Schaffhausen on the 30th, and pro-Slept at Schaffhausen on the 30th, and pro-ceeded to Constance on Sunday the 1st instant ... Wednesday the 4th inst. Strolled over the con-vent of Münsterlingen, drank some excellent wine in the cellar (the long vaulted cellars full of huge casks that hold 5 or 6,000 bottles, are worth seeing), and shook hands with the lady abbess ... mounted the hills (magnificent views of the lake) to the beautiful and romantically situated little town of St. Gall. The abbey church is the most heantiful Greeian (Corinthian) church we have town of St. Gall. The abbey church is the most beautiful Grecian (Corinthian) church we have ever seen — the view from the top of Freudenberg (immediately above the town of St. Gall) is mag-nificent. In fact we admire St. Gall exceedingly.

... Left Trogen for Rheineck, to see the junc-tion of the Rhine with the Lake of Constance, and then came here (2 leagues further) to see this lively little capital of the lake, a pretty village — the emporium for corn from Suabia, and for all the traffic of the lake. We meant to have come from Rheineck by water, but the lake was too rough — 'tis literally like a sea — the waves splashed against the carriage as we drove along. The road from Trogen to Rheineck is so moun-tainous, we walked 5 miles out of the nine, the ascents and descents being really tremendous — but, literally, our eyes are always more tired than our legs — the scene changes at almost every step, that our visionary powers have, absolutely, Left Trogen for Rheineck, to see the juncthan our legs — the scene changes at almost every step, that our visionary powers have, absolutely, no rest: ... The people seem to meet together, all hereabouts, to sing, in an evening and really sing, all in concert very well — they sing or gurgle the Tyrolese air — if you can imagine this beautiful air sung in a beau-tiful, vox-humana, turkey — cock-splutter, perhaps you can have some idea of the Tyrolese air as executed by the throat of a German-Swiss peasant — quite little boys and girls do it alike well." well.'

Miss Lister and her friends pursued their journey through the Valley of the Rhine to Coire, and were "on the tiptoe of expectation" to see the "celebrated baths of Pfaffers," as Miss Lister expressed it. "The frightful gorge leading to the source of these baths "she continued, "is said to be unique in Europe. You would have laughed to see us mounted — such horses! such saddles! We had a guide at each horse's head — not more than needful — I could not have be-lieved that *horses* could climb such a road — in many places about a yard wide — steep, wooded rock on one side; a frightful precipice down to the foaming Tamina on the other — we passed through the valley of Valens, and, having ridden an hour and a quarter, could ride no farther — the mountains so steep, that, tho' the path was

vestment, to name two notable examples -Switzerland can likewise aspire to be a turntable in tremendous political happenings, whether she can hope to have the best of three worlds, now by indufging Fascism, now the Nazis, now France. The last lost no time in firmly dissenting from the present comfortable reading of "neutrality." Since, of course, the logical deduction must be that the Confederation would similarly decline to fulfil its signature were Sanctions one day ap-plied against a contiguous Germany.

The numerical picture of Switzerland's three cultural entities leaves no option but such deduction. In a population of 4,000,000, 71 per cent. of citizens are German-Swiss, 21 per cent. French, and a little over 6 per cent. Italian (the balance is Romansch). M. Motta justifies non-application of full Sanctions by the sence in the Confederation of under 200,000 tiny balance is Romansch). the of Italian origin. How much more so would be be obliged to be lenient towards a sanctioned Ger-many, with well over 2,500,000 of German origin in the Confederation !

Over-simplification must be fought ever, yet it does seem that a searchlight can be success-fully enough switched on to Switzerland, revealfully enough switched on to Switzerland, reveal-ing a good deal of her present state, if one con-templates her current "neutrality" action as having been the outcome of three major influ-ences. Firstly, a deep distaste for change of any kind. Secondly, the desire of a people très com-merçant to remain "in" with all three client-neighbours of such high purchasing potentiali-ties. Thirdly, Governmental disinclination to bear down on Fascism in view of specific domes-tic phenomena. tic phenomena.

We all have our besetting sins. Ours, seem we all have our besetting sink. Ours, seem-ingly, is hypocrisy. France's, vanity, Germany's, bullying. Italy's, self-dramatization. Switzer-land's may well be middle-class stogginess that declines all change. "As few jolty as possible." No jolting over Sanctions, for instance. "As we were!" You see this distaste for change all over the phage. In manage and membra are well as in the place. In manners and morals as well as in politics and economics, experimentation is avoid-ed. Office-holders are mostly kept on till their deaths or voluntary retirement.

10000000000000000000000000000

cut in traverses, it was almost impossible to walk steadily down it — after walking 25 minutes, came down upon the baths — the valley at the foot of the mountains which are, surely, seven or eight hundred feet high, almost perpendicular on each side — just broad enough for the narrow river and the line of buildings capable of accom-modating two or three hundred persons, high and low, well packed above and below — no flat ground about the baths — the bare rock behind appears out on promodicular. ground about the baths — the bare rock behind appears quite perpendicular ... In the long passages within the building, are shops ... But all was nothing to the frightful passage to the Tource — ten minutes' walk thro, this frightful gorge or cavern, over a couple of planks (very occasionally three planks in breadth), without any guard on the side next the water, wet and slippery with the dropping from the rock — de below, the foaming rapids of the Tamina; - deep above a lofty cavern, (high as the highest point of Castleton cavern), feebly lighted by two or three little breaks — the light from above — one false little breaks — the light from above — one false step, and you are lost. Never in my life, did I see anything of the kind so appallingly fine ... We are off for the Splügen ... crossed the Splügen mountain (the much talked of new road into Italy, begun, as well as that over the St. Bernardino, in 1819, and finished in 1825) and descended by one of the most frightfully magni-ficent roads in Enrone into the fine values of ficent roads in Europe into the fine valley of Chiavenna. ... We had delicious figs, apricots, pears, gooseberries and cherries."

The three English travellers then went through the Tyrol and on to the Italian lakes. Then they returned to Geneva, stopping on the way at Clarens. "... we were much pleased with the village of Clarens, and sat an hour in the house where Lord Byron would be taken, and house where Lord Byron would be taken, and spent two or three days. A young lady who went the other day, kissed his bed twenty times. The house his lordship had at Cologny, near here, seems to have the loveliest situation hereabouts. Lady Byron went to the house at Clarens, but the old woman was from home, had taken the key of the room with her, and her ladyship could not see it. Lord Byron seems to have been much liked see if. Lord Byron seems to have been much liked by the people around him. The old woman told us, she had cried like a child when she heard of his death. We were almost horrorstruck on taking up a Lausanne Gazette at Sion (on Wed. the 22nd inst.) to read the account of the death of Mr. Canning. All Switzerland (protestant Switzerland!) they told us, had wept over him as the best friand of Switzerland of Europa and of the best friend of Switzerland, of Europe, and of liberty

September 11th, Berne. " .. . the people September 11th, Berne. "... the people are civil — the shopkeepers take no advantage of strangers — persons and things are alike neat and clean — the city — the country — the cot-tages — the costumes — all are picturesque and charming ... We were at Hoffwyl yesterday, and

There is much to be said for a country of such levelling in all things as Switzerland shows, with its wide distribution of wealth, its civic discipline deriving from the play of a genuine class equality, its (late-come) religious tolerance, its fraternis-ing institutions bringing all lavers together for ing institutions oringing an lavers together for patriotic, sporting and musical festivities, its unique mingling of race and language under the one flag. "No change" enthusiasts point to it all as the inheritance that must be shielded at every cost. Yet there is another side to the story.

Switzerland's vaunted "innate conservatism" can be fearfully injurious, as is being currently demonstrated in the case of two o'erspreading national problems: remaining on gold and the railways

Under the demand of the great banking cor Under the demand of the great banking cor-porations which sprang from the fat years, the Government must stick to its fetish, but in so doing it must needs order still further deflation to meet a Budget deficit of £4,000,000. (That may not sound much, but it is a quarter of the national income, the equivalent of £182,000,000 with ourselves.) New taxes, further compression of State salaries, further administrative cuts — the neutrol trio, has just heav ordered once arein the usual trio has just been ordered once again.

As for the railways, which are State con-trolled, ther are losing £7 a minute. Their pre-sent debt is over £200,000,000, and it mounts sent debt is over 220,000,000, and it mounts daily to the tune one can imagine. The railways have long been a notorious scandal of over-staffing, duplication, unheard of wages, and resultant sky-high fares that drive all who can on the the neutron with the number of the rains with to the roads. But the sumptuous trains with their posh staffs run on, over the most expensive, electrified, and mountainous system in Europe.

Largely empty. One would think something might be done about those trains. Well, an opportunity occurred last September when a referendum was taken on the revision of the Constitution. The The Revision is the revision of the Constitution. The Revisionists wanted to do something about the railways but lost the day by 501,000 votes to 194,000. I was in Bâle that Sunday and watched the figures go up in the Marktplatz. Admittedly much else was under judgment : I am coming to that. But what other country would not have

exceedingly interested. M. Fellenberg's second son showed us all over, and was most attentive. You remember what a noise was made by Mr. Brougham's letters on the subject of this school.

If you have any letters for me from Mariana, will you forward them to Geneva, post restante there. We shall be obliged to return here — stay there. a day, and then hurry to Geneva whence we shall take the diligence for Lyons — stay one day there, and then make the best of our way home." Only seven years elapsed before the charm of

Switzerland lured Miss Lister to Geneva again.

"1834, July 1st. Geneva. We are very com-fortable, have a very good apartment, and have a beautiful view of the mountains — (the river, the beautiful view of the mountains — (the river, the handsome bridge, finished six weeks ago, the quai, so improved with large, good, arcaded, stone buildings, that I should not know the place again) — are just under our windows ... Our luxury is mountain strawberries of which we make half our breakfast and almost all our des-sert ... Things are not very cheap here, as you will move from the strawberries of the back of sert ... Things are not very cheap here, as you will suppose from our strawberries at breakfast this morning, costing four francs! — the same would have (cost) 30 or 40 sols $(1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 francs) in Paris ... Great particularity about passports here, too — they say it is in consequence of the late business at Lyons.

July 22nd ... These 17 days upon muleback, making what is called the grand tour of Mont Blanc, have quite cured us both. We have really done great things — people would hardly believe us if we told them. We made Chamonix our We mounted George (i.e. their coachman) on the baggage mule and left Eugenie with the carriage at Sallenche, about twenty miles from Chamonix - large carriages not being able to get nearer. George did very well, and we enjoyed our moun-tain wanderings exceedingly. We traversed the principal passes immediately around Mt. Blanc, principal passes immediately around n. Dann, over snow and ice, and rock and precipices — such scrambling as nobody ever saw for four-footed animals in England. Of course, our hotels were not always magnificent." The friend who accompanied Miss Lister on this expedition then were not always magnitude. The mediators accompanied Miss Lister on this expedition then continues the letter, describing the places where they slept. "At Mottets we slept between the cows and the hayloft and at the village des Ferret there were two rooms, for us, guides, George, and the poor widow with eight children. We thought at first that George must sleep at the foot of our bed, but a bed was at last contrived for him in the room with the family ... (!!! Ed.) ... the people were very civil and attentive and we were really very tolerably comfortable, and I assure you these little adventures not only served us to laugh at, at the time, but they made us feel the comfort and value afterwards of a good hotel." *The End*

removed the catastrophic railways from constitutional referendums, have made of them a separate issue, either before or since? Not so the Swiss. No change. The railways have lost a further £35 No change. The railways have since I began this paragraph.

since I began this paragraph. From the above budgetary remarks it can be imagined that Switzerland wishes to cling like the ivy to each of her outsize neighbours, Sanc-tions or no Sanctions. Owing to the falling away in the four chief Swiss export fields, tourism (invisible export), machinery and watches, lace and embroidery, and milk and chocolate pro-ducts, the trade balance is a sad affair. A further complication has to do with the increasing part industry now plays in a land that used to be three-parts agricultural. These industries, im-porting raw materials, must find markets abroad for their output, and the three big neighbours have ever been the principal recipients. How offend any one of them? Bloated but stagnant Swiss banking is no less eager to find opportuni-ties abroad. Again, how offend puissant neigh-bours? bours?

To come lastly to the internal political situa-tion as this may have influenced the "neutrality" policy.

policy. As an islet of law and order set in a troubled sea of surrounding Fascism, Nazi-ism, French internecine strife, and ever-penetrating Soviet-ism, Switzerland is in a singularly vulnerable position, the more so if we bear in mind that she gives haven to no fewer than 400,000 aliens of all kinds, one-tenth of the whole population. Highly combustible material in all directions. Domestically, the country is split in three. On the right the Frontists. On the left the Com-munist-Socialists. In the centre the great broad No Change middle-class mass. At the recent referendum Frontists and Communist-Socialists went into the same urn. Not because they liked one another, but because each wanted to revise what they claimed to be the obsolescent 1874 Con-stitution. The Frontists which to revise in the direction of reducing parliamentary power for more direct and efficient handling of modern problems. The Communist-Socialists desired, within the Constitution, representative bodies to deal with economic and social questions affecting the working man. But the great No Change Swiss middle class said to the former : "We fear you are concealing your true selves and that you would introduce Fascism," and to the latter : "We are certain that once given power of re-vision, you would run to all sorts of extremes." And the mational urn did the rest : nearly a three to one victory for No Change. A short while previously, and to the general surprise, there was very nearly no change in con-As an islet of law and order set in a troubled

A short while previously, and to the general A short while previously, and to the general surprise, there was very nearly no change in con-nection with a referendum extending military service. Switzerland is rearming on land and in the air, its fears of violation being real. Yet the new military service measure only scraped through by something like 500,000 to 450,000 votes. Once again Switzerland was chary in the extreme about decreeing change.



LE NOEL DES ENFANTS DE LA COLONIE SUISSE DE LONDRES.

THE SWISS OBSERVER.

Une fois de plus et pour la ... vingt-septième ! quelques membres dévoués de la Colonie suisse ont organisé la Fête de Noël pour les petits.

Messieurs René Hoffmann-de Visme et C. Campart, fort bien secondés, sont à la tâche, car tous tiennent à mettre sur pied cette grande fête, qui chaque année, demande un travail délicat et persévérant.

C'est ainsi que le 4 janvier, dans les vastes salles du Victoria Hall à Southampton Row, se réunirent près de 400 enfants avec leurs parents.

D'emblée, je remarque qu'il y règne une ambiance sympathique, et que les enfants s'im-patientent, à juste raison, car pour eux c'est un événement marquant dans l'année. — Plus tard, dans nombre d'années — beaucoup se rappelle-ront de ce qu'ils ont vu et entendu autour de l'arbre de Noël traditionnel, de cette Suisse dont les annés parlent et qui nome eux est ençors ei les aînés parlent, et qui pour eux est encore si lointaine

Pendant ces quelques heures de présence, ces rendant ces quelques heures de presence, ces petits auront acquis un idéal de notre pays, un souvenir inoubliable de leur origine, méme si les circonstances dans la vie les obligent à choisir ou à adopter une seconde patrie.

On ne pourra jamais assez louer le dévoue-ment des membres de notre Colonie, qui cherchent à maintenir un contact constant entre le pays et les exilés. Il est juste de mentionner ici l'effort que font les Suisses d'Angleterre année après année pour réunir leurs enfants, car Noël c'est bien la fête des jeunes. Ce succès annuel est un geste d'autant plus vibrant qu'il se déroule dans cadre d'amitiés anglo-suisses.

le cadre d'amitiés anglo-suisses. La fête débute par des chants de Noël exécutés par les enfants, puis M. le Pasteur Hoffmann-de Visme rappelle à tous, le motif de fêter Noël, l'histoire de la nativité que l'assis-tance écoute avec receuillement. Succèdent Mes-sieurs Steiner et Joss qui ont l'art de créer une atmosphère de gaieté, et entrafnant avec eux cette innombrable famille, dont les chansons rem-plissent de joie parents et enfants. Pendant ce temps, le grand arbre s'est allumé, et l'on sent ... le sapin brûlé. La joie augmente, lorsque M. von Bergen se présente sur l'estrade et " jodle " quel-ques unes de nos chansons bien connues. Là, j'ai remarqué des coeurs émus de mères, tenant par remarqué des coeurs émus de mères, tenant par la main leurs enfants, ces dames devaient être de la-bas ..., des marionnettes très adroitement présentées rehaussent l'entrain ; le tout se déroule avec grande dextérité et surtout d'une manière avec grande dexterité et survout à une manère expressive, chose toujours difficile à réaliser auprès des enfants. Le coup d'œil est charmant d'observer ce monde d'enfants, où reflètent dans leurs yeux les multiples petites flammes de l'arbre; la scène est décorée aux couleurs natiol'arbre; la scène est décorce aux couleurs natio-nales des deux pays, à remarquer quelques plantes vertes. L'arbre " brûle " encore quand les en-fants sont appelés dans une salle voisine. Là, thé et gâteaux, tout y est appétissant, et bientôt, tous sont coiffés d'un bonnet de papier trouvé dans des " surprises;" les tables sont abondamment garnies de friandises gracieusement offertes par nos maisons suisses au resta large citors Nastlé arnics de friandises gracieusement offertes par nos maisons suisses au geste large, citons Nestlé à Londres et Kunzle à Birmingham. Un "Père Noël" dans sa longue pélerine rouge à capuchon, apparaît soudainement. Il est bien accueilli, car dans un instant chacun aura son cadeau, il en est remercié d'avance et d'une manière déjà bien "anglo-saxonne," ce double "Itip, hip, hip, Hourrah " des enfants. Le copieux "goûter " se termine, chaque enfant défile devant l'arbre de Noël, afin de recevoir le petit sac si bien préparé et patiemment attendu, joie bien légitime même du plus petit, car il rentrera à la maison heureux d'avoir passé une charmante après-midi où il se sentait libre et choyé, ne pensant guère à l'admi-rable et longue préparation qu'exige à Londres une réunion de cette ampleur.

Il n'est pas possible ici de remercier individuellement toutes les aimables organisatrices, ellement toutes les aimables organisatrices, ce-pendant, l'on ne saurait trop apprécier l'infatiga-ble cheville ouvrière qu'est MIle. Matthey, Mme. Joss 'tonjours' sur la brèche, Mesdames Sidler, Simmen, Muller, Jobin, Campart, Hahn, Meylan, Chapuis, Reber et d'antres encore, qui ne ménagent pas leurs peines; que dire à tous ceux qui font bon accueil au "carnet noir," lorsque dès Pautomne, il va frapper aux portes, si ce n'est que leur encouragement est des plus pré-cieux — ce n'est plus un secret!

Les bougies s'éteingnent une à une, la salle se vide et l'on songe déjà à ce que sera le Noël prochain.

Roger Ceinturier.

Grink delicious"Ovaltine" at every meal-for Health!

SWITZERLAND HAS BEAUTIFUL STAINED **GLASS WINDOWS.**

GLASS WINDOWS. Swiss churches are renowned for their beau-tiful stained glass windows, many of which are masterpieces preserved since the Middle Ages. Many glorious specimens are also to be found in Swiss museums, and may be classified among the finest and most valuable works of art that the country possesses. Particularly handsome is the early Gothic rosette in Lausanne Cathedral, con-sisting of 105 pieces. Important 14th century work may be admired in the former monastery church of Kappel am Albis (Canton Zurich), in the churchyard chapel at Frauenfeld-Oberkirch (Canton Thurgovie), Köniz Church (Canton Berne), and above all in the churches of München-buchsee (Canton Berne) and Blumenstein, near Thun (Canton Berne). Exceptional style and beauty are combined in the famous 14th century choir windows in the former monastery church at Königsfelden (Canton Argovie). These windows, masterpieces of their period, were presented to the Memorial Church for King Albrecht, of the Austrian House of Habsburg. Numerous examples of 15th century late

masterpieces of their period, were presented to the Memorial Church for King Albrecht, of the Austrian House of Habsburg. Numerous examples of 15th century late Gothic work are contained in the churches at Staufberg, near Lenzburg (Canton Argovie), Zofingen (Canton Argovie), Bienne (Canton Berne) and Zweisimmen (Canton Berne). The late Gothic style reached its climax in the monu-mental choir windows of the Berne Münster, which are veritable marvels of light and colour. In the 16th century it was the custom in Switzerland to exchange stained-glass coats of arms and other symbols; it was therefore in this period that this art reached its zenith. A unique cycle of windows, ranging from the 13th to the 17th centuries, is to be found in the Stations of the Cross in the former monastery at Wettingen (Canton Argovie). The group of windows from the Rathausen Monastery as preserved in the Swiss National Museum at Zurich; that from Muri Church in the Astria Museum.

Further excellent groups are to be seen in the Town Hall at Stein am Rhein, the communal Hall at Unterstammheim (Canton Zurich), Jegenstorf Church (Canton Berne) and Lausanne Town Hall.

THE ACADEMY CINEMA, 165, Oxford Street, W.1.

After a successful and well-merited run, Episode has been replaced at this Cinema by "Sans Famille" featuring Robert Lynen, who will be remembered for his remarkable perform-ance in "Poil de Carotte."

ance in "Poil de Carotte." The title explains the story, and although it makes a good entertainment for the young, is rather poor stuff after "Episode." Robert Lynen plays the part of a boy who joins a troupe of strolling players, makes friends with an ancient and rather decrepit opera-singer and finally becomes reunited to his mother from whom he has been separated. The story is rather banal and finishes on a note of classic senti-mentality. M. Vanni-Marcoux plays the part of the ancient vocalist and sings several songs in a manner mostly of an opera singer with M. Vanni-Marcoux's reputation.

manner mostly of an opera singer with M. Vanni-Marcoux's reputation. The photography is pleasing without being sensational and there are some scenes in which a troupe of performing dogs and a monkey make their appearance, which will cause joy to the younger members of the audience. Robert Lynen is as attractive as ever, in spite of the fact that his part is not so powerful as the one he played in Poil de Carotte. "Sans Famille" is a safe film for the child-ren and will not cause them to pass sleepless nights.

nights. ck.

AFFENLIEBE

AFFENLIEBE. Affenliebe ist jene für Liebende und Geliebte gleichmässig anstrengende Verirrung des Herzens, die man zu Unrecht den Affen zuschreibt. Die Affen sind nie solche Affen; der Mensch missbraucht ihren guten Namen zur Kennzeichnung einer menschlichen Verstandes-schwäche, die er als unmenschlichen Verstandes-schwäche, die er Tierwelt scheint ihm besser geeignet als Darsteller einer so lächerlichen Gefühlswariante, und dieser Irrtum ist durchaus verzeihlich, denn das Geschlecht der Affen ist in Gestalt und in urtümlicher Wesensäusserung unsere beste Karikatur. Es sind meistens junge Mütter, die so un-

unsere beste Karikatur. Es sind meistens junge Mütter, die so un-menschlich lieben, wessen Herz aber ist hart genug, dass er dem rührenden Unsinn, den eine Mutter, das quälende Halbmenschlein vor den Angen, sagt oder stammelt, mit nüchterndem Widerspruch begegnen könnte? Eine Mutter die ihren grundhässlichen Säugling entzückend nennt, soll es ungestört tun, wir wollen es ihr lächelnd bestätigen und unser besseres Wissen verhehlen. Der mütterliche Irrtum ist nämlich, und das entscheidet, ihr und uns durchaus unge-fährlich. Der Säugling schadet der Menschheit nicht oder doch höchstens nur dadurch, dass er die Legion der Ueberflüssigen vermehrt, aber das die Legion der Ueberflüssigen vermehrt, aber das