

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: 744

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. 15—No. 744

LONDON, FEBRUARY 15, 1936.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	{ 3 Months (13 issues, post free) -	3/-
	{ 6 " " " "	6/-
	{ 12 " " " "	12/-
SWITZERLAND	{ 6 Months (26 issues, post free) -	Frs. 7.50

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postescheck-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 FINANCE BILL APPROVED.

The Swiss Finance Bill prepared by the Ministry of Finance and endorsed by the Swiss Federal Council, has been approved by both Chambers of Parliament.

By this decision the Swiss Federal Council will be able to take drastic measures during the next two years to cut down expenditure by 58,900,000f., and to increase revenue by 71,500,000f.

Two Parliamentary sessions were necessary to discuss the various proposals of the Bill; it was evident from the beginning that Parliament had been given a most difficult and responsible task.

It is important to note that the approval of the Bill is linked with the so-called Dringlichkeits-Klausen, i.e., the Bill comes into force immediately without the electorate being consulted. In some cases the new Finance programme will have retrospective effect as from January 1st 1936.

The most drastic step, and one which caused a good deal of opposition, was the cut of 15 per cent. in salaries and wages of Federal employees. This will reduce expenditure by 16,400,000f., and the reduction of 5 per cent. in pensions will effect a saving of 3,300,000f.

Industrial subsidies are reduced by as much as 40 per cent. (12,000,000f.), but subsidies for the purpose of work creation, agriculture, and the promotion of exports are not affected.

Among the new sources of revenue is an increase of 25 per cent. in the so-called "crisis-tax" on income exceeding 6,000f. per year, which will bring in an additional 6,000,000f.

Customs duties on sugar and petrol will yield 16,000,000f. each, while new stamp duties are valued at 7,700,000f. Revenue will be further increased by 2,000,000f. through a law making it essential that petrol as a fuel for motors has to be mixed with alcohol. An increase in the duty on tobacco brings in 5,000,000f.

A duty of 1f. per 100 kilogrammes on wheat has been agreed upon, but it will only be enforced if prices in the world market are such that the imposition of a duty does not cause a rise in the price of bread.

A tax of 6 cts. per litre on beer has been fixed. The Swiss Federal Council has been authorised, however, to increase this to 15 cts. should the Federal Treasury show a deficit at the end of the year.

SWISS FOREIGN TRADE.

Swiss foreign trade returns for 1935 show imports reduced by quotas of £85,534,000, against £95,600,000 in 1934; and exports of £54,730,000, against £56,260,000; leaving an adverse balance of £30,804,000, against £39,340,000, which is in the greater part made good by indirect exports. The exports of the four chief industries — watch-making, silk, cotton, and machines — aggregated £24,800,000, compared with £26,400,000 in 1934; there was a drop of £1,400,000 in silk and of £1,600,000 in cotton, but a rise of £300,000 in machines and of over £1,100,000 in watches. The feature is the recovery of the watch-making industry, whose complete ruin was proclaimed four years ago. Watch exports totalled £8,200,000, against £7,100,000 in 1934, £6,400,000 in 1933, and £5,500,000 in 1932.

Exchanges with Great Britain were smaller, imports from her reaching £5,100,000, against £6,100,000 in 1934, and exports to her £5,200,000, against £5,600,000. The five chief suppliers of the Swiss markets were Germany (£22,500,000), France (£13,800,000), Italy (£6,400,000), Great Britain (£5,100,000), and the United States (£4,600,000), while the five best purchasers from Switzerland were Germany (£11,600,000), France

(£8,000,000), Great Britain (£5,200,000), Italy (£4,800,000), and the United States (£3,800,000). The enforcing of sanctions against Italy resulted for November and December in a drop of 30 per cent. in imports from that country and of 27 per cent. in exports to her. In 1935 imports from the British Empire as a whole to Switzerland aggregated £7,800,000, or nearly one-eleventh of all Swiss imports, while purchases by the Empire totalled £7,700,000, or nearly one-seventh of Swiss exports.

GUSTLOFF'S MURDER.

The attempt of the German Press to hold Switzerland responsible for the assassination of the Nazi agent Gustloff is deeply resented throughout Switzerland. There was a soberly worded but severe leading article on the subject in the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung," and the "Journal de Genève" supports the protest of its Zurich contemporaries.

The Berlin Nazi newspaper "Völkischer Beobachter" has gone so far as to demand that Frankfurter, the assassin, should be condemned to death, although the death penalty does not exist in the canton of Grisons, and that the Swiss Press should be "purified."

The "Journal de Genève" says that it is difficult to believe that Press criticisms of Gustloff's activities were responsible for Frankfurter's act, and remarks that Gustloff's activities were political, and that, like other politicians, he was subject to criticism. It further says that objections to the foreign political organisation that he founded in Switzerland were not restricted to the extreme Left.

The "Journal de Genève" is surprised that the "Frankfurter Zeitung" should have referred to Gustloff as a "German official" abroad, and says that from the point of view of the Swiss Government he was a private individual with no official capacity who had no claim to represent his country in Switzerland.

WARNING TO SWISS ANTI-NAZI PRESS.

The Swiss Federal Government has addressed a stern note of warning to two newspapers of the Left in Switzerland, "Le Travail," of Geneva, and "Les Droits du Peuple," of Lausanne, informing them that they must cease inflammatory articles attacking Nazi-ism whether in Germany or in Switzerland.

This is supposed to be the result of M. Motta's recent interview with the German Minister in Berne on the subject of the recent assassination of Herr Gustloff, the Nazi leader, at which interview M. Motta's attention was drawn to the incitements given in the Left Press to acts of violence.

SWISS RESULTS AT OLYMPIC GAMES.

Switzerland finished first and second in the four-man bob-sled Olympic Championship at Garmisch-Partenkirchen.

The Swiss second team (P. Musy, C. Bouvier, J. Beerli and A. Gartmann) finished first in 5 min. 19.85 sec. with the Swiss first team (steered by Capadrutt) second in 5 min. 73 sec.

Switzerland was beaten by Germany (2:0) in the Ice Hockey Match.

SWISS DIPLOMATIC "CHANCELLERIE" IN HUNGARY.

The Federal Council has changed the Swiss General Consulate in Budapest, into a diplomatic "Chancellerie"; M. Broye, at present Counsellor of Legation in Rome, has been appointed "Charge d'Affaires."

M. Kienast, hitherto General Consul in Budapest, will still act in an official capacity.

SWISS-RUSSIAN CONTRACT DECLINED.

The Swiss Government have declined to approve a contract for supplying Russia with the machinery for the manufacture of certain types of watches, on the ground that, although the contract might have given employment to several hundred Swiss workers, dangerous competition from abroad would have resulted.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

PLEASE RESERVE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH, 1936.

for the

DINNER AND DANCE

at the

HYDE PARK HOTEL, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

SWISS NATIONAL BANK.

The net profit for 1935 of the Swiss National Bank was Sw.Frs.4,750,000 (£316,000) — the same as for 1934 — after allocating Sw.Frs. 500,000 (£33,000) to reserve.

The profit will be distributed as follows:— 6 per cent., dividend, including a super dividend of 1 per cent., and Sw.Frs.3,250,000 (£216,000) to be handed to the Federal Treasury.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL FOR THE QUEEN OF THE BELGIANS.

The Belgian National Federation of War-Wounded has bought a site at Küsnacht, on the Lake of Lucerne, adjoining the spot where the late Queen of the Belgians was killed in the motor accident of August 29th, 1935, for the purpose of building a memorial chapel.

RAPID DEVELOPMENT OF SKIING IN SWITZERLAND.

Skiing has developed in Switzerland so rapidly since it was introduced nearly 35 years ago that there are now over 1,000,000 skiers — one in four inhabitants — in the country. Big towns, such as Zurich and Geneva, are practically deserted on fine Sundays, when it is estimated that between 20,000 and 25,000 skiers leave Zurich, and 12,000 leave Geneva, either by train or by car.

On winter Sundays one can count as many as 150 private cars and charabans on the Saint Cergues Pass (3,973ft.), in the Jura, and nearly 100 on the Julier Pass (7,500ft.), in the Engadine, and the Swiss Touring Club has now organized on both sides of the Alpine passes a special service for fitting and taking off snow chains from motor-cars. Every week hundreds of skiers come from Milan and Northern Italy to spend the weekend in the Engadine.

Skiing has been much encouraged by the Association of Swiss Ski Clubs, whose activity is mainly concentrated on competitions, and by the Swiss Alpine Club, which mainly deals with Alpine skiing. These two powerful organizations are every winter arranging instruction courses in the skiing and Alpine centres under the direction of official instructors. The Association of Swiss Ski Clubs is the creator of the Swiss method of skiing, which proves a greater success than expected. That association has presented many hundred pairs of skis to school boys and girls in the mountain regions. On the other hand, in many Swiss Cantons the school authorities are organizing skiing excursions and lessons for the pupils of State schools under the direction of schoolmasters and skiing instructors. That accounts for the extraordinary development of skiing even in the towns.

Local authorities do their best in the skiing centres to provide all facilities to skiers. A most interesting decision has just been taken in that respect by the Commune of Saint Moritz, in the Engadine, which has prohibited the building of houses in the vicinity of the skiing fields and, in particular, of the well-known Corviglia run. That example is likely to be followed by other Communes, so that wide spaces, without any obstacles such as barbed wire, fences, and walls, will be open to skiers.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The death has occurred at Bülach of M. Joh. Meyer-Russe at the age of 85.

The deceased has been for over half a century closely connected with the Swiss Silk Industry. For many years he occupied the post of President of the Board of the "Mechanischen Seidenstoffweberei Winterthur."

VAUD.

The death has occurred in Lausanne of Dr. Guglielmo Pedrazzini, since 1920, clerk of the Federal Court in Lausanne.

The deceased was born in 1871 in Campo Vallemaggio, the son of M. Martin Pedrazzini, member of the cantonal government, and Professor of law at the University of Fribourg.

* * *

Dr. Jules Gomin, the well-known oculist at the University of Lausanne, who recently died, has left an amount of 150,000 frs. to the blind.

* * *

Dr. Heinrich Preisig from Gais (Appenzell), since 1905 Vice-Director, and since 1925, Director of the cantonal asylum Céry, and Professor at the University of Lausanne, has retired from his post.

* * *

M. Henry Bovaj, Professor of law at the University of Lausanne, and a late cantonal judge, has died of heart failure at Caux-sur-Montreux.

LUCERNE.

M. Alfred Tzaut, since 1912, manager of the "Schweizerischen Unfall-Versicherungsanstalt" in Lucerne has retired from his post. M. Tzaut is 68 years old and is a *doctor honoris causa* of the Technical University of Zurich.

AARGAU.

The death is reported of M. Gottlieb Hochuli — Morgenthaler in Attelwil (District Zofingen), a well-known timber merchant.

URI.

Mme. Aloisia Grepper in Intschigurtmellen, has celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary. Mme. Grepper is the oldest inhabitant of the canton of Uri.

A WINTER'S TALE FROM SWITZERLAND.**A Tragedy of the Mountains.**

By CHRISTOPHER MACKINTOSH.

Whilst gaily dressed ski-runners chatter and laugh, as they prepare for their descent from the Scheidegg, a grim tragedy remains impressed on the austere north face of the Eiger over their heads, though there is no apparent effect on the high spirits of the holiday-makers in the snow.

In September last year, two young German climbers left Grindelwald to attempt the conquest of the hitherto undefeated north face of the Eiger. Lured on by its shimmering beauty as they set forth on their attempt in the phosphorescent light of a romantic moon, they succeeded in climbing over 3,500 feet on the first day. All the inhabitants of the Oberland district were up with the yellow dawn to focus their second-hand opera-glasses and pay their 10 cents to look through the big telescope to see how far the climbers had got. The Steuris, Gertsches and von Almens, as everyone seems to be called in this part of the world, were all of opinion that the north face was impossible of conquest. The practical-minded pointed out the immense difficulties to be overcome before victory could be achieved — the almost insuperable difficulties. The old legends which exist in every mountainous district of the Gods and Spirits protecting the sanctity of their domain with avalanche and storm were whispered by the superstitious. A few optimistic souls pointed out the fallacy of such arguments, illustrated by the many conquests of unclimbed peaks, the pegging of avalanche slopes, and the many other evident defeats of the evil mountain Spirits. The Oberland was thrilled; there was only one topic of conversation.

FEUILLETON.
INTERMEZZO
Von Mariann.

Die Passagiere des englischen Dampfers "Blue Bell" hatten in Vlissingen eben holländischen Boden betreten. Nach der Zollrevision begaben sich die Reisenden beruhigt nach dem Schnellzug Rosendaal-Rotterdam-Amsterdam. Noch eine halbe Minute bis zur Abfahrt! Im letzten Augenblick sprang ein junger Geck in den hintersten Zweitklasswagen. Er warf seinem Dienstmännchen den Trägerlohn hin, und der Zug setzte sich in Bewegung. Der arme Koffer wurde unfreudlich auf das Gepäcknetz des letzten Raucherabteils geworfen, wo er neben einer unheimlich lackierten Hutschachtel zu liegen kam. Sein Besitzer mit dem schwarzen Menjou-Schäuzchen und den polierten Fingernägeln hatte sich der jungen Dame in Blau gegenüber gesetzt und unterzog deren kastanienbraunes Haar einer eingehenden Betrachtung. Der blonde Norweger besah sich die eintönig flache Landschaft, und der deutsche Weinhandler studierte eine Preisliste.

"Guten Abend, Gnädige," begann der Koffer auf dem Netz, "Ich nehme mir die Ehre, mich vorzustellen: Hawag, Handschrankkoffer von Beruf." "Enchantée," lautete die blaue Antwort der französischen Hutschachtel, "mon nom ist Chérie, Hutherberge der jungen Fräulein dort." Alt können Sie wohl noch nicht sein? Sie sind noch ganz unverdorben. Da sehen Sie sich die Narben und farbigen Etiketten an, die sich auf *meinem* Körper befinden. Das zeugt von Welterfahrung!"

"Schnutzig sind Sie auch, Monsieur, si dégoutant! Ich bin schon auf der vierten Voyage mit meiner Schweizerin. Die trägt Sorg um mich! Echte Vornehmheit nicht sich zeigt mit Aeußerlichkeiten!" Erhaben wandte sich die elegante Hutschachtel weg. Mit höhnischem Achselzucken drehte sich der Koffer nach der andern Seite, wo eine dickbäuchige Aktenmappe ihren Platz innehatte. Er mockerte sich laut über die gut genästete Mappe. Die gab aber schlagfertig zurück: "Sie ungeschlochter Grobian Sie! Heflichkoit scheint o mit Dei Stärke z sei. Mai Muetterli war eo Weanerin, und drum muess o mai Gnätilichkeit koit naimerds Plotz hobn. Aber d'Papierel und d'Cognacflascherl, die mai g'moiner Herr immer stöckt, mochn net schlunk." Der Arme! wuenn ich unter-

But indifferent to criticism or approval alike, the two intrepid pioneers set off to accomplish their purpose. They made slower progress on the second day, but this was to be expected. They were climbing with iron pegs; one by one thirty iron pegs were driven into the limestone rock until all thirty were in. Then one climber attached by a rope would be pulled up, taking out each peg as he came, until he reached his companion, over whose back he would climb to take his turn to affix the next thirty pegs. At night for a few hours they would sleep, one knee on a peg and hanging in two loops made in the rope — a sheer drop of 6,000 feet below them. For four long days they battled on, and only mountaineers can appreciate the soul-effort of their climb. No real rest, no proper food, an absolutely unbroken strain hour after hour, day after day. But as they called on their maximum strength and exerted it, so that maximum increased.

On the fourth day excitement was intense; they had their goal in view, and the Oberlanders were strong in their belief that the gallant effort would be crowned with success. Progress was slow, but they were nearing a couloir which meant victory.

But the Spirits of the mountains were not willing of conquest; their anger was aroused by this attack on their century-long strongholds: they invoked a freezing storm, a wind of unmeasured velocity, drove fine powder snow throughout the night at the gallant young mountaineers tied each in their loops, and kneeling, each on his iron peg. When daylight and storm broke, they were still there, a frozen memorial to human enterprise and courage. It is impossible to reach them either from above or below until the summer comes, even then the cost will be great. They can still be seen by telescope from the Scheidegg kneeling on their pegs, and

The hills, like giants at a hunting, lay, Chin upon hand, to watch their game—

Yet most of the ski-runners, with the curious indifference of the human race, chatter gaily on and give scarce a passing thought to that grim memorial of gallant endeavour. "Why on earth should one climb the Eiger if it is so dangerous?" "What is the point?" Such are the remarks one hears. And how explain the great pioneering spirit to those who cannot reverence it, even though they do not possess it. To me those two young mountaineers possessed all the qualities that make up perfect man — endurance, courage,

breche," liess sich der schlanke Golfsack des Engländer vernehmen. "Wuenn Sie erlauben, würde ich Ihnen ein Rezept geben. Please." Der Sack rückte vor und machte sich mit einer kalten Selbstverständlichkeit an der Mappe zu schaffen. Drei Mal Klip-ip, und "Eine Überraschung!" rief der Golfsack. Wahrhaftig gab das eine nette Überraschung, als dem dicken Weinandler plötzlich ein Aktenzeugen auf seine bläulich angelauftene Nase prasselte. Ein paar nicht gerade salonfähige Flüche, und er stopfte wütend Zettel und Blätter in seine Taschen, was ihn beileibe nicht schlanker erscheinend hiess. "Alright," quatschte der Engländer und zündete sich seine Pfeife an. Die Mappe konnte aufatmen. Aber auch das Fräulein in Blau freute sich. Sie gönnte dem dicken Schwerenöster sein Maßheur und verbarg ihre Schadenfreude hinter der letzten Nummer des "Swiss Observer." Als sie ihre interessante Lektüre beendet hatte, streifte ihr Blick zufällig das Gepäcknetz: Hallo! Was war das? Der pralle Rucksack des Norwegers fing an, bedenklich zu wackeln. Vom Erfolg der Aktentasche angeregt, wollte auch er an seinem Herrn Rache nehmen. Doch da der Norweger Student Besitzer eines angenehmen Profiles war, beschloss die junge Reisende, ihm auf die sich vorbereitende Katastrophe aufmerksam zu machen. Der dankbare Nordländer gab dem Rucksack einen unsanften Stoß, dass der geplagte Segeltuchmann mit dem Gesicht gegen die Wand zu liegen kam. Gekränt bereitete er eine schreckliche Attacke vor. In dem Moment, da er seine mörderischen Absichten zur Tat umsetzen wollte, hielt der Zug mit einem argen Ruck. Der fette Weinandler stieg aus, die arme Mappe unter den Arm geklemmt. Nun hatte der Rucksack ja Platz. Er legte sich etwas unziemlich auf den Rücken, sodass sich die Hutschachtel schockiert abwandte. Doch sollte seine königliche Ruhe nicht von langer Dauer sein. Eine umfangreiche Matrone mit dicken Perlen und einem gewaltigen Silberfuchs stieg schwerfällig in das Abteil. Unbarmherzig stellte der Dienstmännchen einen Toilettentaschen neben und auf den Rucksack. Bald nahm das parfümierte Koffergebilde alle Reisenden unter die Lupe. Manch kritische Bemerkung fiel. Doch seine Herrin unterhielt sich so laut, dass das köfferliche Organ nicht zur Geltung kam. Der strampelnde Rucksack bekam eben das Gesicht frei, als die dicke Holländerin ihm eine schwere Handtasche auf den Bauch warf. Eine Ohnmacht war die Folge. Neben und auf ihm gerieten Handtasche und

beliefs in themselves — they were and are a stirring example of the Zeitgeist that is leading us to perfect achievement.

I never pass the Eiger or look at it without rendering them mental homage, secretly longing for a courage and initiative that might grant me so glorious a fate.

(*The Tatler.*)

LES DATES COMMEMORATIVES DE**L'ANNEE 1935.**

On a célébré en 1935 les anniversaires de la naissance de Boileau (16 mars 1635), Mme de Maintenon (27 novembre 1635), Samuel-Clemens-Mark Twain (30 novembre 1835), de la fondation de l'Académie française (29 janvier 1635), de Champlain (25 décembre 1935), de la découverte du caoutchouc par La Condamine (1735), de l'expédition d'Henri VIII (30 août 1535) et de l'utilisation du No 10 de Downing Street comme demeure du chef du gouvernement britannique (1735); les Anglais et les sinologues ont fêté le 20 février le centenaire de la naissance de Sir Robert Hart, et le monde catholique évoqua le quatrième centenaire de la mort du grand adversaire d'Henri VIII d'Angleterre : Sir Thomas More, et la légendaire figure du vénérable saint Béde, mort en l'an 735, l'auteur de l'*"Histoire ecclésiastique,"* le premier monument sur l'introduction du christianisme en Angleterre.

On a célébré également le 4me centenaire de l'Institution chrétienne " de Jean Calvin. C'est, en effet, en 1535 qu'il acheva de la rédiger et la dédia à François Ier par une célèbre " Epitre au roi " datée du mois d'août. Une exposition, à la Bibliothèque nationale, à Paris, du 1er au 31 mars 1935, a célébré ce fait important de l'histoire de la prose française moderne.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We wish to direct the attention of our readers to a Dinner and Dance, arranged by the above Club, which will take place on, Saturday, February 29th, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1.

This dance is, apart from the Annual Banquet, which will take place in November next, the *only* social function this year, and the City Swiss Club heartily invites the members and their friends to attend this Dance. (Tickets can be obtained from members of the Committee.)

Toilettenkoffer in Streit. "Immer so," erklärte die rote, metallverzierte Saftflasche. "Sie kann ihre Nörgelein nie lassen, weil ich aus Paris stamme." Wie elektrisiert sprang die Hutschachtel auf, und der englische Golfsack half ihr zuvorkommend über den jämmerlich quietschenden Schrankkoffer Hawag hinweg. Die Handtasche war erfreut über die Ankunft ihrer Landsmännin, und sie ward dem Golfsack einen schmatzenden Dankesblick zu. Bald war eine sehr lebhafte Unterhaltung im Gang über riesige Gürtelspangen, neue Lippenstifte, silberne Sandalen und griechische Draperien.

Mr. Golfsack fühlte sich sehr wohl in Gesellschaft des gelben Schweinsledersuitcase's. Sie verstand die Kunst des Kokettierens, und der kalte Engländer ging aus seiner Reserve hervor. Er erzählte der Holländerin-Koffer dame viel aus seinem interessanten Leben. Er war sehr weit gereist und hatte nur des Engländers "Golfclub" und "Bridgecards" von einem Land zum andern zu tragen. Er machte der neuen Freundin kräftig den Hof, was diese erfreut feststellte. In Rotterdam verließ die hübsche Blaue den Zug und mit ihr auch die Hutschachtel. Dieser plötzliche Aufbruch reizte die Pariser Tasche entschieden, und voll Entrüstung sprang sie dem englischen Stahlkaufmann auf die Achsel. Mit einem kräftigen "Dann!" beförderte er sie unsaft in den Schoss ihrer Besitzerin. Der Norweger holte seinen kranken Rucksack vom Netz und entnahm ihm Wurst und Brot. Der Segeltuchmann durfte nun zwischen den norwegischen Studentenbeinen bleiben. Handkoffer dame und Golfsack setzten ihren Flirt fort. Doch leider fuhr der Zug bald in die weiten Hallen des Amsterdamer Bahnhofes ein, und ihr Tête-à-tête kam zu einem Ende. Die beiden nahmen Abschied voneinander mit der Hoffnung auf ein baldiges Wiedersehen. Der deutsche Kabinettokoffer verließ gekränt die Stätte seines Missserfolges.

Ohrnenbetäubender Lärm im Bahnhof! Wehmütig sah Frau Suit-Case nach dem Abteil zurück, wo sie eben noch so selige Stunden mit dem Golfsack verbracht hatte. Dieser jedoch hing kalt lächelnd an der Schulter seines Gebüters. Und als er auf dem Weg zum Hotel zufällig neben seine Schweinslederfreundin zu liegen kam, schien er sie nicht mehr zu kennen. Ach, sooo sind die Männer! dachte Suit-case tief enttäuscht und erbittert, und an diesem Abend gab sie der Pariser Handtasche zum ersten Mal ein freundliches Wort.