

**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:** - (1937)

**Heft:** 829

**Rubrik:** Forthcoming events

### **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:** 17.01.2026

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

either unwilling or unable to defend it, the majority of the Swiss people also raised their voice in protest. In the course of a few months, in one canton after another, they demanded and peacefully obtained the abdication of their governments. All the former aristocracies and oligarchies were transformed into representative liberal democracies.

From then on until the present day, the evolution of democracy in Switzerland may be said to have gone through three successive stages, roughly dated as from 1830 to 1848, from 1848 to 1874, and from 1874 until to-day.

After 1830, the democratic spirit spread like wild-fire all over Switzerland, until, after a brief civil war, its main principles were firmly embedded in the first federal Constitution, adopted in 1848. According to that Constitution, supreme authority, to be exercised by the federal legislative Assembly, was vested in the people and the cantons. No cantonal constitution was to be tolerated which did not provide for "representative or democratic" institutions, which meant democracy in its representative or direct — *Landsgemeinde* — form. No constitution, federal or cantonal, was to be held valid unless expressly approved by the people at the polls. All the Swiss were declared to be equal before the law and all hereditary and other privileges were abolished. Freedom of trade, residence, conscience and worship, of the press, of association and of petition were guaranteed to all.

The belief in the virtues of democracy, i.e., of political freedom and equality, was so absolute in 1848 that all forms of protectionism were condemned as being contrary not only to the constitutional provisions relating to the customs *régime*, but also to the fundamental principle of equality before the law.

After 1860, the initiative and referendum, i.e. direct democracy, exercised at the polls, were introduced first into several cantonal constitutions, and then, in 1874, in the revised federal Constitution as well. The adoption of this Constitution may be said to have marked the climax of democratic enthusiasm in the country. At the time of its drafting, the prevailing opinion was unreservedly favourable to the extension of the rights of the citizen. The broader and the more radical these rights, the more powerful and more immediate the influence of the people, it was felt, the better not only for all individuals, but also for the state as a whole.

Who had hitherto opposed the extension of democracy?

First, the privileged classes. They had been overwhelmed in 1830, and their exclusion from power had been accompanied by various social reforms which, even if they brought with them heavier taxation, had improved the lot of the common people.

Secondly, the Catholic clergy. The Constitution of 1848 had been adopted in the face of their bitter opposition. But the people had fully enjoyed the freedom of thought and of action with which it had endowed them.

Thirdly, the advocates of cantonal sovereignty. The Constitution of 1848, while emancipating the individual, had submitted the cantons to the will of the whole nation. This also was generally looked upon not only as intelligently progressive but also as truly patriotic.

Fourthly, and finally, the class of highly educated liberals, whose belief in government for the people was exclusive of any faith in government by the people. This *élite* of the *bourgeoisie* had done much to ensure the success of the Constitution of 1848, but they had not escaped the reputation of haughty condescension, the suspicion of partiality in favour of capitalistic interests and therefore the jealousy, envy and often the hostility of the masses.

As all the foes of democracy were consequently, in 1874, looked upon as the enemies of the people, the people demanded and obtained an extension of their democratic rights at the expense of their opponents. However, since 1874 and especially since the World War, a gradual change may be noted in the evolution towards ever greater democracy in Switzerland. Possibly, in the course of the last generation, a slight and hesitating reaction may even be said to have set in.

(To be continued).

#### CONCERT NEWS.

The Nouvelle Société Helvétique and the Swiss Orchestral Society have arranged for a special Concert to be given in the large Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1, on Tuesday, October 19th, at 8.30 p.m.

The two Societies have combined their efforts in securing some really fine Swiss talent and under the title "La Suisse qui chante" are presenting to you Marietta and Martha Amstad singing their Swiss songs, and Idy Frei, a jodeling lass, — a new discovery! — The Orchestra will, of course, do its bit as well and we may look forward to a really artistic as well as amusing evening. — Would you please note the date and reserve it? Thank you. You will find full details in these columns next week.

#### FOOTBALL.

26th September, 1937.

##### NATIONAL LEAGUE.

Lugano	.....3	Young Fellows	.....1
Nordstern	.....4	Basel	.....2
Biel	.....2	Young Boys	.....0
Bern	.....1	Servette	.....1
Lausanne	.....2	Luzern	.....1
Grasshoppers	.....2	Grenchen	.....1

By their narrow win over Grenchen, whose team does not look like being up to National League standard, Grasshoppers maintained their 100 per cent. record intact and have now a clean lead of 2 points over Servette and Basel, 6 points each, the latter losing decisively in the local derby game against Nordstern. There follow Lugano and Lausanne with 5 points each and a bunch of three (Young Boys, Luzern, Nordstern) having 4 points in their lockers. Ninth ranks Bern with 3 drawn games and one defeat. They cannot score goals, exactly 4 in 4 games and 5 against. Biel creep up to tenth place, thanks to their smart if somewhat unexpected win against their cantonal rivals, the Young Boys. Then follows Grenchen with 1 point and last are Young Fellows with the dismal record of: Played 4, Lost 4, Goals for 2, against 11, Points 0, a sorry start indeed.

M.G.

P.S. Auent that change of address reported in another column and in answer to some kind enquiries: No, there will be no house-warming. But I am game for any suitably arranged bottle parties, any evening, any day!

#### CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

##### L'ASSEMBLÉE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi 5 Octobre au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Great Portland Street, W.1. et sera précédée d'un souper à 7h. 15 précises (prix 5/-).

##### ORDRE DU JOUR:

Procès-verbal.	Démotions.
Admissions.	Banquet Annuel
	Divers.

Pour faciliter les arrangements, les participants sont priés de bien vouloir s'inscrire au plus tôt auprès de Monsieur P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).

Le Comité.

Please note CHANGE of address:

#### MAX GERIG

65, Wavertree Road, Streatham Hill, LONDON, S.W.2.

Telephone: TULse Hill 4579.

Agent for Wines:

BURGUNDIES, in bottles or casks.

Specially selected

HOCKS and MOSELLES  
Choice SWISS WINES.

A trial and you are my customer for life.

#### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, October 5th — City Swiss Club Monthly Meeting at Pagan's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, October 6th at 8 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society — First meeting of the Philatelic section, at Swiss House, 34/35, Fitzroy Square, W.

Friday, October 15th — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Monthly Meeting, at the "Foyer Suisse," 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. Supper at 3/- to be served at 6.30 sharp, to be followed by a causerie by Henry C. Balser, Esq., Barrister-at-Law, on: "The Inns of Court."

Saturday, October 16th — Annual Banquet — Swiss Mercantile Society — at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W.

Tuesday, October 19th, at 8.30 p.m. — "La Suisse qui chante." Special Concert arranged by the New Helvetic Society and the Swiss Orchestral Society, at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

#### SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

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. : :

#### SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

#### ANNUAL BANQUET and BALL

on  
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16th, 1937

at the

#### Trocadero Restaurant

Piccadilly Circus, W.1

In the chair: M. C. R. PARAVICINI, Swiss Minister.

RECEPTION	DINNER	DANCING
at 6.15 p.m.	at 6.45 p.m.	9.30 p.m. till midnight

TICKETS at 14/- can be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1. (Tel. Museum 6663); City Office, 24, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.4. (Tel. City 3310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Tel. Clerkenwell 9595-9596).

Telephone: MUSEum 2982 Telegrams: Foyssuisse London

#### FOYER SUISSE

12 UPPER BEDFORD PLACE  
RUSSELL SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C.1

Quiet position in centre of London.  
Central heating and hot & cold water  
throughout.  
Continental cooking.

Management:  
SCHWEIZER VERBAND VOLKSDIENST.

#### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).  
(Langue française).

70, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.  
(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche 3 Octobre:

11h. — Prédication: M. le Pasteur Emery.

6h.30 — Prédication: M. le Pasteur Christol.

7h.30 — Chœur mixte.

11h. — Reprise de l'Ecole du Dimanche.

Le Pasteur Emery reçoit le Mercredi de 11 heures à midi 30, à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2. S'adresser à lui pour tous les actes pastoraux. (téléphone: Museum 3100, domicile: Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1.)

#### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

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

Sonntag, den 3. Oktober 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorpöbe.

Dienstag, den 5. Oktober 1937.

3 Uhr nachm., Nähverein im "Foyer Suisse."

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.