

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:	798
Artikel:	La politique
Autor:	Savary, Léon
DOI:	https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-690349

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: 15.02.2026

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

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. 798

LONDON, FEBRUARY 27, 1937.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postachec-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 NATIONAL BANK.

The net profit of the Swiss National Bank for 1936 was Frs.4,750,000 (about £226,000) — the same as for 1935 — after allocating Frs.500,000 to reserve.

A 6 per cent. dividend (including an extra of 1 per cent.) will be paid on the share capital of Frs.25,000,000; and Frs.3,250,000 credited to the Federal Treasury.

The balance-sheet total, which had dropped from Frs.2,179,000,000 (£103,600,000) to Frs.1,887,000,000 (£90,000,000) in 1935, rose to Frs.3,506,000,000 (£167,000,000) at the end of 1936, representing a record figure.

Turnover was valued at Frs.118,100,000 (£5,624,000,000), which compared with Frs.109,500,000,000 for 1935 (£5,214,000,000). This big increase must mainly be attributed to the extensive gold dealings by the bank.

SWISS FRONTIER TO BE REINFORCED.

A reinforcement of Switzerland's "Frontier defence detachments" was decided upon. The special "Volunteer defence formations," recruited from army volunteers, were first formed in November, 1936.

In the Parliamentary debates upon the increase in the Swiss military budget, and in the negotiations which preceded the calling into being of the frontier force, constant allusion was made to "the danger from without."

NEW MEMBERS OF THE SWISS OLYMPIC COMMITTEE.

M. William Hirsky, President, and Dr. F. Messerli, General Secretary of the Swiss Olympic Committee having resigned, they were replaced by Messrs. Marcel Henninger and Dr. Hafner.

FAVOURABLE BALANCE OF THE FEDERAL POST, TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE ADMINISTRATION.

The net profit of the Federal Post, Telegraph and Telephone Administration for 1936 amounts to 20 million francs or 2 million francs more than in 1935.

PROSPERITY COMING?

As far as is known at present there will take place 91 shooting competitions in Switzerland during the current year.

YUGOSLAV-SWISS CASE SETTLED.

Agreement between the Swiss Federal Government and the Government of Yugoslavia in the "Losinger et Cie" case, resulting in the withdrawal of this case from the World Court, provides further evidence that the very existence of the court often stimulates amiable solution in difficult cases.

The Losinger case resulted from a contract which had been concluded in 1929 between the former autonomous District of Pozarevac and the American Oriental Construction Syndicate for the planning, construction and financing of railways in that district.

In 1931, the Société Losinger et Cie of Berne and the State of Yugoslavia, respectively, substituted themselves for the American firm and the District of Pozarevac. Some time afterwards the Yugoslav Government declared the contract cancelled, and as a result the dispute arose, which was submitted by the Swiss Government to the World Court.

The suit had been the subject of a preliminary objection lodged by the respondent Government, and the court by an order of June 27th, 1936, had joined this objection to the merits of the case. Meanwhile, however, the two governments settled the matter between themselves, reaching a complete and definite agreement, which

induced them to discontinue the proceedings instituted by the Swiss Government and have the case removed from the court's list.

It often has been noticed that as soon as recourse to the World Court is even mentioned as a solution to a dispute, ways of conciliation seem to open, which at first seemed impossible.

The prospect of a clear, unbiased judgment of the highest court of justice in the world, from which there is no appeal, apparently tends to make parties agree while the case is already pending.

SWISS NATIONAL EMBLEM.

The Geneva Convention Bill, which has already passed the House of Lords, was passed by Standing Committee "B" of the House of Commons, without amendment.

The Bill gives effect to an article of the International Convention of 1929 and makes it unlawful for any person, without the authority of the Board of Trade, to use for the purposes of his trade or business, or for any other purpose, any design of a white or silver cross on a red ground, similar to the Arms of the Swiss Confederation, or any colourable imitation of the "Red Cross" or "Geneva Cross."

"What has happened and what has disturbed the Swiss," said Dr. Burgin, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, "is the way in which the white cross on a red ground has acquired a certain amount of commercial usage.

"Great Britain, as a trading nation anxious to see that bad trade marks had short shrift, has taken care to see that any trade mark of this kind registered after December 23rd, 1931, should be invalid. Penalties under the measure, however, would not be retrospective."

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. Otto Naegeli, Professor of medicine at the University of Zurich, and director of the Medical Clinic at the Cantonal Hospital, is shortly retiring from his post.

* * *

The entire assets amounting to 30,000frs., of the "Kabnenmusik" of the town of Zurich, have been lost, through embezzlement by the cashier.

* * *

With the death of Dr. Wilhelm von Murralt, which occurred at his home in the "Rämistrasse" at the age of 92, the town of Zurich loses one of its best-known personalities. Dr. von Murralt was for over half a century a medical practitioner in Zurich. He was closely connected with the children's Hospital for over 60 years, of which he was 35 years as its surgeon-in-chief.

BERNE.

Dr. Hans Bluntschli, Professor of Anatomy at the University of Berne, and director of the anatomical Institute, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary.

Professor Bluntschli enjoys a great reputation not only at home, but also abroad, as one of the leading scientists, and he has written several books; he paid various visits to South America.

* * *

The late Louise Müller, from Berne, who already during her life-time had been a great benefactor, has left an amount of 700,000 Frs. for charitable purposes.

* * *

The cantonal tribunal, sitting in Biel, has condemned M. Rys, a notary in Longue to three years imprisonment; in addition to which he has been taken off the rolls as a practising notary.

BASEL.

The death is reported from Basle of Mr. Robert Heger-Mennigen at the age of 84. The deceased was for many years the proprietor of the well-known music publishing firm at the Steinen-

berg; he was also for some time a member of the Administration of the "Nationalzeitung."

* * *

M. Robert Wyss, a prominent teacher of singing, and at one time a well-known concert singer, has died in Basle at the age of 64.

VAUD.

The celebrated pianist and former President of Poland Paderewsky has given a Concert at the Cathedral in Lausanne for the benefit of the unemployed of the canton of Vaud, the receipts exceeded 16,000 frs.

* * *

The late Mme. Elisa Heerm, well-known as a painter, has left an amount of 57,000 frs. to various charitable institutions.

GENEVA.

An explosion happened in the cabin of a dredging machine at the Rue de Carouge in Geneva, costing the life of one man; several workmen and pedestrians received injuries and hundreds of window panes were broken.

* * *

A woman by the name of Gourrat was brought to the Infirmary in a state of collapse due to under nourishment, she later died. It was found that she had hoarded in a poorly furnished room money and securities amounting to over 80,000frs.

LA POLITIQUE.

Autour du budget fédéral.

Nous avons donné, l'autre jour, quelques indications sommaires sur le contenu du rapport que le Conseil fédéral adresse aux Chambres, à propos du budget de 1937 et de la situation financière. Il sied d'y revenir aujourd'hui, texte en main.

Après avoir constaté que tout budget présente forcément des lacunes, en raison notamment des dépenses votées en cours d'exercice et qui supposent l'octroi d'un crédit supplémentaire, le Conseil fédéral calme les appréhensions de ceux qui craignaient de voir les dépenses extraordinaires se monter à quelque 60 millions. En réalité, elles ne dépasseront pas trois millions, affectés au soutien du prix du lait, comme nous l'avons exposé récemment.

Le budget voté le 23 décembre 1936 par l'Assemblée fédérale annonçait un déficit de 40,750,000 francs. Mais il avait été impossible de tenir compte des répercussions possibles ou certaines de la dévaluation, lesquelles d'ailleurs ne sauraient être estimées maintenant d'une façon précise. En outre, le Conseil fédéral déclare que la dévaluation ne l'a pas délié de l'obligation de verser des subsides de fabrication à ceux à qui il les avait promis. Ici, nous relèveront cependant que, dans les cas où il serait établi que la dévaluation a facilité une reprise du travail ou permis de nouvelles exportations, les subsides fédéraux devraient être réduits en proportion ou, éventuellement, supprimés, en dépit des engagements pris alors que la situation était différente. Personne n'a un droit absolu à des cadeaux de la Confédération.

Les crédits ont été passés en revue, et l'on est parvenu à les réduire de 5,646,953 francs. Ainsi, au département politique et à celui de l'économie publique, les mesures prévues pour le développement des services commerciaux ne pourront pas être exécutées complètement en 1937. Un nombre important de petites réductions ont

SWISS ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY.

Conductor: Mr. E. P. DICK.

ANNUAL CONCERT

Under the Patronage of the Swiss Minister
Monsieur C. R. PARAVICINI.

FRIDAY, the 12th MARCH, 1937

at

CONWAY HALL, (Small Hall)

Red Lion Square, W.C.1.

(Start of concert 8.30 p.m. sharp.)

Tickets at 2/- (incl. Tax) can be obtained at the box office or from any member of the Orchestra.

CITY SWISS CLUB.
Please Reserve
SATURDAY, MARCH 13th, 1937,
for the
Dinner and Dance
at the
MAYFAIR HOTEL, BERKELEY SQUARE, W.1.

été décidées, aux chapitres des divers départements. Même le militaire y a passé!

Le service de la dette figure pour 128.7 millions, montant sur lequel le remboursement de l'emprunt de 1925 est sans effet. Les réserves sont représentées par 39.5 millions. La défense nationale exige 110 millions. Les subventions se chiffrent par 178.8 millions et les dépenses d'administration par 67.4 millions. D'où un total de dépenses de 524.4 millions. Le Conseil fédéral estime que ces trois postes: service de la dette, réserves et défense nationale, soit au total 278.2 millions, ne peuvent être réduits. N'entre donc en considération qu'un montant de 228.7 millions, dont le tiers est destiné à des "mesures de crise," auxquelles on pourra renoncer progressivement. Restent les subventions et les frais d'administration — 118.7 millions — dont la réduction est liée au problème d'ordre général que les experts auront pour tâche d'étudier.

Le rapport suppose également un surplus de recettes de 6.1 millions.

Le déficit de la Confédération et celui des C. F. F. donnent un total de 119.9 millions. Mais le département des finances estime qu'il en faut déduire les sommes affectées à des amortissements ou à des réserves, soit 81.8 millions, le déficit "réel" restant de 28.1 millions. Le subterfuge est adroit pour créer une bonne impression; mais il rappelle un peu les expédients de Panurge. Qu'on déduise les amortissements dits financiers et les réserves, c'est à la rigueur légitime, puisqu'il y correspond un certain accroissement de fortune; en revanche, pour ce qui concerne les bâtiments, le matériel, etc., bref, tout ce qui est sujet à usure et dépréciation, l'artifice est bien hardi et ne saurait donner le change, même aux profanes.

Bref, grâce à ces tours de passe-passe, on déclare que la situation financière de la Confédération et des C. F. F. "s'améliore" de 24.3 millions, et que l'excédent net des dépenses n'est plus que de 3.8 millions. Comme dit la chanson, "Tout va très bien, madame la marquise..."

Pourtant, c'est sur le papier que les choses s'arrangent. En fait, les dettes demeurent des dettes, et de quelque nom qu'on les appelle les amortissements gravent quand même le budget.

D'autre part, le IIIe programme financier, qui sera soumis aux Chambres en juin, ne consistera guère qu'en une prolongation de celui de janvier 1936. Bref, on temporise et l'on atermoie, comme ci-devant. Le moment n'est point encore venu d'emboucher les trompettes de l'exultation et d'entonner l'Alleluia.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève).

SWISS BANK CORPORATION.

The Annual Report of the Swiss Bank Corporation has recently been submitted, and we give a short *résumé* of its contents:

"The many disturbances and conflicts in the political sphere which have characterised the year and the attendant uncertainties failed to stem the course of the economic improvement which, thanks partly to Government intervention, has been increasingly evident in many countries in recent years. Home trade in particular has in most countries shown a marked improvement supported by increased orders for armament purposes. There has moreover been an increase both in the volume and the value of the total turnover of world trade, though efforts continue to be made in many countries to achieve a still greater degree of national self-sufficiency."

In Switzerland this improvement was particularly noticeable in the chemical industry, in watchmaking and in various branches of the textile trades as also in the engineering industry. Notably easier conditions were experienced on the money market during the year and the tone of the Stock Exchanges became gradually better as the year advanced. Activity in the capital market was chiefly limited to bonds of the Confederation and the various public bodies, and among the new issues must particularly be mentioned the new Federal Defence Loan which was offered at par in September. Subscriptions amounted to Frs. 332 million, a total which exceeded all expectations and gives proof of the determination of the Swiss people to make every sacrifice demanded in the defence of their country.

The decision of the Federal Council to write down the exchange value of the Swiss franc by about 30% fell in a period which was already characterised by a gradual business recovery. The aim was to align it to the present level of currency value and prices as they stand in Great Britain and in North America and serve as a general criterion of world values. The decision of the French Government on the previous day to adopt a similar course was a contributory factor in influencing the Swiss decision whilst the agreement between France, the U.S.A. and Great Britain opened up a prospect that these leading commercial powers would be ready to subscribe to the policy of stable exchanges which has always been the ultimate aim of the gold block countries.

The effects of this new development made themselves felt at once in so much as money hitherto hoarded or held abroad came to the fore again.

Amongst the industries which have more particularly benefited by devaluation may be mentioned the watch trade and the hotels. It is, however, the various public authorities which are the greatest beneficiaries, since fresh borrowing and conversions can be arranged on very favourable terms, while the farmers can look forward to cheaper mortgage conditions.

* * *

The great increase in the volume of deposits which followed the depreciation of the Swiss franc and the conversion of the various items of the assets and liabilities of our London office to the new parity of the £ sterling have brought about an extraordinary increase in the total amount of our balance sheet which has risen by Frs. 345 million to Frs. 1,389 million. In view of the liquid state of the money market cash has risen from Frs. 117 million at the end of 1935 to Frs. 319 million at the end of 1936. The increase in general expenses on staff and office upkeep, including taxation, is to be attributed to the conversion into Swiss francs at the new rate of exchange of those items which affect the London office. In all our offices and particularly London, business has shown a satisfactory increase.

On the 1st of July, 1937, the Federal Law for the revision of Articles 24 and 33 of the Code des Obligations will come into force as approved by the Federal Parliament on the 16th and 18th of December. Several provisions of this Law and of the Federal Law regarding Banks and Savings Banks of November 1934, have caused us to revise our Articles of Association and to submit to the General Meeting on the 26th of February a number of textual and material alterations. These proposals foresee that in future every share will entitle the holder to one vote at the general meeting. We further propose to circumscribe the duties and responsibilities of the Board and of the General Managers in the sense indicated by the new law and further to reduce to 5% the proportion of participation of the Board in the net profits, which remain after payment of a dividend of 5%. We also propose to fix certain regular attendance fees for our Directors; the General Meeting will have to determine the amount thereof.

At the end of the year under review Mr. Walter Eichenberger, Deputy Manager of the London office, retired after more than 38 years' service with our Corporation. We wish to express to him our thanks for the valuable and faithful service he has rendered throughout this long period.

On the 1st of January, 1937, we appointed Dr. André von der Weid, previously a procuration-holder, to be a Sub-Manager attached to our General Managers in Basle, and Messrs. Ernest Luterbacher and Marcel Wintsch, previously procuration-holders, to be additional Sub-Managers to our London office."

After deduction of expenses and taxes, and making provision for bad and doubtful debts, etc., the net profit for the year ended December 31st, 1936, amounts to S.Frs. 8,242,828, which together with the amount carried forward from last year, viz., S.Frs. 1,056,085, makes a total of S.Frs. 9,298,913. The Board propose to pay a dividend of 5% on the paid-up capital, which will absorb S.Frs. 8,000,000, and to carry forward S.Frs. 1,298,913."

EDUCATIONAL LIFE IN SWITZERLAND.

Aims and Methods of Swiss Private Schools.
By Dr. K. E. Lusser, President of the Board of the "ROSENBERG COLLEGE," ST. GALL (Switzerland.)

Both in respect of accommodation as well as of teaching methods, numerous Swiss private schools are amongst the most progressive tuitionary and educational establishments of the Continent to-day. Almost all the experimental innovations such as *Swedish Drill*, the *Moveable System of Classes*, the *Work-principle*, *Open-Air Lessons*, etc., are the results of pioneer work in *Private Schools*.

How is it that exactly in recent years, a constantly increasing number of parents begin to entrust Swiss private schools with the education of their sons and daughters, in spite of the considerable financial sacrifice which it entails for them?

Whatever the factors may be that contribute to such a tendency — whether they be pedagogical, or personal, or, as is quite often the case, in consideration of health — the conviction which has now been held for centuries in England, that a good and approved private school is in a position to provide a particularly careful education, is rapidly gaining ground in our country too. Private schools to-day are attended not only by those special pupils whose intellectual development stands in particular need of individualized methods of instruction, but also by those whose parents desire them to have the benefit of a really

privileged education. In these days, characterized as they are by the struggle for existence, by the many social obligations that lay claim to one's time, by the incessant bustle of a mechanical age, a systematic education of character in the home is threatened by a hundred disturbing influences, and those parents are rare who have at their disposal the requisite leisure and the opportunity for the uninterrupted and consistent pursuit of pedagogical ends, without which successful education is impossible. Very different are the conditions in a well-conducted *Private School*. The unavoidable effects of going to school in the city, the influences of a city environment altogether, are eliminated. A uniform will direct both lessons and spare-time, and enlists both in the service of efficacious education as a whole. The same spirit inspires both the management as well as the teaching staff, both get to know the individual character of the boys by daily contact with them, and both are specialists in that important province, which requires experienced experts for its work just as urgently as does the construction of machines, the building of electrical works, or the organization of commercial concerns. Both management and staff are aware, that every young person composes a world of his or her own, a world of high ideals and sunny prospects, but also of dark passages and dangerous pits: a world that opens its doors only in response to a kindly consideration of its peculiarities, which are in need of the most consistent guidance and help. No experienced pedagogue can escape the conclusion that, especially in the adolescent years, an intellectual change of environment has just as beneficial an effect on the moulding of character as a change of air has on the body. The young people have opportunity of practising modern languages by daily conversation, they get to know other characters and nationalities, their intellectual horizon is extended, many idiosyncrasies are got rid of as a result of the keen criticism of their young schoolmates, and they are more easily able to adapt themselves to the common order of things, conformity to which is a matter of course for everybody. All this develops social sense and conduct in these young people, almost without their knowing it.

(To be continued).

MAGGI'S SOUPS

SET A SEAL ON THE MEAL

14 DELICIOUS VARIETIES 2d PER TABLET.

If not Stocked by your Grocer, apply to
MARBER & CO., Sole Agents of THE MAGGI COMPANY,
1 STANHOPE STREET, LONDON, N.W.1

The Twenty-first

SWISS INDUSTRIES FAIR

will be held at

BASLE

APRIL 3rd — APRIL 13th, 1937.

for Information apply to :

THE COMMERCIAL DIVISION OF
THE SWISS LEGATION,

18, Montagu Place, Bryanston Square, W.1.

or to :

THE SWISS BANK CORPORATION,
99, Gresham Street, E.C.2, or at Basle.

Information regarding Travelling facilities
may be obtained from :

THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS,
11b, Regent Street, S.W.1.

VITALITY - HEALTH - LIFE

FROM PURE
SWISS ALPINE HERB PRODUCTS
“HERBONIA”

Nutritive Herb Juice, Herb Teas for various
complaints, pure Juniper Syrup or Extract,
Vitamin—Mineral Dietetic Specialities.

Full particulars from :-

E. RAPP, Vitathree Specialities,

— 36, CAMOMILE STREET, LONDON, E.C.3. —