

Home news

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The Swiss Observer

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LONDON, 9 JULY. 1938.

PRICE 3d.

TO-DAY: Swiss Sports and Garden Party at Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea, 2.45 p.m.

SWISS SPORTS and GARDEN PARTY.

We particularly wish to draw the attention of our readers and their friends to the Swiss Sports Meeting and Garden Party, which will take place to-day, at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea.

The Committee of the Swiss Sports has spared neither time nor money to make this event a great success, and we hope that many of our compatriots and their friends will make the journey to Chelsea.

We feel sure that they will not be disappointed, it will be an afternoon well spent. Therefore make up your mind now, and do not fail those who have given their time and money freely, that you and your friends should have an enjoyable afternoon. Don't say, "I may come along" say "I will be there," and we are certain you won't regret it, even should it rain, as the events could then be held in the various drill halls.



HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

FEDERAL.

NEW FEDERAL PENAL CODE.

A referendum held in Switzerland at the week-end has settled a question that has been considered for forty years. The Federal Penal Code passed by the Federal Parliament was adopted by the rather narrow majority of 48,887. Only about 55 per cent. of the electors voted, and there were 358,487 votes for and 309,600 against.

The new law deprives the cantons of the powers that they have hitherto possessed of legislating in criminal matters and substitutes a single penal code for the whole of Switzerland for the various cantonal codes, which differ considerably from one another. It is thus a centralising measure, and for that reason it has been strongly opposed by the rigorous advocates of cantonal sovereignty. The issue has been in reality one of State rights against Federal rights.

The adoption of the Federal Penal Code involves an amendment of the Federal Constitution, but the principle of the amendment was decided on in 1898, when a majority of the electors and a majority of the cantons authorised in a plebiscite the Federal Parliament to consider unifying the criminal and civil codes. The civil code was unified more than a quarter of a century ago — the Federal Civil Code came into force in 1912, — but it was only recently that the Federal Criminal Code was at last adopted by the Federal Parliament.

A change in the Federal Constitution can be made only after a referendum, in which there must be a majority both of the electors and of the cantons in favour of it, as was the case in 1898. In the vote taken at the week-end, however, a majority of the cantons for the new code was not necessary as the constitutional change had already been authorised in principle. The present referendum was taken in consequence of a petition signed by the requisite number of electors demanding that the question should be referred to a popular vote. Had a majority of the cantons been necessary the new code would have been rejected, for it was approved by only 9½ cantons, and 12½ cantons voted against it.

There are 22 cantons, but six of them are divided into two, and these two count only as half-cantons and have only half a vote. The Canton of Geneva in particular, where there was a majority for the change in 1898, has now rejected the code by 13,074 to 7,730.

Unfortunately, the referendum shows a sharp racial and religious division. The result is a victory for the German Protestant majority of the Swiss people over all the minorities. All the French cantons, the Italian canton of Tessin, the Romansch canton of Grisons, and all the German Catholic cantons except that of Lucerne, where there was a very small majority in favour, voted against the central penal code. The overwhelming majorities in favour of the code in the cantons of Zurich and Berne, and the two "half cantons" of Basle decided the issue. In those cantons there was an aggregate majority of 103,892—168,446 votes against 64,554 — in favour of the code, though in the rest of Switzerland there was a majority of 55,005 against it.

Here are the figures:

Cantons	Yes	No
Zürich	84,701	31,676
Bern	58,193	21,812
Luzern	14,539	14,069
Uri	1,497	2,781
Schwyz	2,153	6,268
Obwalden	641	2,429
Nidwalden	631	1,811
Glarus	3,482	2,617
Zug	2,191	2,634
Freiburg	5,662	18,731
Solothurn	13,012	9,230
Basel-Stadt	11,640	6,694
Basel-Land	8,972	4,371
Schaffhausen	8,009	3,778
Appenzell A.-Rh.	5,607	3,645
Appenzell J.-Rh.	396	1,642
St. Gallen	25,723	29,519
Graubünden	9,487	10,178
Aargau	32,314	26,914
Thurgau	16,786	10,207
Tessin	6,642	8,680
Vaudt	26,015	57,419
Wallis	5,322	12,039
Neuchâtel	6,470	8,061
Genève	7,730	13,074

Total 357,815 310,279

SWISS NEUTRALITY.

The recent assurances by the German and Italian Governments to respect the neutrality of Switzerland have caused much satisfaction in Switzerland. Since last year the Swiss Federal Government have striven to return to their traditional policy of complete neutrality, and a first step was reached when the League of Nations Council accepted Switzerland's resolution no longer to co-operate in sanctions.

While remaining a member of the League Switzerland recovered her complete neutrality in the eyes of the States members. It was not sufficient, however, that Swiss neutrality should be acknowledged only by the Powers represented at Geneva; its recognition by the two immediate neighbours of Switzerland who are no longer League members was also necessary. Public opinion is satisfied to find in the German Note a confirmation of pledges given in March, 1937, by Herr Hitler himself in his interview with the former Federal Councillor, Herr Schulthess.

Switzerland cannot disregard the attitude of her northern and southern neighbours, as it shows that the policy of complete neutrality attitude of her northern and southern neighbours, as it shows that the policy of complete neutrality is regarded by the Powers now, as in 1815, as in the interest of Western European States, and further constitutes an important asset to the cause of peace in Europe.

ANOTHER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION IN 1939.

An International Advertising Convention is being planned to take place in the Spring of 1939, in Zurich.

This will coincide with the Exhibition, for which preparations are now well advanced.

SWISS MARKET FOR U.S. INDUSTRIALS.

It is reported from Zurich that, in order to enlarge the scope of the Swiss financial market, the question of introducing suitable foreign securities has been under consideration for some time.

As a result of the recommendations made by the authorities, several American shares will shortly be introduced on the Swiss Bourses — namely, Kennecott Copper, International Nickel, Montgomery Ward and General Electric.

It may be recalled that two leading American Railway shares (Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio) are already listed on the Zurich Bourse.

LUCERNE MUSIC FESTIVAL.

Toscanini is to conduct a gala concert in the grounds of Wagner's house at Tribschen during the International Music Festival at Lucerne. The festival opens on Monday, July 25th; the Toscanini concert, at which the principal item of the programme will be Wagner's "Siegfried Idyll," will be given on Thursday, August 25th; and Bruno Walter will conduct a concert in the Congress Hall on Monday, August 29th. From the middle of July to the end of August an international music exhibition will be held in the Old Town Hall at Lucerne. Original scores, autographs, letters, and portraits of composers from the sixteenth century to the present day will be shown.

SWISS BANK MERGER.

Leu and Co.'s Bank, one of Switzerland's "Big Seven," of Zurich, has taken over the assets and liabilities of the Zurich banking firm of Brettauer and Co.

The Leu bank has a capital of 25,866,300 francs.

ROYAL VISIT IN LUCERNE.

Queen Wilhelmine of Holland has arrived in Lucerne, where she intends to make an extended stay.

RETIREMENT OF DIRECTOR, DR. GIORGIO.

The Federal Council has accepted the resignation of Dr. H. Giorgio, "Direktor des Bundesamtes für Sozialversicherung" for reasons of health.

Dr. Giorgio held this important post since 1922, when he succeeded the late Dr. Rüfenacht; during the tenure of this important office, Dr. Giorgio has rendered great services to our country, and his resignation at the early age of 52 is universally deplored.

As his successor is mentioned: National Councillor Saxer.

NEW DIRECTORS OF THE SWISS FEDERAL RAILWAYS.

M. Eduard von Steiger, advocate in Berne and a prominent member of the "Bauern, Gewerbe und Bürgerpartei" has been elected a member of the Board of the Swiss Federal Railways. Dr. E. Branger, a former "Landammann" of Davos, has also joined the Board of the S.F.R. administration.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. Karl Hafner, President of the cantonal government, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary. Dr. Hafner entered the cantonal government in 1929.

LUCERNE.

Two climbers from Lucerne fell while ascending the "Kingspitze." Mr. Zuber was seriously injured, whilst Mr. Hodler, an officer of the Swiss Air Force, was killed.

GRISONS.

Mlle. Anna Maria Gadmer, of Davos, celebrated, on the 29th of June, her 100th birthday anniversary.

AARGAU.

The death is reported of Dr. Hans Siegrist-Stäbli, for many years surgeon-in-chief of the District Hospital in Brugg, at the age of 49.

The deceased held the rank of lieutenant-Colonel in the Swiss Medical Corps.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH. (By Leu & Co.'s Bank, Ltd., Zurich.)

During the past month, the Swiss stock market was in a rather bullish mood. The important recovery on the New York Exchange made itself felt over here, and although the gains on the Swiss stocks were not so very considerable as those of the American market, they nevertheless were important.

In the first line, we naturally have to mention the two American stocks quoted over here:

Quotations:	June 30, 1938:	May 31, 1938:
Baltimore & Ohio RR common	32½	24½
Pennsylvania RR common	84½	64½

On this occasion it may also be mentioned that another five American securities will be quoted in the very near future on our Swiss Stock Exchanges, namely the common stocks of the following Companies:

General Electric Co.,
International Nickel of Canada, Ltd.,
Kennebott Copper Corporation,
Montgomery Ward & Co. Inc.,
Standard Oil Co. of New Jersey.

This fact may increase the interest of the Swiss Investors in American stocks in general. All these companies are leaders in their respective groups.

As regards Swiss shares, some quotations as on May 31st and June 30th, 1938, may best illustrate the "boomlet" which occurred over here:

Quotations:	May 31, 1938:	June 30, 1938:
Schweiz. Argent.		
Hypothekenbank Stamm	75.—	100.—
Schweiz. Kreditanstalt	648.—	672.—
Elektrobank	516.—	548.—
SAEG Series A	44.—	52.—
Motor-Columbus	264.—	292.—
Elektrizitäts- & Verkehrs-Ges.	161.—	174.—
Italo-Suisse	161½	152½
Schweiz.		
Rückversicherung	3,800.—	3,890.—
Ad. Saurer	264.—	283.—
Aluminium	2,640.—	2,695.—
Louza	501.—	540.—
Nestlé	1,175.—	1,229.—
Sulzer	680.—	690.—

HOLIDAYS FOR SWISS YOUTH.

(Touring groups for young Swiss from abroad 1938.)

Dear Compatriots,

We want to invite you again this year to take part in the touring groups arranged by the organisations for "Swiss people abroad" and Pro Juventute. Through them the best opportunities are offered to the young Swiss girl or boy from abroad to get to know and appreciate their own country with its distinctive features under the guidance of efficient leaders.

The tours 1938 last a fortnight each with the possibility to join a tour only for a week.

Group I: This tour will conduct our compatriots through the Valais and French Switzerland and make them acquainted with the population and the beautiful scenery of that part of Switzerland.

Group II: will start from the eastern part of the Grisons and will take our travellers through this beautiful canton to the Tessin and central Switzerland.

At the conclusion of their tours the two groups will unite in Bern, our capital, to spend there one or two days in common.

Leadership: The general organisation is placed in the hands of Mr. W. Nigg, supported by a sufficient staff of assistants (for the ladies a woman assistant!)

Mr. Nigg will conduct a group himself this year as he did last year.

All Swiss from abroad between 17 and 22 years of age, and of good health, are invited to join a group.

The participants are free to make their own choice of the group they want to join. Should one of the groups be overcrowded, the leaders will try to effect an adjustment between the two groups in concert with the participants.

Charges: The costs are exceedingly low thanks to the contribution of friends interested in our cause and will permit everybody to participate.

Costs for a fortnight 74 Swiss francs.
Costs for a week 40 Swiss francs.

In this price are included: board and lodging (in Youth Hostels and homes), all comings and goings from the meeting place of the group till to the place of its dismissal, excursions, conveying and keeping of luggage, leadership, insurance against accidents, etc.

Not included are the costs of the journey to Switzerland and the return journey.

These costs can be greatly reduced in using the bicycle, in profiting of the reduced railway fares for visitors to Switzerland (inquire at travelling offices) in joining holiday or collective trains.

The money for the tours has to be paid in by July 15th, addressed to Auslandschweizerjugendwanderungen, Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat, Bern.

For those young Swiss from abroad who are unable to pay the full amount, especially for participants of countries having a low change, there exists a possibility of reducing the expenses. But the means of our organisations being small, we beg to consider an application for reduction most carefully.

Requests for a reduction of costs have to be addressed to the nearest Swiss Consulate, which after having given its opinion, will forward it to the Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat in Bern.

Application: Supply recommendation of the Swiss Club you belong to. Present both to the Swiss Consulate and forward it to the Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat der N.H.G., Bundesgasse 40, Bern.

Each participant of our tours whose application is definite, will be personally notified of all details with regard to journey, travelling outfit, et. A speedy application is in the interest of those wanting to take part, as there are many inquiries coming in.

Dispensation: Should our dates of the tours not coincide with the dates for the vacations of pupils, apprentices, employers, the Consulate will try to purchase a dispensation for the person wanting to participate the tours.

Further informations can be obtained from the Auslandschweizer-Sekretariat.

For the touring groups of the Swiss youth from abroad.

PERSONAL.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Stauffer, wish very sincerely to thank all their friends for the numerous tokens of sympathy received, on the occasion of their recent bereavement.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Pernet of Alwyn Cottage, Waxwell Lane, Pinner, will sympathise with them in their bereavement. Mr. Pernet's mother having died at St. Oyens (Vaud) at the age of 75.

VERGAENGLICHKEIT.

Es ist ein Kommen und Gehen,
Das Leben ist nur wie ein Traum.
Die Tage fallen vom Leben,
Als wie die Blätter vom Baum.

Es ist ein ewiges Werden,
Neues Leben und Hoffen erblüht.
Es ist ein ewiges Sterben
Das unsere Lieben entführt.

Der Schöpfer allein kann sie lenken,
Die Tage sind jedem gezählt,
Nur in treuem stillen Gedenken,
Verewigt man die Lieben, die er sich erwählt.

H. E.



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The ideal confection for the youngsters—Kunzle "Langue de Chat" Chocolate Fingers. Made from the purest and best ingredients in the most hygienic conditions. Take some home for the kiddies to-day, they'll simply love them, and you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that they are really doing them good.

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Proprietor: A. Widmer (Swiss).