

**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:** - (1938)

**Heft:** 872

**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:** 15.01.2026

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

## WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF US.

## Swiss Unity Challenged by Three Ideologies.

By DEMAREE BESS,  
Staff Correspondent of  
The Christian Science Monitor.

The Federal Republic of Switzerland recently has been submitted to one of the severest tests in its history. The results of the test are of importance not only to the people of Switzerland, but to all people anywhere who are concerned in the present world-wide conflict among various political conceptions. Through the forces of circumstances, Switzerland has become a laboratory in which the relative strength and value of certain political ideas and movements are being tested.

Here is the situation: The little country of Switzerland, with only four million inhabitants, is completely encircled by three powerful neighbouring countries, with a combined population of 160 millions. The people of Switzerland have no language of their own; they speak the three languages of their neighbours. Almost three-fourths of them speak German; of the rest, two-thirds speak French and the other one-third Italian. The Swiss have racial and cultural as well as linguistic ties with the three neighbouring countries.

Switzerland's three neighbours recently have developed powerful political movements based upon ideas which conflict sharply with the traditional conceptions underlying the Swiss Confederation, and which challenge Swiss unity. National Socialism in Germany, Fascism in Italy, and Marxian Socialism in France all exert pressure, in one form or another, threatening to break up or transform the Swiss Confederation, which has been developed during centuries upon a basis of federalism, complete local autonomy, sturdy independent democracy.

## Subjected to Strong Pressure.

German National Socialism, designed to unite all men and women of German race, tries to pull into its orbit the Swiss of German origin, who compose 71 per cent. of the population. Italian Fascism, somewhat less aggressively, seeks to draw toward itself Swiss of Italian origin living along Italo-Swiss borders. Marxian Socialism, which has become a powerful influence in France, invites Swiss "proletarians" to unite in a "class struggle" against "capitalist oppressors."

So here is Switzerland, squeezed in among these three powerful neighbours, subjected to severe pressure from three expansive political movements. What is happening to the Swiss? Are those who are German in language and race attracted to National Socialism? Are the Italian Swiss drawn to Fascism? Are Swiss "proletarians" and intellectuals abandoning their traditional free democratic ideas for Marxian Socialism?

Seeking an answer to these questions, we began here, in Bern, the Capital of the Swiss Confederation, a tour of investigation. We had set out from Geneva, Switzerland's "international city," planning to visit in turn cities and country districts in which German, French and Italian are predominant languages.

## Bern Preserves Its Past.

We had arranged to meet and talk with many Swiss citizens in each of the places to be visited, as well as with foreign residents whose long stay in the Country qualified them as competent observers. We intended at the same time to absorb that "atmosphere" which all experienced journalists have learned is sometimes more important in reaching judgments than official interviews or formal conversations.

It was our good fortune to arrive in Bern for our first visit to the Swiss Capital at twilight, after it was too late to make calls. So we received our first impressions of the city by a walk through the streets after the day's work was done. Those who have visited all the cities of Europe declare that Bern is unique in the extent to which it has preserved its own past. We had a curious sensation, as we walked through its streets, or the first time at twilight, of having slipped back through the centuries into a past which was not German nor French or Italian, but must be peculiarly Swiss.

## Strict Control of Building.

A German-speaking Swiss professor told us the next day that the newest building in many of Bern's streets dates from the eighteenth century, while many go back to the sixteenth. The municipal regulations provide that no new building may be erected in these streets unless it has been approved by the municipal architect and conforms with the architectural style of the older buildings already there.

The Swiss professor added: "We Swiss have a sense of kinship with our past. Our own Swiss traditions are very important to us. We have

tried to preserve them carefully, just as we do our old buildings here in Bern."

We mentioned the professor's comparison to an American friend who has lived in Bern for several years. He nodded, and said: "Yes, and your professor might have added that they don't readily accept new ideas unless they conform with the older ones. My residence in Switzerland has convinced me that common traditions — in this case, traditions of tolerance, mutual forbearance and democracy — are far more important than a common language in holding a people together."

The Swiss, in my opinion, have an even stronger sense of nationhood than our people in the United States, even though they do speak various languages and possess diversified cultures which different languages imply. It probably requires centuries to fuse such diversified human elements as exist in Switzerland; but Switzerland, fortunately, has had centuries in which to accomplish the task, and the result gives one a sense of solid unity and permanence which is especially agreeable just now, in the midst of our restless, disturbing modern world."

## FOOTBALL SEASON 1937-1938.

## WESTERN GROUP TABLE.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	Goals
Chaux-de-Fonds	22	16	2	4	78	31	34	
Vevey	22	13	4	5	57	34	30	
Aarau	22	12	1	9	55	46	25	
Cantonal	22	10	5	7	36	32	25	
Urania	22	10	5	7	43	46	25	
Concordia (Yverdon)	22	8	8	6	24	30	24	
Montreux	22	9	3	10	37	41	21	
Forward (Morges)	22	8	4	10	25	33	20	
Solothurn	22	6	6	10	33	42	18	
Monthey	22	7	4	11	33	56	18	
Pruntrut	22	5	7	10	34	40	17	
Derendingen	22	1	5	16	30	54	17	
F. C. Pruntrut and Derendingen								League II.

## EASTERN GROUP TABLE.

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.	Goals
St. Gall	22	12	5	5	51	34	29	
Concordia (Basel)	22	11	6	5	39	33	28	
Brühl (St. Gall)	22	10	7	5	43	26	27	
Zurich	22	10	6	6	60	50	26	
Blue Stars	22	9	6	7	48	37	24	
Juventus	22	9	5	8	38	40	23	
Winterthur	22	6	7	9	58	54	19	
Bellinzona	22	7	5	10	30	37	19	
Locarno	22	5	9	8	33	43	19	
Chiasso	22	5	7	10	23	42	17	
Kickers (Luzern)	22	6	5	11	43	57	17	
Schaffhausen	22	6	4	12	23	40	16	

HELVETIA CLUB  
1, GERRARD PLACE, LONDON, W.1.

## A Carnival Dance

will be held in the Club-house on

MONDAY, 1ST AUGUST 1938.

commencing at 8.30 p.m.

CELEBRATING THE

Swiss National Day

MANY OTHER ATTRACTIONS.

Admission by ticket only, 2s 6d. each.

Closing 2 a.m.

## MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

SWISS ESTABLISHED 25 years Mincing Lane (Produce Trade) has opening for a Comptropat, active, hard worker, experienced Book-keeper and Correspondent, view partnership after trial period. Write Box 66, Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

SUISSE, 19 ans, région parisienne, cherche échange avec jeune homme de Londres — durée 3 mois — vie de famille assurée — Renseignements: Richter, 69, Rue Belin, Argenteuil. (S. & O.).

SITUATION required by Swiss, 25 years City experience, extensively travelled Europe, America, China, Japan, proficient in all branches of Produce Trade, Commercial Insurance and Banking, Capable Sales Organiser. German, French, some Spanish, perfect almost accentless English. 20 years member of three City Produce Exchanges, arbitrator in commercial disputes. Offers solicited to Box No. 7, c/o Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Wednesday, August 3rd — at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuals — Monthly Meeting — at 74, Charlotte Street, W.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 s.f. 160,000,000

Reserves - - s.f. 32,000,000

Deposits - - s.f. 1,280,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and  
Foreign Exchange Business Transacted: : Correspondents in all : :  
: : parts of the World. : :

Telephone Numbers :  
MUSEUM 4302 (Visitors)  
MUSEUM 7055 (Office)  
Established "Ben faranno i Paganis  
WESDO, LONDON over "Purgatorio C. xio. Dante  
"Venir se ne dee giu  
trai miei Meschini."  
50 Years.

PAGANI'S  
RESTAURANT

GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON, W.1.

LINDA MESCHINI | Sole Proprietors.

Drink delicious Ovaltine  
at every meal-for Health!

## Divine Services.

## EGLISE SUISSE (1762).

(Langue française).

79, ENDELL STREET, SHAFTESBURY AVENUE, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Dimanche 31 juillet 1938.

11h. — Culte spécial à l'occasion de la Fête National — M. M. Pradervand.

Les cultes du soir sont supprimés jusqu'à fin août.

Lundi 1er août. Course à Reigate. Rendez-vous à 10h.15 à Charing Cross Stn. (Southern Rly.). Invitation à chacun.

## SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Le 29 juillet, John BALMER, de Mühleberg (Berne), mort accidentellement le 24 juillet, à l'âge de 16 ans.

Pour l'instruction religieuse et les actes pastoraux, prière de s'adresser au pasteur, M. Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4 (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11 — 12h.30.

## SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den Juli 31. 1938.

Predigt: Pfarrer Rud. Kägi aus Rothrist. Während der Monate Juli und August finden keine Abendgottesdienste statt.

Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen und Besuchen sind zu richten — an Herrn Pfarrer Rud. Kägi, c/o Foyer Suisse, 12, Upper Bedford Way, Russell Square, W.C.1. — Tel.: MUSEUM 2982.

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