

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: 880

Rubrik: Home news

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: 27.11.2025

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 2321/2.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 15—No. 880

LONDON, 24 SEPTEMBER, 1938

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES	3 Months (13 issues, post free)	3/6
	6 " " " "	6/6
SWITZERLAND	6 Months (26 issues, post free)	Fr. 7.50
	12 " " " "	14.—

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postcheck-Konto Basle V 5718).



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.

26th GORDON-BENNETT BALLOON RACE, LIEGE, SEPTEMBER 11th 1938.

It is reported that the Polish balloon "Polonia II" has landed in Rumania and the Belgian balloon "SII Belgique" in Bulgaria, thus all the competitors have landed.

Although no official statement has yet been issued, the winner of the race will be undoubtedly the Polish balloon "L.O.P.P." which has covered a distance of about 1,600 km.

The following details about Swiss competitors in the former Gordon-Bennett Races might be of interest:

Thirty years ago, the startling victory of Colonel Schäck, President of the Swiss Aero Club, as he then was, caused a great stir throughout Switzerland. The start was made from Berlin, where altogether 23 balloons took off. The distance flown by the gallant colonel and his companion amounted to 1200km. and they were all in all 73 hours in the air. The Americans came in second, covering a distance of 428 km. This event was unfortunately marred by some regrettable incidents; a few minutes after starting, an American balloon, burst at the height of 500m.; fortunately the cover acted as a parachute, and both pilot and passenger had a narrow escape, landing without being even hurt. The day following the net of one of the Spanish competitors snapped during the voyage but luckily enough no loss of life occurred. The Swiss balloon "Cognac" piloted by Victor de Beauclair landed near the north sea coast, others risked the trip over the open sea, with the result that four balloons were fished out of the water, somewhere near Heligoland, when two German pilots lost their lives, through having been drowned.

Luck favoured the Swiss, after many hours of anxious waiting, the welcome news came over the wire, that the balloon "Helvetia" which was piloted by Colonel Schäck, had landed safely on the Norwegian coast after having been altogether 73 hours in the air. Switzerland thus not only won the race but had also beaten the world record of a duration flight. For the first time therefore our country was entrusted with the arrangements for the next competition, which was held at Zurich, at the beginning of October 1909. Switzerland was then represented with three balloons: "Azura" (Captain E. Messmer, the companion of Colonel Schäck in 1908); "Helvetia" (Colonel Schäck) and "Cognac" (Victor de Beauclair) and took 3rd, 4th and 7th place. The winner of this race was the American Mix, with balloon "America II," and second the Frenchman Alf. Leblanc with balloon "Ile de France." A strong west-wind blew the balloons over Austria, Czechoslovakia and as far as the Russian frontier.

Eleven years later (1921), victory again came to Switzerland. M. P. Armbruster from Berne, started from Brussels, where 14 balloons were entered, having been blown towards the open sea, he risked the journey over the water, and landed safely on the island of Lambey, near the Irish coast, 766 km. away from the starting point, and once again the beautiful Gordon-Bennett Cup which is valued at 10,000 Swiss francs, was entrusted into the safe custody of Switzerland.

In 1922 the race was held at Geneva, where 19 balloons competed, amongst them three under the Swiss flag. The winner of this race, was the Belgian Demuyter, who also won the next two races and consequently the cup became the perpetual property of the Aero-Club of Belgium. Gordon-Bennett, the proprietor of the New York

Herald, then offered a new cup, an exact replica of the first one, this new cup was won again by a Belgian. Then W. T. Orman, an American, appeared on the field, and in 1928, after three consecutive wins, the trophy was won outright by the Americans.

After Henry Ford had provided a new cup, the Gordon-Bennett race continued in 1929 at St. Louis (U.S.A.) and 1931 (1930 no race took place) in Cleveland (U.S.A.); in 1933 America won the cup outright. The American Aero Club offered a new cup, which was won in 1933, 1934 and 1935 by Poland.

Poland, by having won the race three times in succession, became the permanent possessor of the trophy.

A new cup was presented by Poland last year.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH IRELAND v. SWITZERLAND

The Swiss National Team which was playing the Irish National Team on Sunday last in Dublin, was beaten by four goals to nil.

The Swiss team consisted of: Huber, Minelli, Lehmann, Springer, Vernati (Grasshoppers), Lörtscher (Servette), Bickel (Grasshoppers), Trello (Servette), Amado (Lugano), Walacek, Aebl (Servette).

SWISS BANKERS MEETING.

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Swiss Bankers Association took place on Saturday last in Zurich, under the Presidency of M. Robert La Roche (Basle). Amongst the many guests were the Swiss Finance Minister, Dr. Meyer and Dr. Schulthess, late Federal Councillor.

SIR MALCOLM CAMPBELL'S NEW RECORD.

Sir Malcolm Campbell took advantage of favourable conditions on Lake Hallwil and eclipsed in the Bluebird his own world water speed record by setting up an average of 130.86 m.p.h., over a mile an hour faster than the record of 129.5 m.p.h. which he established on Lake Maggiore last September.

His first run was made in 27.3sec., a speed of 132.86 m.p.h., and the return at a speed slower by .4sec., giving an average of 130.86 m.p.h.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY

LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

GOLDEN JUBILEE FESTIVITIES

MEMBERS' EVENING

on
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14th, 1938

at
Pagani's Restaurant,
Great Portland Street, W.1.

(TOWN DRESS) 6.30 for 7 p.m.

JUBILEE BANQUET and BALL

on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15th, 1938

at the
Trocadero, Piccadilly Circus, W.1.
(EVENING DRESS) 6.30 for 7 p.m.

TICKETS for both functions at 18/-; for Members' Evening only 5/- and for Banquet only 14/6 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 310), and Swiss Observer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2 (Tel. Clerkenwell 2321/2).

SWISS LEGATION REMOVED.

The Swiss Legation in Madrid has been removed to Barcelona, the Chancery remains in Madrid.

COMPTOIR SUISSE IN LAUSANNE.

On the 15th inst. the "Official Day" at the Comptoir Suisse in Lausanne took place. Amongst the many official guests was Federal Councillor Obrecht, who was the principal speaker at the Banquet.

SPAR UND LEIHKASSE BERNE.

The former Manager of the Spar-und Leihkasse in Berne, Ott, was condemned to fifteen months imprisonment, in an action against the Management and Directors of this institution, which lasted for over three weeks. Four members of the Board were acquitted, but will have to bear a part of the costs of the action.

The main indictment of the prosecution was, that for a number of years false Balance-sheets were published and thus both the shareholders and the public were misled.

The case has proved without a shadow of doubt, that the entire Board had infinite confidence in the Manager Ott, and did not enact the necessary supervision.

Ott has appealed against the verdict.

CONGRESS OF BUILDING SOCIETIES IN ZURICH.

The Government control of building societies in Great Britain was described in detail to delegates to the Sixth International Congress of Building Societies in Zurich, by Mr. John Fox, the chief registrar of British Friendly Societies. Mr. Fox said it was to be hoped that when opportunity arose for further legislation the Act of 1836 would be repealed and all societies brought under the same code.

Mr. Ralph H. Richards, president of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, read a paper on the nature and future of public supervision of building societies.

THREE LOST CLIMBERS IN THE ALPS.

Hope has been abandoned of finding M. and Mme. Fioroli and M. Vellet, of Geneva, who disappeared in the Mont Blanc region on August 24th. For a fortnight 30 Chamonix and Courmayeur guides and 50 Geneva Alpinists have been exploring the mountains in spite of adverse weather, but now over 7ft. of snow has fallen, rendering further search hopeless.

The three lost climbers arrived at the Gamba Hut, on the Italian side of Mont Blanc, on August 23rd, and left part of their equipment there. Next day they reached the Dames Anglaises shelter, where they were seen for the last time. Their disappearance cannot be ascribed to bad weather, as was at first supposed, for conditions were perfect.

M. Fioroli was in 1928 awarded a gold medal by the French Government for his gallantry in the attempted rescue of a marooned climber on Petit Druze. As the result of his sufferings he had to spend a long time in hospital. Mme. Fioroli was a member of the staff of the League of Nations Secretariat, and was an expert in both climbing and skiing.

NEW BEROMUNSTER STATION.

A feature of the new Swiss broadcasting station at Beromünster which, it is expected, will be inaugurated during this autumn, is the great distance, 1.5 kilometres, that the aerial is situated from the transmitter.

This 100-kw station, which will work on the present station's frequency of 556 kc/s (539.6 metres), will be equipped with 700ft. aerial masts to overcome the difficulties of propagation experienced in this mountainous country.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

On the occasion of the "Zürcher Knabenschieszen" which was recently held in Zurich, Hans Luchsinger, born in 1922, was declared "Schützenkönig," he scored 33 points. (5.5,6,6,6,5.)

From Zurich, comes the news of the death of M. E. Schindler, a former "Zentral-Sekretär" des "Schweiz. Kaufmännischen Vereins" and Editor of the "Zentralblatt," at the age of 72.

BASLE.

The death is reported from Basle of Dr. Paul Siegfried, from 1911-1919 States Prosecutor of the canton of Basle. On retiring from his post, Dr. Siegfried wrote a number of novels and historical essays; the best-known amongst his novels are "Wetterleuchten" and "Das brennende Herz."

SCHAFFHAUSEN.

Dr. Heinrich Bolli, late States-Councillor, has died in Schaffhausen at the age of 81. He was born in 1858 in Beringen. The deceased studied law at the Universities in Heidelberg, Munich, Berlin and Aix-en-Provence, and later on established himself as an advocate in Schaffhausen. From 1884-1924 Dr. Bolli was a member of the Grand Council over which he presided four times. In 1906 he entered Parliament (States Council) where he remained until 1933. For several years Dr. Bolli was a member of the Swiss Delegation to the League of Nations, he was also a *doctor honoris causa* of the University of Basle. In the army, the deceased held the rank of Colonel of Infantry, from 1905-1908 he was in command of the Infantry Brigade 12. During the Frontier occupation he was in command of the fortifications in Murten.

APPENZEL A/RH.

The inauguration of a monument dedicated to the memory of Johann, Heinrich Tobler, the composer of the "Landsgemeindeliedes" took place at the "Vögelinegg"; amongst the many guests present was M. Baumann, President of the Swiss Confederation.

ST. GALL.

The death has occurred in Rorschach of M. Benz-Meisel, timber merchant, at the age of 85. The deceased was for many years a member of the Grand Council of the canton St. Gall.

GRISONS.

Mme. Beatrice Segantini, the widow of the celebrated painter Giovanni Segantini, who died in 1899, has passed away at Maloja.

ARGAU.

Mme. Marianne Ursprung-Ryser in Ueken, has celebrated her 102nd birthday.

VAUD.

Dr. Paul Vuilleumier, a colonel in the Swiss Army Medical Corps, has died in Territet at the age of 67. Dr. Vuilleumier was for a good many years President of the "Verkehrsverein" in Montreux.

VALAIS.

The enlarged Tracuit Hut of the Swiss Alpine Club on Col de Tracuit (10,675ft.), above Zinal, in Val d'Anniviers, Canton Valais, will now accommodate 56 persons.

LA POLITIQUE**L'incohérence subsiste.**

Peu après qu'auront paru ces lignes, la session d'automne des Chambres fédérales sera ouverte. L'ordre du jour, on le sait, est chargé. Il n'est même pas sûr que deux semaines suffisent à l'épuiser; et l'hypothèse d'une troisième semaine est sérieusement envisagée.

L'atmosphère dans laquelle s'ouvrent les débats de nos deux conseils législatifs n'est pas très agréable. En le relevant, nous ne faisons pas allusion aux événements extérieurs, bien qu'ils soient de nature à nous maintenir dans une inquiétude en train de devenir chronique. Toutefois, leur cours ne dépend pas de nous. Notre action sur ce qui se passe en Europe est pour ainsi dire nulle. En conséquence, notre rôle est de nous tenir prêts à toute éventualité et de garder calme et sang-froid. C'est ce que fait d'ailleurs, dans son ensemble, notre population: nous avons recueilli à cet égard le témoignage d'étrangers récemment arrivés en Suisse; ils ont été frappés de la tranquillité, de la sérénité des habitants, qui contrastent, nous disaient-ils, avec l'agitation régnant dans plusieurs grands pays.

Quelle que soit l'incertitude du temps présent, nous nous sentirions plus rassurés si, du moins, chez nous, les affaires publiques étaient conduites avec cette ferme sagesse qui fut traditionnelle, mais que l'on craint bien de voir complètement disparaître. Pour la défense nationale, pour nos relations avec nos voisins, le Conseil fédéral a conservé son autorité et prend les mesures utiles avec un grand sens de ses responsabilités. En revanche, pour ce qui touche à la politique intérieure — ainsi que nous l'avons déjà dit et que nous le répétons aussi longtemps qu'il le faudra, sans nous soucier de plaire ou de déplaire en haut lieu — l'attitude du gouvernement provoque de légitimes et sévères critiques et laisse planer pour l'avenir des menaces redoutables.

C'est ainsi que, en ce premier jour de session de septembre, le Conseil fédéral va proposer au Conseil national de renvoyer toute décision au

sujet de l'initiative socialiste dite des trois cents millions et que l'on dénomme aussi deuxième initiative de crise. On n'a pas oublié que, lorsqu'elle fut lancée, le directoire helvétique se récria et déclara que le crédit en question était excessif. Ce qui ne l'a nullement empêché, par la suite, de proposer lui-même, ou plutôt d'adopter, un projet prévoyant de grands travaux pour un total de quatre cents millions.

L'idée du chef du département de l'économie publique est, paraît-il, qu'il importe de soumettre d'abord au parlement le projet du Conseil fédéral. Notez bien que ledit projet n'a pas encore de couverture financière, que l'on ignore si l'on recourra au bénéfice de dévaluation de la Banque nationale ou si l'on instituera un impôt spécial sur le chiffre d'affaires des grands magasins. C'est même à cause de cette perplexité où l'on est plongé que le Conseil fédéral demande un crédit provisoire de 70 millions, lequel est tout aussi dépourvu de couverture que celui dont il doit préparer l'acceptation.

A notre humble avis, on met la charrue devant les bœufs en provoquant la consultation populaire d'abord sur le projet officiel. En soumettant premièrement au souverain l'initiative socialiste, on déblayait le terrain et l'on pouvait obtenir une réponse avant la fin de l'année. Nous croyons qu'elle serait négative, d'autant plus que l'argument qu'il ne faut pas toucher à la réserve d'or de la Banque nationale dans les circonstances actuelles prendrait un gros poids du fait de l'insécurité européenne. En demandant la priorité pour son projet, le Conseil fédéral fera traîner les choses en longueur et il ne contribuera pas à éclaircir la situation. Au reste, son projet est tout aussi critiquable que l'initiative, et l'on ne voit guère pourquoi on voterait celui-là plutôt que celle-ci. Il eût certainement été préférable et possible de se borner à subventionner des entreprises cantonales et à venir à l'aide des cantons au fur et à mesure des besoins, en tenant un compte plus exacte des nécessités régionales.

L'aventure des quatre cents millions est aussi dangereuse qu'est déplorable l'impuissance à rétablir, même partiellement, l'équilibre financier. Et la cause de tout cela, c'est le désir obstiné de quelques-uns de nos magistrats d'avoir à tout prix la collaboration de l'extrême-gauche.

Tant que le Conseil fédéral, cessant de gouverner, se laissera gouverner par ses adversaires, nous vivrons dans l'incohérence.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève.)

CITY SWISS CLUB.

We understand from Henry Binguely, Hon. Secretary of the City Swiss Club, that the Committee of the Club are going right out of their way to make the monthly meetings most attractive, and they have one or two surprises in store starting with the October monthly meeting. They, therefore, rely on a large attendance of members, as this will be the best encouragement to them in their endeavours to make these meetings ever so popular. Full details will be given in our next week's issue.

DIE EINTRACHT.

So Zamegwürlflet und usegläse doch üses Schwyzervolk isch so si mir bis hüt immer no mitenand us-cho. Es weis es e jede, dass me im Jura wäutsch redt u äned em Gotthardt italiänisch und im Graubünde jetz sogar offiziell romanisch! Aber we mir jetz villicht scho nume grad Schwyzerdütsch chöi, so si mir fescht dervo überzügt, dass di angere Landslüt, die jetz haut i Gott's Name angersch rede aus mir au rächti Schwyzler si. Mir si au nid eso, dass mir dänke we eine villicht über religiösi Aglägeheite an angeri Uffasig heig aus mir, so chönni är kei rächte Schwyzler si: im Gägeteil!

Mir si sogar der Ansicht, dass me jedem Schwyzler son si Gloube lo. Ersch denn cha är eigentlech erscht rächt igeshl, was ihm d'Heimat aues bietet. Es si nid nume läri Versprächige, di me do macht, sondern es isch würklich Tatsach, das der Schwyzler cha gloube, dänke und rede, was er wot so lang dass das öpe im Rahme vo der Verfässig geschet.

Und grad drum si mir son nes Dürenang, wiu mir äbe jedem Verlang nach Föderalismus wi me z'Bärn obe seitd luege Rächtnig z'träge. Mi Wunsch isches und i bi sicher, dass mir üs an i Zuekunft mitenang verträge wärde, wenn es hie und do scho chli lüt zue geit z'Bärn obe. Mir wüsse aulli ganz genau, dass mir aus Voulk nume chöi äxistiere we mir, mitenang einig si und das isches äbe, was mir hüt am meischte nötig hei, nämlich: d'Ytracht unterm Schwyzervolk.

E.Z.

PERSONAL

We wish to congratulate Miss M. J. Weil, daughter of M. J. Weil, for having successfully passed the Royal Society of Arts examination in French, German and Spanish.

SWISS FOOTBALL TEAM v. ARSENAL.

A report about the above Football Match will appear in the next issue.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

Messieurs les membres sont avisés que

L'ASSEMBLEE MENSUELLE

aura lieu Mardi 4 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.

Démissions.

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 2321/2).

Le Comité.

Drink delicious "Ovaltine" at every meal - for Health!

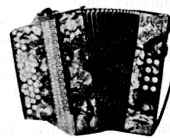
Peaceful SWITZERLAND

£ now buys over 21 Swiss francs yet —

- no bother at the frontier
- prices to suit every pocket
- short and inexpensive journey
- direct rail and air services
- customs facilities for cars
- petrol 1/3 gallon to visitors
- holiday centres for all seasons

Best value in Holiday Travel

INFORMATION from the Swiss Railways & State Travel Bureau, 11-B Regent Street, London, S.W.1



Swiss Accordion Club
LONDON

74, Charlotte Street, W.1

Director: A. GANDON.

REHEARSALS: Every Friday from 9 till 10.30 p.m.

Private lessons given. Children Saturday Afternoon.

SUCCESS GUARANTEED.

If you want a SUIT to WEAR

wear a

PRITCHETT Suit

Suits, Overcoats & Ladies Costumes from 3 Gns. to 7 Gns. and you get VALUE for every penny you pay.

Agent for BURBERRY
Weatherproofs.

W. PRITCHETT

183 & 184, TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, W.1.
2 mins. from S.M.S. School. Phone: MUSEUM 0428