

**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:** - (1940)

**Heft:** 948

**Artikel:** Rearming Switzerland

**Autor:** [s.n.]

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-686855>

#### **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:** 21.02.2026

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

## 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. 1,218,000,000

NEW YORK AGENCY  
15 NASSAU STREET.

All Descriptions of Banking and  
Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

veyance. I have never learned to drive, and I must confess I am now rather sorry for it.

"But at that time I stuck to the old sport, and drove a road coach in summer once a week from Northumberland Avenue to its pleasant destination in the country.

"I left London in May, 1904, when public opinion was much occupied with the Russo-Japanese war in the East, an event which, as foreseen by British statesmen, showed Japan for the first time definitely as a coming Great Power.

"I then had a very interesting year in Rome, and in 1905 a further year in Paris.

"In 1906 I went to Petersburg, where I saw what can be considered as a well-preserved old Russia in spite of the shocks of the defeat by the Japanese and the first revolutionary outbreaks that followed.

"At the beginning of 1912 I returned to London as Counsellor, the Legation then having been transferred to Portland-place from its old quarters.

"The outstanding impressions of my second stay are the sinking of the Titanic, which gave the country a sad and severe shock; Mr. Lloyd George's famous Budget of £200,000,000, which was then thought to be the end of all things; the deterioration of Anglo-German relations; and finally the Serajevo murder and the July crisis leading Europe towards Armageddon.

"At 2 a.m. on August 4th, 1914, I met my old friend van Svinderen, then Netherlands Minister, in Piccadilly Circus; we stood and gazed on the mafficking of a delirious crowd, and neither of us has ever forgotten the amazing spectacle.

"In the summer of 1917 I left for Berne, where I had been called to take the post of Political Director at the Swiss Foreign Office. I came back to London in 1920 as Swiss Minister to Great Britain in time to be present at the first meeting of the Council of the League of Nations in St. James's Palace, when Switzerland was granted permission to enter whilst keeping her policy of neutrality.

"It is only natural that my familiarity with English life and my friendly connections should have proved to be an invaluable help to me during the last twenty years, and no one can vouch better than I for the truth of the saying so often applied to your countrymen: 'Once a friend, always a friend'."

## REARMING SWITZERLAND.

(*"The Times,"* 9.1.40.)

Our Swiss Correspondent tells us that Switzerland, like every other neighbour of Nazi Germany, is busily engaged in turning her man-power and resources to the uses of war. It is fantastic that German propagandists should be continually exhorting the neutral countries to remain absolutely impartial in the present war, whereas it is the policy and methods of their own Government, and of that of Soviet Russia, which compel these countries to rearm even beyond their means, and which make public opinion in them overwhelmingly anti-Nazi. Switzerland, while remaining honourably and strictly neutral, is perfecting her defences; and, if the lines she is reinforcing or building face north and north-east, the Nazis have only themselves to thank for it. It is certain that the Swiss troops would render an excellent account of themselves against any army that tried to force its way through their territory. All able-bodied men are individually trained to be defenders of their native mountains. Like the Finns, they are a nation of marksmen and of skiers; and they can put about the same number of men into the field. Small though the number is — something around half a million in either case — the terrain on which they would have to fight favours the mobility of small bodies. The narrow roads and mountain tracks, the lakes, the rushing rivers, and the defiles would all be intimately known to the defenders; while the larger armies, as in Finland, would find the deployment space insufficient to give them the full advantage of their numbers.

The Swiss people are also animated by a tradition of independence which has hardly a parallel in Europe. They have had to fight for their freedom from the earliest days of modern history, and finally threw off the rule of the German Empire three hundred years ago. The whole population is completely freedom-loving and democratic. Great Britain has been evolving the same ideals over the same long period of time as Switzerland; and there exists between the two countries a natural sympathy which no amount of propaganda can destroy. The war has of course brought special problems of its own, notably those connected with the blockade. During this period they have been fortunate to have in Berne and London respectively such competent representatives as Sir

Telephone:  
MUSEUM 2982

Telegrams:  
FOYSUSSIE LONDON

## FOYER SUISSE

12, BEDFORD WAY,  
RUSSELL SQUARE,  
LONDON, W.C.1.

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

Continental cooking.

Single rooms with running hot and cold water including heating and bath from 27/- per week.

Management: SCHWEIZER VERBAND VOLKSDIENST.

George Warner and M. Paravicini, who both, as it happens, bring to an end almost simultaneously terms of office in which they have well served both their own Government and the country to which they have been accredited. At the same time a word of cordial greeting may be extended to M. Paravicini's successor, M. Thurnheer, who has just arrived in London to take up his new post.

### TRUTZ — LIED.

Frei ist die Schweiz. Es lebe die Freiheit.  
Gebt sie nicht preis, drum schliesst die Reih'n.

Moegen von links und rechts  
Dir auch Gefahren droh'n,  
Immer O Vaterland,  
Bleib ich Dein treuer Sohn.

Frei ist die Schweiz. Es lebe die Freiheit.  
Gebt sie nicht preis, drum schliesst die Reih'n.

Ruhiges Blut. Die Kraefte gesammelt.  
Wollt ihr den Kampf, wir scheuen ihn nicht.  
Mag es auch rings herum  
Neue Tyrannen schnei'n  
Wir wollen niemands Knecht  
oder Vasallen sein.

Ruhiges Blut. Die Kraefte gesammelt.  
Wollt ihr den Kampf, wir scheuen ihn nicht.

Alle fuer Dich. Und Du fuer uns alle.  
Bauet auf Gott, es gilt unser Land.  
Wem es nicht passt bei uns  
der ziehe anderwaerts,  
Wer sich als Schweizer fuehlt,  
Gebe sein ganzes Herz.

Alle fuer Dich. Und Du fuer uns alle.  
Bauet auf Gott. Es gilt unser Land.

### WINTER SPORTS FOR ANIMALS.

**Marmots on the Swiss Slopes.**  
(*The Times*, 17.1.40.)

On the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the creation of the Swiss National Park, in Val Clouza, in the Lower Engadine, Professor A. Pictet, of Geneva, published his observations made there on wild animals at play, in particular baby marmots, which play hide-and-seek and leap-frog among the rhododendron bushes, and seem to enjoy these games thoroughly.

Squirrels and hares roll or wrestle among themselves in the snow, while the marmots slide along the snow slopes well seated on the snow with their arms folded on their breasts, exactly as boys do in the mountain valleys.

Young chamois, according to Dr. Pictet's observations, follow with interest and curiosity the games of baby marmots and soon begin to imitate them: they

try *rudsching*, but as they are generally clumsy they fall and tumble down the slopes with their legs in the air. But they climb again to the top and begin their *rudsching* again and again until they succeed in sliding down on their four legs, a game they seem to enjoy immensely.

### SWISS DOCTORS FOR FINLAND.

(*The Times*, 17.1.40.)

The Swiss Federal Government have authorized the Chief Medical Officer of the Army to send a medical mission to Finland. The mission, the cost of which will be borne by the Swiss medical profession, will be made up of doctors who have volunteered to go to Finland.

### MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

BOARD RESIDENCE in comfortable house, cosy lounge open fire, good locality. Moderate Terms. 5 mins. walk Chalk Farm. Simmen, 17, Fellows Road, N.W.3. Primrose 3181.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 20th, 1940, at 2.30 p.m. — Nouvelle Société Helvétique — Annual General Meeting — at the "Foyer Suisse," 12, Bedford Way, W.C.1, lunch at 3/- to be served at 1.30 p.m. The Meeting will be followed by a causerie by Mr. W. B. SIGERIST, on "Recent Experiences With the Swiss Army."

Tuesday, February 6th, at 5.30 p.m. — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.1.

Wednesday, February 14th, 1940, at 7.30 p.m. — Swiss Mercantile Society Ltd. — Annual General Meeting — at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

### Divine Services.

Dimanche 21 janvier 1940 : à **Eglise Suisse**, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2.  
11h. Culte. M. M. Pradervand.

11h. Ecole du dimanche.

5h. Culte au Foyer Suisse, 15, Bedford Way, W.C.1.

SERVICE FUNEBRE.

Le 13 janvier, à Hendon Park Cemetery, Gustave Baumann, de Bubikon (Zurich), âgé de 54 ans.

Pour tout ce qui concerne le ministère pastoral, prière de s'adresser à Monsieur le pasteur Marcel Pradervand, 65, Mount View Road, N.4. (Téléphone Mountview 5003). Heure de réception à l'église le mercredi de 11-12h.30.

Sonntag, den 21. Januar 1940 : in der **Schweizerkirche**, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

11 Uhr. Gottesdienst.

5 Uhr. Gottesdienst in Französisch im Foyer Suisse.

Für Amtshandlungen u. alle Anfragen wende man sich an Pfr. Stutz, 23, Womersley Road, N.8. (MOU. 4649).

Printed and Published by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.

