

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: - (1941)
Heft: 994

Artikel: Goodbye to autumn
Autor: J.J.E.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-691257>

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: 02.04.2026

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

there is no doubt that this statement is in accordance with the facts. This explanation does not, however, alter in the least the actual deterioration of the trading relations between Switzerland and England nor does it alter our painful realisation that, should the new English blockade decision be rigorously applied and the necessary navycerts no longer be issued, the economic and social situation of Switzerland will certainly become very strained indeed. Switzerland must now wait and see. If her imports of essential goods through the last line of supply are to be cut off, it will affect the very means of existence of our country. How essentially important this last import route is for Switzerland can be appreciated from the fact that, in order to remove the goods lying in Lisbon, a lorry service through Spain was organized with financial help from the state beside the existing shuttle-service between Lisbon and Genoa. This was done in order to secure, in case of a further intensification or a possible extension of the war — America — a last reliable passage for in and out traffic. Anyone familiar with Swiss economy knows that with the maximum extension of cultivation at home and production of "Ersatz" — products, also with a planned guiding of both production and consumption together with a total rationing, a certain amount of relief is attainable without however solving the difficult problem of Swiss economy.

Our attitude corresponds with our policy of neutrality, our vital interests and the structure of our economic life. That is why the expectations in our "besieged fortress" are based on the hope that England will duly respect Switzerland's right of existence thereby sparing us dangerous social troubles and a stronger lining-up with the so-called European new order.

Even then the situation of Switzerland will still be quite serious enough.

GOOD-BYE TO AUTUMN.

Flowers no longer reign.
Supreme in splendid garb
Though royal rose
And hardy chrys
A while prevail.

Silent Battles scarce avail
'Gainst might and crush of time. —

Leaves spattering like rain
Laid low by icy rime,
Complete our span of gloom.

Yet autumn spreads delight
In many woodland scene
Motley tints remain;
Summer's parting mien!

Anon on sunny heights
Manse or cottage seen
Show creepers red aflame
All colours put to shame.

No war or human shifts
May human kind despoil
Of nature's holy gifts.

J.J.E.

SWISS BIRTH-RATE ALARM.

Under this title the "Catholic Herald," November 14th, is publishing the following statistics. We do not know whether the comments reflect the true position and the general census taking place next month will possibly produce a different picture.

The drop in the birth-rate from 37 for every 1,000 inhabitants in 1928, to 15 for every 1,000 inhabitants in 1937 is viewed as alarming. The birth-rate in the neighbouring countries for 1937 was 14.7 for France and 19.7 for Germany. In 1938, the German rate had risen to 20.3.

In 1900 there were 90,000 children born in Switzerland, but only 61,000 in 1937, notwithstanding a population increase of 800,000, which would indicate 120,000 births as the normal rate for 1937. As in other countries, the lowest birth-rate is found in urban communities.

However, a higher birth-rate generally is reported for the Catholic Cantons of Lucerne, Uri, Nidwald, Fribourg and Valais.

For the whole of Switzerland, the surplus of births over deaths is 3.7 per thousand, but it is 8 per thousand for the Catholic Cantons. To maintain the stability of population there should be an average of three children to a family; but out of 100 families, 30 have no children, 20 have one child, and 20 have two children.

Federal Councillor Etter, a Catholic, presiding at a meeting at Berne, said that measures to protect the family in Switzerland are imperative.



Registered
"KENCACKES"
Trade Mark

Eat
KENCACKES!

and get your Full Quota of Vitamin Value. Their Pre-War Quality and Standard are still maintained.

Buy **KENCACKES!**

OUR HIGH CLASS PASTRIES, CAKES, SWEETS, CHOCOLATES at :

| | |
|--|---------|
| 262 High Street, Kensington, | W.8. |
| 174 Earls Court Road, Kensington, | S.W.5. |
| 128 Gloucester Road, Kensington, | S.W.7. |
| 53 Old Brompton Road, Sth. Kensington, | S.W.7. |
| 54 Dawes Road, Walham Green, | S.W.6. |
| 179 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, | S.W.15. |
| 391 Upper Richmond Road, East Sheen, | S.W.14. |
| 8 Castle Street, Kingston, | Surrey. |

ALL HOME-MADE BY THE WELL-KNOWN WEST END PASTRYCOOKS AND CONFECTIONERS

THE WEST END FANCY BAKERY Co. Ltd.

Established 1903. — Man. Dir.: W. BACHMANN, (British, Swiss Origin)

Head Office & Central Bakery :

48-54, DAWES ROAD, S.W. 6.

Telephone: FULHAM 2000 & 6000.

RESTAURANTS, LARGE TEA ROOMS, LUNCHEONS, LIGHT REFRESHMENTS and DAINTY AFTERNOON TEAS

QUALITY — SERVICE — GOOD VALUE