

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: - (1942)

Heft: 1000

Artikel: Government and people on watch for security at home

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687698>

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Dr. Fritz Brandenberg died in Basle where he lived in retirement, at the age of 77, after a long and severe illness. He specialised in the treatment of juvenile diseases and practised in Basle, Zug (where he was born) and Winterthur; he was for a number of years Master of the Grand Lodge "Alpina."

* * *

Dr. Felix Weingartner, the well-known composer and conductor, died at the hospital at Winterthur, where he had been under treatment. He was 78 and a naturalised citizen.

* * *

To replace the air tubes for bicycles which owing to the decrease of rubber import are almost unobtainable, many people have tried their hand at substitutes, so that already nearly 1,200 inventors have applied for patents. For some time past the Cable and Rubber works in Altdorf have manufactured synthetic rubber, but their production is not sufficient to satisfy home demand.

THE STEADILY INCREASING POPULATION OF OUR TOWNS.

The following table gives the population of towns according to the recent census together with comparative figures for previous periods. Places with less than ten thousand inhabitants at the end of 1941 are omitted; some of our readers will probably miss Montreux and Davos the residents of which have been decreasing since 1930 to below the ten thousand mark. On the other hand Burgdorf is a newcomer.

	1850	1900	1930	1941	*
Zürich	41,585	168,021	249,820	333,829	+39.2
Basel	27,844	109,161	148,063	161,380	+ 9.0
Bern	29,670	67,550	111,783	129,331	+15.7
Geneva	37,724	97,359	124,121	124,442	+ 0.26
Lausanne	17,108	46,732	75,915	91,738	+20.8
St. Gallen	17,858	53,796	63,947	62,360	- 2.5
Winterthur	13,651	40,961	53,925	59,192	+ 9.8
Luzern	10,068	29,255	47,066	54,841	+16.5
Biel	5,609	29,557	37,726	40,850	+ 8.3
La Chaux-de-Fonds	13,659	35,968	35,252	30,939	-12.2
Fribourg	9,065	15,794	21,557	25,975	+20.5
Neuchatel	7,901	21,195	22,668	23,925	+ 5.5
Schaffhausen	7,700	15,275	21,118	22,400	+ 6.1
Thun	6,019	10,213	16,524	20,193	+22.2
Chur	6,183	11,532	15,574	17,074	+ 9.6
Lugano	5,142	9,394	15,184	17,025	+12.1
Solothurn	5,370	10,025	13,734	15,432	+12.4
Olten	6,969	1,634	13,484	15,282	+13.3
Köniz	5,984	6,886	10,987	14,358	+30.7
Aarau	4,657	7,831	11,666	12,851	+10.2
Herisau	8,387	13,497	13,599	12,737	- 6.3
Vevey	5,602	11,781	13,036	12,613	- 3.2
Zug	3,302	6,508	11,113	12,316	+10.8
Le Locle	7,493	12,559	12,001	11,363	- 5.3
Bellinzona	3,209	8,255	10,706	10,952	+ 2.3
Grenchen	1,581	5,202	10,397	10,900	+ 4.8
Yverdon			10,856		
Uster			10,588		
Rorschach	1,751	9,140	11,005	10,536	- 4.3
Baden	2,745	6,050	10,143	10,813	+ 2.7
Burgdorf			10,156		

* Indicates percentage of increase or decrease since 1930.

GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE ON WATCH FOR SECURITY AT HOME.

(An address by Federal Councillor Von Steiger delivered at Berne on April 16th 1942.)

Translated by C. J. Bernheim, Esq.

To the Swiss People, candour is the element of political life, suspicion its most dangerous poison. Conscious of its duty, the Government will take care to give reasonably wide scope to candour and to avoid all secretiveness. There is nothing to hide, neither in home nor in foreign politics. The federal chambers, the cantonal governments and the press are kept continually informed.

The Swiss Foreign Policy is like an open book. How could it be otherwise in view of the strict neutrality of the Federal Government? There are no secrets and no hide and seek business. Here also complete openness is the only correct state policy. That with it certain forms of courtesy have to be kept, is a matter of course and an old established custom. Probably nowhere is candour more necessary and secretiveness more dangerous than in the field of secret intrigues against the security of the state. Swiss citizens can rely on it that also in matters concerning the political police they will continually receive all the information which it is at all practicable to give. It must not be overlooked, however, that, in spite of the great ability and zeal of the staff, it is still an extraordinary difficult and delicate problem. Moreover, it is only since a comparatively short time that Switzerland possesses a political police and its necessity is really after all repugnant to us. In all the defence measures against disturbances of our public order, no matter where they come from, we continually find ourselves confronted with the fundamental problem of the safeguard of the freedom of public opinion. Where propaganda no longer means a mere personal, more or less theoretical, expression of views, without offensive aim, but is directed against internal security and against the state itself, it can no longer be tolerated. The security within must be put on a par with that from without. There is no sense in keeping the country safe from without with arms while security at home collapses. The state, no matter how small, loses its right of existence if it does not take care of its internal security.

We do not prosecute anyone who aims at bringing about changes in some of our state institutions in a constitutional way. No obstacle was put in the way of the so-called "Stalder-Initiative" which wanted to replace our present parliamentary order by some sort of "Tagsatzung." Mere "grumbling" is not liable to prosecution either.

What we cannot tolerate, however, and never will tolerate, is the advocacy of aims which are in opposition to the constitution, the forcing on of a constitutional change without or against the will of the people. We cannot allow the illegal brushing aside or endangering of the constitutional order by a so-called "emancipation of the free people," not by means of reform but by revolution. There can be no feeble giving-in, nor can we make any concession here. Any such attempt must be nipped in the bud. More than one group or movement which originally pretended to propagate new ideas for the benefit of the people led in the end to treason and attacks against the state. Such movements endanger the security of the state.

both within and without. They do not, as they assert or misrepresent, bring about good relations with our neighbours, on the contrary they aggravate and poison them because they are based on falsehood and insincerity.

We are therefore always most anxious to draw the line clearly between the fair, free expression of political opinion (even when it contradicts Swiss views) and behaviour which is antagonistic to the state. It is not a Swiss custom to molest, insult or threaten anyone who thinks differently as long as he behaves decently and is not hostile to the state. It is cowardly to treat an opponent who happens to be in a minority as despicable because of his conviction and it is a punishable offence to annoy or insult a foreigner on account of his nationality or political views. As a free people we will protect and respect the freedom of opinion even when it does not happen to please us. But on the other hand we proceed with all rigour and severity against everything that is directed against the security of our country and against any underground manœuvre threatening it. For our authorities the call is "beware of the beginnings." It is therefore unavoidable that the prohibition of organisations considered dangerous to the state sometimes hits young people who originally joined them in good faith and honest purpose but were carried away and misguided to such an extent that in the end they find themselves before the judge. The state cannot afford to be too lenient with such machinations. In cases of doubt it means first of all to protect the liberty of the state and not the passion of cells and groups or the wilfulness of the individual.

A word of caution is therefore addressed here to all those who from home are spreading false news abroad about Switzerland or about happenings connected with the war and who thereby, either out of sheer carelessness or evil intention, try to upset our neutrality and disturb our good relations with abroad. It is difficult to say who is the most objectionable, the Swiss who tries to blacken and defile his own country or the foreigner who abuses the hospitality of Switzerland. "No bird befools its own nest" Federal Councillor Scheurer used to say! The blackguards and jail-birds who all the same still do it, unfortunately belong to the human race.

Switzerland will not let her irreproachable and strictly neutral attitude be disturbed by irresponsible slanderers.

Swiss who are stabbing their Country and its Government in the back should take note of this. Foreigners, who are taking advantage of the hospitality granted to them and then carry on dangerous intrigues ought not to complain when they are again taken to the frontier.

To meet the risk of danger from within, there must be an adequate protection of the state. The confidence which all States place in us and which has put us in a position of trust for many duties does not permit that things should be allowed to occur which would throw doubt on the absolute reliability and neutrality of Switzerland. Wherever we come across Swiss citizens who are guilty of such dangerous intrigues, we get hold of them, not because of their opinion or political views but because of their unclean and dubious behaviour. If their conduct is culpable, judicial proceedings are initiated. If on the other hand their conduct is reprehensible, without however

being actually liable to prosecution, steps for redress are taken within the scope of other constitutional measures. This does not mean however, that Swiss Citizens are to be restricted in any way in their views on the tremendous happenings which are taking place outside our own borders. They will follow their evolution with a clear vision. Economically they are indeed being affected thereby every day.

Switzerland means to maintain its independence and to be master of its own fate. The Swiss people must themselves work out and create whatever innovations might be called for by the present times — out of their own strength and of their own free will.

The Federal Council knew quite well why it suppressed the most extreme left and right organisations and groups. It was quite right in doing so.

LA POPULATION DE LA SUISSE.

Il faudra attendre encore deux ou trois ans avant de connaître les résultats complets et détaillés du recensement fédéral du 1er décembre 1941. Jusqu'à ce que plus de 4 millions de fiches aient été vérifiées, classées et dépouillées, jusqu'à ce que les statisticiens aient procédé à leurs savants calculs, il faudra mettre en œuvre la vertu de patience. Cependant, l'administration fédérale n'est, dans ce domaine tout au moins, pas avare de renseignements. Elle vient de nous communiquer quelques chiffres provisoires qui nous permettent de faire quelques constatations intéressantes sur l'évolution démographique de la Suisse.

De 1930 à 1941, la population totale de la Suisse a passé de 4,066,000 à 4,256,000 habitants. Cette augmentation de 190,000 âmes peut être considérée comme à peu près normale. Cependant, il faut se rendre compte qu'elle n'a pas les mêmes causes que pendant les décennies précédentes.

Traditionnellement — ce n'est pas à des Suisse de l'étranger qu'il est nécessaire de le dire —, nos compatriotes ont beaucoup émigré. Par dizaines de mille ils sont allés chercher des moyens d'existence sous d'autres cieux, porter dans les pays les plus lointains le nom et la réputation de la Suisse, y exercer enfin un rôle d'ambassadeurs économiques et spirituels dont on ne dira jamais assez tout le prix. Cependant, les vides ainsi creusés dans nos rangs pouvaient présenter un certain danger : ils risquaient fort d'être comblés par des étrangers. Tel fut le cas pendant longtemps et l'on sait que la population compte un pourcentage très élevé de ressortissants d'autres nations, ce qui n'est certes pas un avantage du point de vue politique et militaire.

Toutefois, si ce danger n'a pas eu des conséquences trop graves, il faut l'attribuer au fait que nous avons toujours pu enregistrer un réjouissant excédent de naissances sur les décès. En d'autres termes, nous avons comblé nous-mêmes les vides, dans tous les cas dans une mesure appréciable. C'est la raison pour laquelle la politique très liberale de la Suisse à l'égard des immigrants n'a pas eu de trop gros inconvénients.

C'est intentionnellement que nous mettons tout cela au passé. Cette situation réjouissante n'est plus qu'un souvenir. Les ménages sans enfants se multiplient. Les familles nombreuses sont de plus en plus rares. Même, dans certains cantons, on enregistre un excédent notable des décès sur les naissances. Deux chiffres sont éloquents dans cet ordre d'idées : en 1900-1910, il