

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: - (1953)

Heft: 1215

Rubrik: Home affairs

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: 17.01.2026

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

HOME AFFAIRS.

PIERRE BÉGUIN.

Some remarks on the military appointments.

The Federal Council has just made some important changes in the composition of our military High Command. Several of the senior ranking officers had attained the age limit and steps had to be taken in order to provide for their replacement. In French-speaking Switzerland — with which we generally deal in these talks — it was learnt with great satisfaction that Colonel Corps Commander Marius Corbat had been appointed to the post of Chief Instructor. Thus, as the Chief of the General Staff is the Colonel Corps Commander de Montmollin, the two highest posts of military hierarchy are now occupied by sons of French-speaking Switzerland. Moreover, one of the four Army Corps is commanded by Colonel Corps Commander Gonard, so that out of the six members of the Committee for National Defense — which is composed exclusively of Corps Commanders — there are three whose mother-tongue is French. This gives great satisfaction to our pride. And, this is not, as a matter of fact, a question of nationalism. But, at a time, when one hears, far too often, complaints being expressed in regard to citizens who belong to the linguistic minorities finding the road barred to the highest jobs in our Republic, it is with real pleasure that one discovers that our fellow-countrymen possessing another language, are delighting in giving the lie to this legend. Thus, merit will always find its justification. It will always be recognised and questions of race, language and religion will always be relegated to the second place. And that is an excellent thing.

But, these appointments, important as they are, will no doubt give rise to less talk than some other military appointments which have caused a great deal of ink to flow.

Here is what happened. The Chief of the Swiss Military Mission in Korea has, on his own authority and without referring the matter to his superior officers in Berne, raised to the rank of Colonel, two officers possessing lower ranks. When this was learnt it caused a considerable commotion, as such action appeared arbitrary, to say the least of it. It nearly caused a scandal in this country where great attention is paid to the strict observance of regulations.

As a matter of fact, this affair is not very serious. It is not, really, at all serious. In order to be able to deal with the officers belonging to the Missions of other countries, it was necessary that certain members of the Swiss Military Mission possessed the same rank as their foreign opposite numbers. Thus, two of these officers have become temporary Colonels, during their

stay in Korea. After which they will be demoted to the subordinate rank which they occupied in the Swiss Army, before they went to Asia. In other countries this affair would not have been considered worthy of any notice being taken of it, because abroad one is used to men being given temporary rank, when their function require it. Such is not the case, however, in Switzerland.

All the indignation which manifested itself here in regard to this occurrence is due to our passionate love for equality and for legality. We certainly don't like the idea of any favouritism or privileges. Everything has got to take place in a normal manner and in accordance with rules. The slightest exception to the rules of the game surprises, astounds and even scandalises our people. It might be wise, however, not to allow this tendency to develop into a narrow and ridiculous sentiment.

We are always thinking and saying that, because of our neutrality, our fellow-countrymen are particularly well-placed to assume international missions of control and of conciliation. No doubt this is true. But, if this is really the case and if we accept to engage in missions of this kind, then we must see to it that these special envoys of ours possess all the means required in order to be able to carry out really effective work. This consideration should prevail above all other principles. If we wish to render services, we must do this fully and completely. A little more broad-mindedness should teach us this lesson.

Let **MAGGI**
make your
**MEAT go
further!**



Now-a-days you
fairly skin the bones for
every scrap of meat! Such scraps can be the making of
delightful delicacies. Serve up left-overs of fish, flesh or
fowl in Aspic—and you've made luxury out of scarcity!
It's so quick, easy and inexpensive with Maggi's Aspic
Jelly. It offers many ways of converting left-overs
and odd scraps into nourishing Aspic dishes—as supple-
ments to the main course. Price 2/- per 2 oz. tin.

MAGGI's Aspic Jelly

THE NESTLÉ COMPANY LIMITED · HAYES · MIDDLESEX

CVS-47A

Shoes by **BALLY**
of Switzerland
THE LONDON SHOE CO. LTD.

116/7 New Bond St. W.1 : 260 Regent St. W.1 : 21/22 Sloane St. S.W.1