Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer: the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in

the UK

1196

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1953) Heft:

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: 28.11.2025

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

HOME AFFAIRS.

by Max Nef.

The emigration of Swiss citizens to overseas countries, is once more on the increase. Up to the end end of October 1952, already more than 3,000 such emigrants have left Switzerland. Statistics give seperate figures for those Swiss citizens who are apt for military service and who go abroad for a lengthy period. In order to achieve the so-called emigration balance, it is necessary to deduct the number of returned emigrants from the figure for those who have emigrated. Thus, this year, we find that there is a surplus of more than 2,000 Swiss citizens, apt for military service, who have emigrated, not quite onefifth of this number being without a profession.

Most of those emigrants who have a profession belong to the liberal or scientific professions, and almost as many come from the professional groups engaged in commerce and in administration. There are also a good many men from the metallurgical and machine-making industry. Far and away behind are to be found those whose jobs lie in agriculture and in the hotel industry, and then come small groups from practically all kinds of trades.

A good three-fifths of the emigrants who are apt for military service have chosen European countries for their new place of residence. In regard to those emigrants who have returned to their native soil, the proportion of those who had been in European countries amounts to more than three-quarters.

It is estimated that, at the present time, there are some 200,000 Swiss citizens who are living abroad, of whom about 120,000 are in European countries. In overseas countries there are possibly about 60,000, to which figure must be added some 20,000 Swiss citizens who possess foreign nationality, and therefore, dual nationality. Most of these latter, live in America.

What is very encouraging is the fact that, since the war, the Swiss colonies in overseas countries have increased to a considerable extent. This is due largely to active co-operation on the part of the Confederation. During those years when there was an economic crisis. and more especially during the war, a marked shrinkage occurred in regard to various of our colonies. What was lacking was a new young generation, which could only be obtained through the migration towards them of young people from the homeland.

Our world-experienced merchants form the greater portion of the Swiss colonies abroad. They find a natural support among the old-established Swiss firms, which as pillars for Swiss foreign trade, primarily in respect of exports, but also in part, in that of imports, form an indispensable condition for success. They, in turn, are joined by the members of the technical professions, such as engineers, geologists, geometricians, specialists for construction work and chemists. Owing to the high standard of their technical training, these Swiss citizens abroad enjoy a deserved esteem, which contributes towards keeping up and promoting the good reputation which Switzerland possesses abroad. The same applies to those engaged in the liberal professions and in scientific research work.

A short time ago, someone who is very well acquainted with our fellow-countrymen abroad, compared them to a sign-board for their home-land, which serves as a permanent and living guarantee for the quality of Swiss work. It is valuable because in the

present muddled state which exists in the international relations of neighbourly peoples, both abroad and overseas, it does not allow the name of our small neutral country, with its highly developed production of highquality goods, to fall into oblivion.

The carrying out of such a fine task can, however, only be achieved successfully if contact between Home and the Swiss Colonies abroad is systematically cultivated, if the people within the colony stick firmly together, and, finally, if the technical training of the future emigrant is carefully and systematically directed towards the task he has before him.

A great deal in this direction has been undertaken, since the end of the war, not only by private initiative, but also by the authorities and public offices. An important and interesting extension of Swiss connection with other countries has occurred through our country's collaboration in the so-called technical aid rendered by the UNESCO to under-developed countries. Only a few days ago, measures which have been taken in this direction by the Swiss Government, were made known to the public.

ALLTRANSPORT

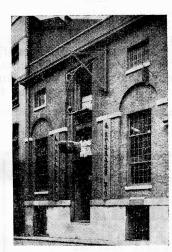
Telegrams:

Telephone:

Alltrans, London CENtral 5200 (20 Lines)

Head Office:

ALLTRANSPORT BUILDING Little Trinity Lane LONDON E.C.4



Broken Wharf, Upper Thames Street, E.C.4. Air Cargo received here for despatch by all outgoing planes

Official Agents for British Railways (Ferry Boat Service) and all their International Passenger Services

Official Passenger Agents for all Principal Steamship Companies - Official Freight & Passenger Agents for all Air Lines