

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: - (1954)
Heft: 1233

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: 18.01.2026

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

HOME AFFAIRS.

by PIERRE BÉGUIN.

"Forthcoming Popular Referendum"

(Popular Referendum in September on the subject of the fiscal and financial problem.)

At least one more popular referendum, on the Federal plane, will take place before the end of the year. This will occur in September, after the holiday season is over. On that day, the Swiss people will once again give its opinion regarding a problem which has often occupied its mind, during the last few years, namely the financial and fiscal problem. It is practically certain that this voting will not arouse any general enthusiasm. And this for two reasons.

For one thing, it is incontestable that the Swiss people are tired of this interminable financial discussion, which comes up every two years or so. It might even be said that it never ceases. For another, not even a final and lasting project will be submitted to the Sovereign People, but only a new transitory provisional solution. One could still strive with a certain amount of ardour for the settlement of this question, for a long term. But, in order to give one's agreement to a prorogation of the present régime — with the prospect of having to go to the polls again on the same subject in four year's time — people will not trouble to come. In order that participation, which will be weak in any case because of abstentions, be superior, nevertheless, to the average, it would be necessary for a campaign on a large scale to be launched by the adversaries of the official project. But, for the present anyway, it is not certain that such a campaign will be launched.

As a matter of fact, when, at the beginning of the year, it became certain that the provisional fiscal and financial régime would be prolonged, because the final solution presented by the former Federal Councillor Max Weber had been rejected in December and that there was not sufficient time to achieve any constructive work within the space of eleven months, those who had won the day let it be known that they were resigned to such a prolongation. They made three reservations, however: in their opinion, a transitory régime during three- instead of four years, should suffice; furthermore, a brake on expenditure, that is to say a limitation of the rights possessed by Parliament in regard to the voting of credits and an extension of the popular rights to control, should be instituted; and, finally, it should be understood that the yield from the Direct Federal Tax, known as "the tax for national defence", should serve solely for the amortization of the extraordinary expenditure for rearmament, in order to show clearly that the Direct Federal Tax is an anomaly and that it must disappear as soon as the exceptional circumstances no longer justify its application.

None of these three conditions have been fully satisfied. The most that has been done is that the Federal Chambers approved a project for "putting a brake on expenditure", but this project is much more modest and timid than a popular Initiative on this subject, which was launched last year and proved very successful. Does this suffice for the adversaries

of the existing régime to undertake a vigorous struggle? It is somewhat doubtful.

For one thing, in Parliament, these adversaries have become resigned. The provisional project was voted unanimously, against the Communist votes. It is certain, however, that the adversaries of the project have taken refuge in abstention. Now, it remains to be seen whether their mandators will follow their example, on the day of the Popular Referendum, or whether they will consider it opportune to engage in a struggle. In any case, the struggle would be hopeless, for — even if it would appear to be practically hopeless to assure the triumph of a final and lasting solution — our people, in its majority, will never leave the Confederation without any resources. It will prefer to accept, provisionally, a solution even which is far from perfect. In this country there are no adepts in regard to the policy of choosing the worst, and that is a very fortunate thing indeed.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, August 27th, 1954.

We take this opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donation over and above their subscription: Ad. Schmid, Mrs. H. C. Cowie, J. E. von Felten, O. Tenger, W. Schlaepfer, J. F. J. Amann, A. Rueff.

Pictures like this that can't be posed—the living, breathing, moving happenings that make the best pictures of all can only be taken with a cine camera. And the beauty of it is that cine films are far from expensive. With this Bolex B8 you can take 24 or more good length action sequences for just over £1, including processing charge. At under 11d. a shot this compares very favourably with ordinary still photography. See the Bolex B8 at any good photo shop. Note its precision construction—so vital in a cine camera. That's because it is made in one of the great watch-making centres of Switzerland.

**you get
it all**



with a

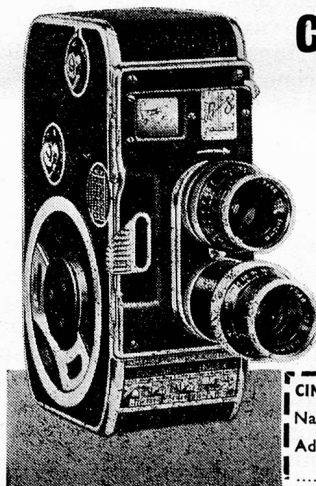


**CINE
CAMERA**

BOLEX B8

The Swiss Precision cine camera

Send for brochure



CINEX LTD., 9/10 North Audley St, W.1

Name.....

Address.....

