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: - (1957) **Heft:** 1294

Autor:

Artikel: Press review

DOI: https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-687935

Chopard, Théo

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: 04.12.2025

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

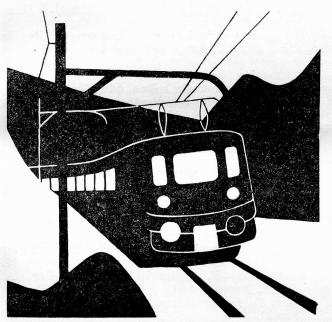
PRESS REVIEW.

THÉO CHOPARD.

In an article entitled "The November crisis, Europe and Switzerland", the "Gazette de Lausanne" points out that the first duty of a small country towards itself and towards others - however disappointing this may be — is to last. prosperity must not, however, tempt us to have illusions; we remain fragile, as a result of our geographical situation and because of our lack of natural resources. That is why one of our first preoccupations must be to strengthen our economic position. The development of atomic energy, and of that other industrial revolution caused by automation, will demand a considerable effort from us in the years to come, and this all the more so as the development of a Common European Market will subject us to more acute competition. . . face with the difficulties that may be anticipated, our national unity remains our most precious capital this national unity which is constantly exposed, through the very diversity of our political body and through the revolutionary character of the present times, to the action of disaggregational forces, which are all the more dangerous when they are least apparent. Thus, in spite of the tonic effects of the November crisis, there still subsists, between French and German-speaking Switzerland, a difference in tension which is not without importance. And this is only one of the numerous problems raised by the maintenance of our country's unity. . . What is of importance — the "Gazette de Lausanne" continues — is to strive unremittingly to achieve an attenuation of the social and economic contradictions which consitute one of the most formidable of revolutionary ferments and, more particularly, to ourselves more closely with economically backward countries.

Facing, as we do, the prospects opened up by atomic energy and by automation, as well as the probable dangers which will no doubt result from the new industrial concentrations of this technical

progress, the "Lutte syndicale" writes Switzerland ought to co-operate in a more active manner in the efforts being made to create a Common European Market, the constitution of which would appear indispensable for the harmonious expansion of Swiss industry. Faced, as they are, with the new problems arising out of the acceleration of technical progress and the rapid transformation of the world, the State and the economic associations can no longer limit their collaboration to so restrictive a task as the struggle against inflation. The time has now come for Switzerland to establish what one might call a general conception of our economic and social future. The "Journal de Genève" also observes that great changes in the economic structure of Europe are now in preparation; changes of which the rhythm threatens to accelerate and the repercussions of which will be considerable, in so far as Switzerland is concerned. This evolution, however, would seem to leave nearly all the inhabitants of this country quite indifferent. Watching the efforts deployed for the purpose of unifying Europe, and considering the problems of international collaboration, the average Swiss is afraid of being duped. He begins by smiling and letting others get on with the job. If this amuses them, why not let them do it? This attitude is a dangerous one. The moment has come to make the Swiss understand that what they take to be a healthy realism is merely blind scepticism and that imperious necessities are acting as a ferment throughout Europe and are forcing it to explode its obsolete economic structure. The failure on the part of Swiss public opinion to realise the importance of these problems is frightening to whoever stops to think on the matter. A country cannot remain deaf, with impunity, to the signs of the times. This fact must be stressed, over and over again, in order that Swiss opinion may finally see clearly, and that our country may be ready to view the situation with realism, to contribute more actively to the work of European construction, and to adjust itself to it, in spite of the risks, the obstacles, and the inevitable disappoint-



Switzerland—Land of Electric Railways

Children under six years of age travel free and those between six and sixteen years pay half fare. — By making use of the HOLIDAY TICKET a saving of up to 50% can be achieved on journeys in Switzerland by Rail, Boat or Postal Motor Coach — "Go as you please": The HOLIDAY GENERAL SEASON TICKET costs only £6. 14. 0. second class or £8. 15. 0. first class. It is available on more than 4,000 miles of railways and steamer routes on six days, entitling you to half fare concessions for a further nine days. Tickets obtainable from the Swiss National Tourist Office, 458, Strand, London, W.C.2.

Switzerland