

**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:** 1301

**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:** 08.01.2026

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

## HOME AFFAIRS.

by MAX NEF..

*The flight from the land* is also a problem in Switzerland. It is obviously much less of a problem in the lowlands, where land offers a good chance of profitable farming; in these plateau lands the problem is of quite another order: there is not enough farm land to go round. It is in the mountain areas where men are leaving the soil because climatic conditions are so tough that making a living out of a tiny plot of stony ground and facing up to long winters is discouraging them — and their hard-working women-folk.

The authorities in Switzerland are anxious to stop this flight from the land by trying to arrange things so that the people of the Swiss mountains can earn a decent living. There are various reasons for encouraging men and women to stay in their mountain valleys. One of these reasons, the authorities feel, is that the present structure of the population should be kept as far as possible. Obviously, town conditions are more attractive in some ways than the hard, lonely life of the mountains, where even improved transport has not made access easy. Working hours in the city and factory are shorter than on the farm, and in the present economic boom the earnings are higher than from farming. Young people especially feel the attraction of the bigger towns.

A lot has already been done to help by the establishment of small factories in fairly remote regions, but enormous numbers of jobs have become available for local populations on the construction work in dam building. These construction jobs not only offer chances of work to local people but bring money to the mountain villages through the spending of the outside workers up there. Another important contribution financially comes through taxes, water rates and other forms of revenue paid in by the hydro-electric firms to the often impoverished treasuries of the communal councils. This means that local jobs like road-building and renovation, and general improvements, can be carried out on a scale which would have been impossible before.

But one day all the dams will have been built; and in any case as soon as work is finished on a hydro-electric plant few people remain in the uplands to look after it, and possibilities of local employment are almost nil. And after big earnings on construction work it is hard for a mountain farmer to settle back to working the soil again. A start has been made on this problem by the communes themselves, some of which have pooled their resources from the money now

**THE PERSONAL TOUCH—that's what counts**  
*For all travels—by land sea and air*  
**let A. GANDON make your reservations**

Tickets issued at Station Prices - no booking fee

**HOWSHIP TRAVEL AGENCY**

188, Uxbridge Road - Shepherds Bush - W.12

Telephones: SHE 6268/9 and 1898

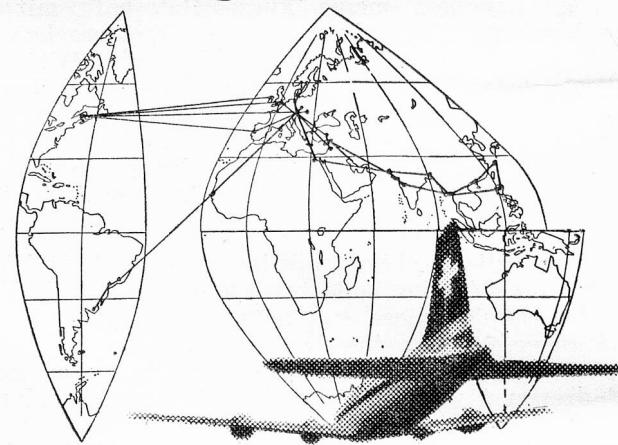
coming in, in order to give young people technical training, and research is going on about finding well-paid and lasting jobs for such qualified workers who could thus remain in their villages. This kind of project will provide permanent and lasting solutions; temporary ones which have been operating for some time now are for example facilitating the running of a household with many children, or lowering the cost of living in one way or another.

A few days ago the Federal government submitted two draft bills to the parliament, which are intended to prolong the operation of existing measures and to increase benefits paid by the state.

One of these bills concerns subsidies paid on transport costs of food and essential commodities which have to be taken up from the plains to the mountain villages. These sums viewed from the Federal standpoint are negligible, but they mean a lot to the consumer who is thus able to get his food at the same price as the city man.

In addition there is the government proposal about an increase in family and children allowances to be paid to farmers working their land independently in the mountain regions. Besides the increases it is intended to raise the income level at which benefits begin and thus make it easier for more families to share the allowances.

## Across the World in Eighty Hours



... and all with the greatest of ease. Now that SWISSAIR is a World Airline you can actually do it on regular services!

Every Friday (1st Class or Tourist) from Tokyo, Manila, Bombay through Zurich or Geneva to Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires. The newly introduced second weekly flight operates on Mondays — from Tokyo, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Calcutta, Karachi, Athens, to Geneva and Zurich . . . and with connections, if you like, to North and South America.

**Book through your Travel Agent NOW**



OFFICES IN LONDON MANCHESTER GLASGOW BIRMINGHAM DUBLIN