

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: - (1971)
Heft: 1627

Rubrik: Comment

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: 15.01.2026

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

picturesque and audacious stretches of both the Gotthard road and railway line. Before reaching Lavorgo there is an interesting road to Chironico, at the entrance of the Val of the same name, watered by the Ticinello, tributary to the Ticino. Chironico is a beautiful mountain village and the starting point to the ascent of Pizzo Forno, 2,907m. The region has many chamois.

Lavorgo is an important station of the Gotthard line. Here are prosperous quarries of grey granite which is exported in enormous blocks, either rough or cut to different sizes and shapes, and also polished like marble by a special process. Lavorgo is the junction of good mountain roads to several villages with a splendid view of the Leventina:—Colonico, Anzonico, Sobrio and Cavagnano which has ferruginous springs. These villages are situated on the "Strada alta", the old upper road and pathway from Airolo to Biasca.

Faido, with magnificent fir-tree forests, is a favourite holiday resort in summer. On the village square stands a bronze statue of Stefano Francini. Faido, with many villages in the vicinity, is very industrious and noted for its cattle show and market. Just after the village is the superb Piumogna Waterfall. Rodi-Fiesso, another village attracting tourists in summer, is renowned for cattle breeding and the making of delicious cheese. Ambri, 975m., on the right bank of the Ticino, is the Gotthard station of Quinto, on the left bank, at 1,014m., and the greatest parish of the canton. Ambri is in a picturesque position amidst pleasant meadows, at the foot of Pizzo Petrano, 2,667m., church built in 1681, with a very curious architectural steeple. The red lily abounds on the neighbouring rocky slopes.

Approaching the Gotthard Pass

Piotta, 1,012m., a lovely village where ancient houses built of wood can still be seen, is the Gotthard station for Val Piora situated on the south side of the St. Gotthard massif and one of the most beautiful high valleys of Switzerland and visited by a great number of mountain lovers. The valley possesses several small lakes distinguished by their changing colours and the limpidity of their waters in which the neighbouring mountains are reflected. The greatest and prettiest of them is Lake Ritom, 1,850m., $2\frac{1}{2}$ km. long and $\frac{1}{2}$ km. wide. This region is a painter's paradise. The flora is one of the richest of the Swiss Alps. The road to Val Piora commands a fine view of Ambri's military airfield.

The Ticino is a beautiful canton. Few countries present such richness and so great a variety of artistic buildings as is seen in every village, even in the humblest and most isolated. From the fascinating delight of a sunny countryside to the austerity of alpine

slopes, those villages and hamlets, their churches and houses of gay colours, have a picturesque and charming aspect.

Now on our way to Airolo, on the southern foot of the St. Gotthard and the great road first constructed between 1820 and 1830. Passage of Swiss, Austrian, French and Russian troops in 1798 and 1799. Airolo is a beautiful town, reconstructed after the terrible fire of 1877, and again in 1898 after the disastrous land-slide from the Sasso Rosso. Favourite holiday resort in summer. Like most of the other places we have visited, Airolo has excellent hotels and restaurants.

Important fortifications exist on the slopes of the Gotthard to defend the road and the Italian side entrance of the tunnel.

Soon after leaving Airolo long windings of the road can be seen on the slopes towering the town. They are strengthened by strong granite walls having the semblance of fortifications. The Val Tremola (named Trümenthal in German), "the Valley of Turmoil", is one of the wildest and most interesting of the alps. Its road has more than 20 long bends and a few bridges. The stream that flows through the valley frays itself a passage between rocks and frightening whirlpools. At the end of the valley, one kilometre from the St. Gotthard Hospice, carved on the rock is the inscription "Suwarovii Victorii", to recall the passage of the Russians in 1799. The ancient road section of Val Tremola, now released of traffic by the new road, can be visited with joy and at one's leisure. We choose the recently constructed and impressive great road by-passing the Val Tremola. The meridional side of the road commands at first a grand panoramic view of Val Bedretto and the Valais, the occasion of looking back and paying farewell to our Ticinese friends. "Arrivederci fino all' anno prossimo!"

Back to the valley

This great national road of the St. Gotthard running its way through gorges and along steep slopes, deep cuttings into the rock, as countless windings, viaducts, bridges, tunnels and galleries against avalanches and falling stones, is a masterpiece of Swiss Civil Engineering.

The passage of the St. Gotthard, for a long time the most important of the Swiss Alps, is also one of the most varied and beautiful if considered in its entire length, from Lake Lucerne to Lago Maggiore; it is the central passage of all the Swiss Alps, where the Alps of Berne, Grisons, Valais, Uri and Ticino rejoin.

The Passo del San Gottardo, 2,108m., near the site known as "Bruggloch", marks the border between the cantons of Ticino and Uri.

The road now goes down in gentle slopes along the valley and river Gottthardreuss to Hospental, 1,484m., in the Ursereu Valley, and where our marvellous journey and most enjoyable day end.

Hospental, where the Furkareuss joins the Gottthardreuss, in lovely position on both banks of the Reuss, is also the winter sports centre for the Gemsstock, 2,961m., and the Gotthard massif. We spent the night at Hospental, the starting point for our next journey through the Furka and Grimsel Passes to Brienz and the Bernese Alps.

From Disentis to the Luckmanier, Biasca, and back through the St. Gotthard to Hospental, the distance is only 123km. (77 miles) allowing plenty of time for visiting places of interest. We recommend to our London friends visiting Switzerland, a day's outing to this beautiful part of the country, leaving an impression and souvenir they will never forget.

(P.S.)

COMMENT

OUTCOME OF THE FEDERAL ELECTIONS

The chart printed overleaf gives a bird's eye view of the results of the Federal Elections and shows how the Swiss people will be represented at the National Council for the next four years. It leads to a few obvious conclusions:

- The elections have hardly altered the representative pattern of the National Council. The four main parties represented in Government have lost only a marginal number of seats. The Independent Party, which represents the consumers, has relatively suffered most from the elections.
- One can't speak of a "swing to the right" just because of the success of the Republicans and the National Action, both advocating the repatriation of excess foreigners, because neither of them existed in 1967. However, the elections do reflect the basic conservatism of the Swiss, their contentment and their wish for continuity.
- The young and Radicals (in the English acceptance) are not represented at all. They voted for fringe and local parties and have not wrested seats at the federal level.
- The existence of 10 parties represented at the National Council could not from the outset have led to any dramatic change. The multiplicity of parliamentary parties and the rule by consensus ensures the harmony of Swiss parliamentary life. Note that there are often more than 10 parties at local level. There was a list of 18 in Zurich.
- The National Action had more suc-

cess in German-speaking Switzerland whereas the Communists are entrenched in the western part. Both were to be expected.

—There are ten women in the new

National Council: three Radical Democrats (Freisinnig), three Christian Social (CVP), three Social Democrats and one Communist.

—Four of them are from French-

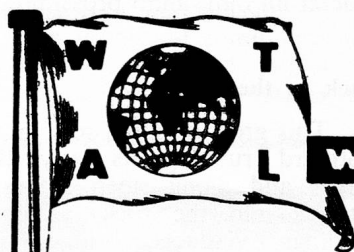
speaking Switzerland. Furthermore, Mrs. Lise Girardin, former Mayor of Geneva, is the first woman in the States Council. This speaks for itself.

Die Verteilung der Sitze im Nationalrat

Kantone	Sitze		Freisinnig-demokratische Partei		Christlich-demokratische Partei		Bauern-, Gewerbe- und Bürgerpartei		Liberal-demokratische Partei		Landesring der Unabhängigen		Evangelische Volkspartei		Sozial-demokratische Partei		Republikaner und Nationale Aktion		Partei der Arbeit	
	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971	1967	1971
Zürich ¹	35	35	6	6	4	3	5	5	—	—	9	6	2	2	8	8	1	5	—	—
Bern	33	31	6	5	2	1	10	10	—	—	2	2	1	1	12	10	—	2	—	—
Luzern	9	9	3	3	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Uri	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Schwyz	3	3	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Obwalden	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nidwalden	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glarus	2	1	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Zug	2	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Freiburg	6	6	2	2	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Solothurn	7	7	3	3	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Basel-Stadt	8	7	2	1	1	1	—	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	3	2	0	1	—	—
Baselland	5	7	1	2	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Schaffhausen	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
App. A.-Rh.	2	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
App. L.-Rh.	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Gallen	13	12	4	3	6	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
Graubünden ²	5	5	1	1	2	2	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Aargau	13	14	2	3	3	3	2	2	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	3	—	1	—	—
Thurgau	6	6	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
Tessin	7	8	3	4	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Waadt	16	16	6	5	1	1	1	1	2	2	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	1	2	2
Wallis	7	7	1	1	5	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Neuenburg	5	5	1	2	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	1	0
Genf	10	11	2	2	1	2	—	—	2	2	1	0	—	—	2	2	—	—	2	3
Total	200	200	50	49	45	44	23	23	6	6	16	13	3	3	51	46	1	11 ³	5	5

¹ Der Sitz der Demokraten von 1967 ist zu den freisinnigen Sitzen gezählt. ² Die 2 Sitze der Demokraten von 1967 sind unter der BGB-Partei aufgeführt. ³ Von den 11 Sitzen fallen 7 auf die Republikaner (Zürich 4, Bern 1, Aargau 1, Thurgau 1) und 4 auf die Nationale Aktion (Zürich 1, Bern 1, Basel-Stadt 1, Waadt 1).

FOR *Your*
WORLD
TRANSPORT
(ANYTHING - ANYWHERE)



Ask /
WORLD TRANSPORT
first!

WORLD TRANSPORT

Tel: 01-928 6996 . Telex: 28401

20/22 EMERSON STREET
LONDON S.E.1.

AGENCY LIMITED

AIRPORT OFFICES:
LONDON BIRMINGHAM
MANCHESTER YEADON GATWICK

Specialized Regular Groupage Services
GREAT BRITAIN - SWITZERLAND and ITALY
and VICE VERSA

BRANCHES: BASLE · MANCHESTER · BRADFORD · BIRMINGHAM · HULL · SHEFFIELD · LIVERPOOL
LEICESTER · STOKE