

# Mandement du Jeûne fédéral = Bettagsboschaft

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# The Swiss Observer

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## MANDEMENT DU JEUNE FEDERAL.

Londres, le 14 Septembre, 1937.

Depuis 28 ans, c'est une voix aujourd'hui éteinte, qui s'adressait à notre Colonie pour lui rappeler la journée du Jeune et nous convier au recueillement, à la repentance et à la prière. Si, comme on nous l'a rappelé, Dieu reprend ses serviteurs, son œuvre cependant continue et l'Eglise Suisse de Londres, encore sous le coup de la douloureuse perte que toute notre Colonie vient de subir et du solennel avertissement de la mort qui, parfois bien avant le soir frappe même les plus vigoureux, par son consistoire, vient rappeler à tous nos compatriotes que des cultes spéciaux seront célébrés Dimanche prochain, 19 courant, à Endell Street en communion avec nos Eglises de la mère-patrie à l'occasion du Jeune Fédéral.

Si notre monde est troublé par les guerres qui sévissent, si les luttes économiques et le nationalisme outrancier jettent le désarroi dans tant de cœurs; si la maladie, les deuils et les épreuves font couler tant de larmes et s'il y a tant d'âmes désemparées et désorientées, ne perdons pas courage et venons humblement puiser à la source du salut et nous rappeler le grand nom de l'Eternel; nous associer dans notre Eglise au pied de la croix de Jésus dans une profonde et sincère pensée d'intercession pour notre pays, nos églises, nos amis et nos familles. Venons ensemble sonder nos voies, reconnaître et confesser nos fautes, nos ténèbres, notre manque de zèle au service du Maître; nous renouveler dans le pardon et les promesses de Dieu afin de reprendre confiance et courage. Ainsi que le disait un distingué chrétien de notre époque: ne nous contentons pas de bénédictions anciennes, faisons halte et à tout prix: venez renouer le lien et rentrer dans la vérité de la vie intérieure par l'effort nécessaire à genoux.

Le Consistoire.

## BETTAGSBOTSCHAFT 1937.

London, den 14. September 1937.

Liebe Landsleute!

Während 28 Jahren hat eine Stimme, die heute verstummt ist, sich an unsere Colonie gewendet, um ihr den Eidgenössischen Bettag in Erinnerung zu rufen und sie zu gemeinsamer Andacht, zur Busse und zum Gebet aufzufordern.

Wenn auch GOTT, wie man uns daran erinnert, Seine Diener zu Sich nimmt, so geht Sein Werk doch weiter. Unsere Kirchen stehen noch unter dem Eindruck des schmerzlichen Verlustes, den unsere ganze Colonie erlitten hat, und vernehmen die ernste Mahnung des Todes, der auch die kräftigsten Naturen nicht schont und sie im Vollbesitz ihrer leiblichen und geistigen Fähigkeiten niederstreckt. Die Kirchenpflege erinnert alle Landsleute daran, dass wir am nächsten Sonntag, den 19. September unseren jährlichen Eidgenössischen Dank-Buss- und Bettag zusammen mit den Kirchen in der Heimat feiern.

Wenn auch die Welt durch die mörderischen Kriege in Unruhe geraten ist; wenn die Kämpfe auf wirtschaftlichem Gebiet und ein überspitzter Nationalismus in alle Herzen Verwirrung werfen; wenn Krankheiten, Leid und Prüfungen so viele Thränen fliessen machen, und wenn so vieler Menschen Seelen in Verlegenheit geraten und enturzelt sind, so wollen wir dennoch nicht den Mut verlieren, sondern den Quellen unseres Heils uns nahen und aus ihnen schöpfen.

Lasst uns den grossen Namen des HERRN rühmen. Lasst uns in unserer Kirche zu Füssen des Kreuzes JESU uns zusammenschliessen in tiefen und aufrichtigen Gedanken der Fürbitte für unser Land, unsere Kirchen, unsere Freunde und Familien.

Miteinander wollen wir unser Tun und Treiben vor GOTT prüfen, unsere Fehler erkennen und bekennen, unsere Lauheiten, unseren Mangel an Eifer im Dienst des Meisters; wir wollen aber auch neue Kräfte sammeln auf Grund der göttlichen Verheissungen, um aus ihnen Vertrauen und neuen Mut zu schöpfen. Um alten Segnungen wollen wir uns nicht genügen lassen, sondern auf den Knien vor IHM liegend uns Seiner Wahrheit zuwenden, uns von IHM neues Leben und neue Liebe erbitten.

Die Kirchenpflege.

for the proverbial Bernese. And why a two-thirds majority? So far a simple majority has been the rule of the land and it is difficult to see how quibbling with that basic law of democracy could possibly lead to improvement.

### RECRUITING.

This year report for medical examination all those born in the year 1918, in other words the last batch of youths born during the war years. The effect the latter had can be seen from the great reduction in the number of men available for service; taking the figures for the town of Zurich as an instance we find a reduction from 2,536 in 1932 (those born in 1913) to 2,089 in 1937. Similar decreases are shown by all cantons.

The state of fitness in Zurich shows a marked improvement; this year 72.2% were passed as fit, as against 66.2 in 1935 and 56.4 in 1932. 12.22% were put back for one year, 13.67% were taken for auxiliary services and only 1.91% had to be rejected.

The physical tests are again in force after an interruption during the years 1914 to 1931. They now consist of long jump (4½ metres minimum for full marks), 80 metres flat race (maximum 11 seconds), lifting a dumb bell weighing 17 kilos 5 times with right and left arm, and putting the shot (a ball of 5 kilos in weight) left and right handed, minimum 8½ metres. Only 18.7% obtained full marks, a sure sign that physical training is looked upon by the young generation as too much hard work! Übung macht den Meister. It is pitiful to see sturdy fellows who could hit you over the head with a "Morgenstern" to send you a foot deep into the ground, yet quite at a loss what to do in half the exercises put before them. Gymnastic and other sport-clubs have raised the level of efficiency. But, what scope there remains!

## THE MANOEUVRES OF THE FIRST DIVISION.

The manoeuvres of the First Division included for the first time a complete regiment of the air force, under the command of Lt.-Col. Primault. Under the new army organisation which will come in force on the 1st January next, Switzerland's air force will consist of three such regiments. Federal Councillor Minger received the foreign delegations from 10 states at Mont Pélerin, near Vevey. Marshal Pétain, the famous, 83 year old French soldier declared in a forceful speech: "A weak, defenceless Switzerland would be a constant danger to the peace of the world. Switzerland in arms, however, is the best guarantee for Peace."

The Third Division will hold its manoeuvres from the 19th to 22nd September. On the 23rd the troops will stage a march past before the chief of the military department, Federal Councillor Minger, on the Beundenfeld near Berne.

### NEW 35 MILLION FRANCS CREDIT FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF PUBLIC WORK.

On December 23rd last, parliament put at the disposal of the Federal Council a credit of 30 million francs for measures designed to ameliorate the critical times and the furtherance of programmes for the creation of employment. With the assistance of this credit a grand total of work to the amount of 190 million francs has been rendered possible, among others the new harbours at Basel-Kleinmünchen and Birstfelden. This first credit now being exhausted, the Federal Council is to propose an increase by another 35 million, thereby rendering it possible to continue the useful programme of federal assistance. There remain outstanding no less than 887 petitions for a federal subsidy, representing a working programme of about 100 million francs.

### NEW AMBASSADORS PRESENT CREDENTIALS.

President Motta and Vice-President Baumann received the new Ambassador of the United States, Mr. Leland Harrison, who formerly represented his country in Uruguay, Sweden and Roumania.

Later, Cuba's new Ambassador, Señor Antigua y Escobar, presented his credentials. A politician and close friend of the President of the republic of Cuba, this is his first diplomatic appointment.

### UNEMPLOYMENT.

At the end of August, due to a seasonal reduction in the building trade activity, the number of unemployed rose by 2,648 against July to 51,892. This compares with 79,821 a year ago, a reduction of 35%. The best improvement for the year show: building trade -9129, engineering and metal industry -5312, watch industry -3572 and textile industry -2090. Of the 51,892 returned as unemployed (or rather as "looking for work") there are 10,350 in labour camps or otherwise engaged on subsidised distress amelioration work.

### FEDERAL STAMP RECEIPTS.

During the month of August amounted to 3.2 million francs, bringing the total for the eight months 1937 to 51.5 million or 9 million more than in the same period of 1936.

### SWISS-HUNGARIAN TRADE AGREEMENT.

A new agreement between Switzerland and Hungary, regulating the purchase of wheat, has been signed, whereby 25,000 tons Hungarian wheat will be taken over by Switzerland before the end of December. Negotiations concerning another 75,000 tons are proceeding.

At the same time the clearing arrangement between the two states has been prolonged until the end of this year. Discussions concerning other economic questions have been tentatively arranged to take place in October.

### FOREIGN TRADE IN AUGUST.

In the month of August Switzerland imported goods etc., to the value of 134 million francs, 7.6 less than in July, but 46.1 more than in August 1936. Swiss exports fell against July by 7.3 to 104 million which figure compares with 68 million a year ago.

### SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION 1938.

A committee of the States Council has approved the proposal for a federal subsidy of 2.4 million francs for the national, and 2 to 300,000 francs for the agricultural exhibition. A special credit of 240,000 francs is granted for the forestry department and 400,000 francs for propaganda.



## HOME NEWS

(Compiled by courtesy of the following contemporaries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland, Tribune de Genève and Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale.)

### FEDERAL.

#### A NEW INITIATIVE.

A new initiative, making the fifteenth pending, has been launched, evidently brought forth by the not inconsiderable amount of aversion harboured by a good many Swiss citizens against dictatorial powers granted the Federal Council, whereby a claim of urgency may lead to federal resolutions and decrees, without being first submitted to the two chambers. The demands put forward are embodied in a proposed alteration of article 89 of the Federal Constitution. Thereby all federal laws and decrees must be passed by the two chambers and are subject to referendum. Where the coming in force of general decrees does not brook of delay, a two-thirds majority in each of the two chambers may declare a state of urgency when the right of a referendum shall be waived. Such decrees, however, shall only remain in force for maximum three years. Treaties concluded with foreign states, valid for 15 years or with indefinite validity, shall also be subject to referendum.

The crucial point is that, if some urgent decree is called for — and who can deny that in these hectic days such necessity does at times present itself — then to wait until the national and the state councils have agreed on the measure and, by a two-thirds majority, have declared same urgent, would obviously take up so much time, as to render the "urgent" remedy too late even