

Swiss minister's retirement

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1939)**

Heft 942

PDF erstellt am: **25.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696151>

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constitutes, with the Jura, the last great line of defence against and towards France.

Even the route from Switzerland to France with its tortuous vineyards and valleys would offer the defender numerous opportunities to control the roads from Geneva to St. Cergue.

Mountains alone would be sufficient to delay an advance. The roads could not be used by mass formations — in some regions they could not be used at all for military purposes. The mountains canalise movement.

The sole arm which could pass these natural barriers is the infantry. But here the decisive factor would be the better mountaineer. The Swiss is a climber from his childhood. He is early trained to know his country. He must also pass a difficult apprenticeship in marching and climbing.

Only when hardened by long marches in heat, mist, and snow does the young Swiss receive permission to attack the mountains. But marching and climbing are not enough; he must be able to live day and night on the mountains, sometimes for many months, to suffer from heat, hunger, and thirst, to endure cold and snow. Trenches must be dug and shelters built under the ice.

Modern arms have changed nothing in this situation. The use of the modern mechanised army is extremely difficult in the mountains, and the great tactical advantage of a rapid advance is eliminated.

SWISS MINISTER'S RETIREMENT.

I feel sure that every good Swiss who wishes to pay homage to our esteemed Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, after his twenty years of arduous work for us Swiss, has now made up his mind to participate at the dinner which is taking place at the Monico on Friday next, the 15th December, at 6 o'clock for 6.30 p.m.

Applications are coming in fast, and I am afraid that the "house-full" notice must definitely go up during the week-end. No seats therefore can be guaranteed if the applications are not in my hands by Monday morning at the latest.

Will you please make sure that you have booked your ticket, and also make sure that all those of your friends who you feel wish to attend have ordered theirs.

A quantity of the tickets have already been sent out, and the balance will be sent out on Monday. Subscriptions towards the donation — maximum 2/6d. — can be received until Thursday next.

It is the earnest hope of the Organizing Committee that every Swiss in Great Britain will participate in this, and particularly those who are unable to attend the dinner. Now please fill up your forms to-day, and post them *now*, and if you have no form just drop me a note enclosing your subscription, and the amount of the dinner tickets (7/6d. each) also giving me your wishes as far as seating is concerned. These will as far as possible be complied with.

WILL YOU PLEASE WRITE NOW.

H. Bingguely, Organizing Secretary,
Bulle House,
187a, Tottenham Court Rd., W.1.**THE LAND OF THE STORK.***(Translation by J. J. S.)*

A traveller lost his way in a remote valley, where he heard no other sound but croaking of frogs; he could not go any further as everywhere round him was swamp. But before retracing his steps he asked a frog, why everything about here was croaking. The frog replied "Our happy land like no other is organised to the furthest corner for our king." "And who is then your King?" asked the stranger. "The stork," replied the frog.

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