

**Zeitschrift:** Die Schweiz = Suisse = Svizzera = Switzerland : offizielle Reisezeitschrift der Schweiz. Verkehrszentrale, der Schweizerischen Bundesbahnen, Privatbahnen ... [et al.]

**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale

**Band:** 30 (1957)

**Heft:** 4

**Artikel:** Le mécanicien

**Autor:** Piachaud, René-Louis

**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-779697>

### **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:** 22.12.2025

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

## LE MÉCANICIEN

*Indifférent aux paysages  
Dont Bædeker et tant  
d'affiches ont vanté  
La majesté sauvage  
ou l'attrait romantique,  
A la tête du train lancé,  
L'homme en bleu,  
la main aux manettes,  
Sobre de ses gestes précis,  
Surveille les cadrans d'email  
où les aiguilles  
Tremblent mathématiquement.  
Et tour à tour il force  
ou modère l'élan  
Selon l'arc d'une courbe  
ou l'angle d'une pente.*

RENÉ-LOUIS PIACHAUD

## LE VOYAGE

*J'ai vu luire les rails  
au soleil en leur fuite  
Étroite et parallèle  
à travers le printemps.  
Tout dans cette gare déserte  
Chante à mes yeux le chant heureux  
des bons départs.  
Encore un soir, encore un jour,  
Et c'est vers d'autres horizons,  
Hors la contrainte quotidienne  
Et les soucis de tous les jours,  
l'évasion!  
Vers l'Italie,  
et vers un tendre paysage,  
Vers des visages d'inconnus  
chers à mon cœur:  
L'évasion  
Parmi le renouveau du monde,  
Ivre de parfums secs  
au pays du beau temps.  
Ah! respirer le jour  
sous l'azur plein de cloches,  
Et retrouver demain, demain enfin,  
Ce radieux petit village du Tessin  
Dont le nom toujours sonne  
à ma mémoire émue  
Comme un air à danser  
dans un jardin de fleurs.*

presso Ginevra, al quale fu aggiudicata la costruzione del tunnel, nell'agosto del 1872. Egli morì improvvisamente di paralisi cardiaca, durante un'ispezione in galleria, a soli sei mesi dalla fine dei lavori, la cui esecuzione si rivelò irta di difficoltà imprevedibili.

Il monumento ad Alfred Escher, sul piazzale della stazione di Zurigo, porta, eternata nel bronzo, la parola « Gotthard ». A Luigi Favre si è reso omaggio con una statua a Chêne-Bourg ed una lapide commemorativa a Goeschenen. Oltre questi pionieri, han meritato l'onore del ricordo anche i centodiciassette operai che trovarono la morte sul lavoro, in galleria. Ad essi è dedicato il bassorilievo del Vela « Le vittime del lavoro », posto di fianco alla stazione di Airolo, poco lungi dallo imbocco sud della galleria del Gottardo. Raffigura con suggestivo realismo un gruppo di minatori che, in

## THE GOTHARD RAILWAY—75 YEARS OLD

The Gotthard is the centre of the Swiss Alps, dividing north from south. At its entrance is the famous Schöllenen Gorge. The peasants to the north, in order to defend their freedom, founded the Swiss Confederation in 1291. For hundreds of years pack mules carried the busy traffic over a trail across the pass. In 1824 a real road was opened and traffic increased. And yet it was the construction of the Gotthard Railway that brought the route into its own and confirmed the importance of Switzerland's political neutrality. This courageous task took ten years to fulfill. On 28<sup>th</sup> February 1879 the drilling work on the 9.5 mile tunnel was finished, and on April 10<sup>th</sup>, 1882, the opening ceremony of the completed railway took place, heralding in a "new era of world transport". Countless thousands of travellers and millions of tons of freight have, since then, rolled through this mountain. Along this line between Basel and Chiasso, eager travellers have watched the many-sided beauty of Switzerland; the soft-toned Jura and the sweeping heights of Mendrisiotto; the plains of Magadino; the wild beauty of Lucerne's countryside, lovely Lugano and Lake Maggiore, the castles of Bellinzona and the old towers of Lucerne; the rugged, rocky valley of the Reuss; and the gentle southern lake-country in the valley of the Tessin. And each time the train goes round a curve a new vista opens up, with new villages like Wassen, Giornico, and Faido—each a picturesque new aspect of Switzerland. And this journey has become even more enjoyable since 1921 when the railway was electrified. Actually man's struggle to

mesto corteo, trasportano fuori di galleria il cadavere di un compagno.

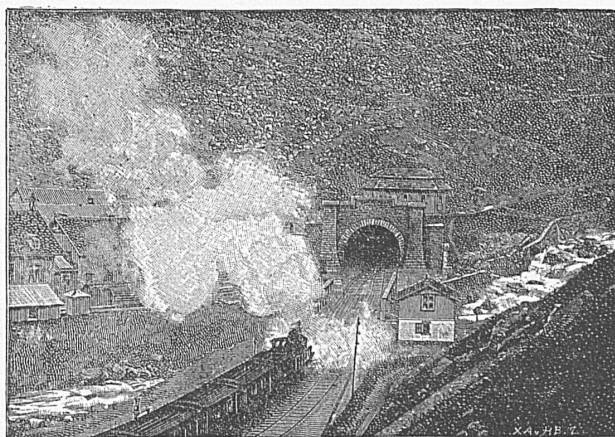
Più d'un viaggiatore avrà forse notato anche la pietra commemorativa che si erge, circondata da un tappeto erboso, accanto alla stazione di Flüelen. Essa ricorda il dott. h. c. Emil Huber-Stockar, che si acquistò particolari benemerienze, collaborando all'elettrificazione della linea del Gottardo. La trasformazione della trazione a vapore in trazione elettrica fu l'opera maggiore curata dalle FFS, dopo il riscatto della linea del Gottardo, avvenuto nel 1909.

L'ingegnere capo Huber-Stockar cooperò in veste di consigliere tecnico a tale trasformazione che, oltre a consentire un notevole accrescimento della capacità di reddito della linea del Gottardo, si rivelò di somma importanza anche per l'intera rete delle Ferrovie federali svizzere.

E. A. Briner

overcome the forces of nature never really ends. And now it is not only the Gotthard that carries this ceaseless transalpine traffic. Last year a celebration was held commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the Simplon Railway. With its tunnel cutting through the Lötschberg Range, the Simplon is second in importance in Switzerland's north-to-south connections. Since 1910 the Rhetian Railway has spanned the Bernina Pass to Veltlin, while all Switzerland's other great passes come alive every summer with motorists travelling on their own through the breath-taking beauty of the Alps.

This year brings the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the completion of the main line through the Gotthard. The ceremony which will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> June will reach its peak in the Tessin town of Bellinzona that is to be the meeting place for special trains bringing officials, celebrities and other guests of honour from the Swiss capital and northern Switzerland. On their way, the guests will stop long enough in the village of Göschenen to see some old-time railway carriages and locomotives. The climax of the celebration will be reached in a religious service at a statue by Vincenzo Vela, in memory of the pioneers of the great tunnel. Here an appropriate ceremony will commemorate Switzerland's railway leaders of four-score years ago, including the great Genevan engineer Louis Favre, who died, a victim of the work he had undertaken, before it was completed.



*Gotthardtunnel um 1895  
Le tunnel du Gotthard  
vers 1895  
La galleria del Gottardo  
verso il 1895  
El túnel del San Gotardo  
hacia el 1895  
Gotthard Tunnel about 1895*