La politique : Les élections tessinoises

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

RHINE NAVIGATION.

Since the Rhine has been made navigable, the traffic on this river continues to grow. In 1937 the traffic of the Basle Rhine port amounted to 2.96 million tons; though in 1938 there was a slight decrease because of low water. About one-third of Swiss imports come in by way of the Rhine (especially coal, grain, petrol) and 30 per cent. of Swiss exports go through the port of Basle.

An agreement of 1929 between the Swiss and German Governments deemed it desirable to make the Rhine navigable from Basle to Lake Constance, or a distance of about 90 miles. Now Germany is urging that this agreement be carried out, so as to open up new traffic lines between Switzerland and Southern Germany and Austria, and through Austria to Italy. But the interests of Switzerland are not now what they were in 1929. The Swiss Federal Railways, in which 3,200 million francs are invested, would lose an important part of their traffic were most of the goods traffic with Eastern Switzerland, Austria and beyond to go *via* a German port on Lake Constance. As the conditions have changed, it seems that the question ought to be discussed again.

INCREASING DEFENCE EXPENDITURE.

After the war the defence expenditure of Switzerland remained almost on the same level until the year 1934.

The ordinary Budget contributed between 90 to 94 million francs towards this; and in addition 20 millions were voted in 1930 for strengthening air defences. After Germany's political change in 1933 the Swiss people showed a growing interest in the problems of military defence, regardless of party. After the "Anschluss" with the changing balance of power in Central Europe, Parliament decided to take further military defence measures.

The following figures show the effect of these on the Federal Budget:—

Defence Expenditure.
(Million Swiss francs).

	Ordinary	Extraordinary
1933	91	97
1936	97	235
1937	106	—
1938 (Budget)	124	100
1939 (Budget estimate)	132	196

The ordinary defence budget shows an increase of 45 per cent. over 1933. Extraordinary credits, unknown before 1930, reach the amount of 648,500,000 frs. in the years 1933-1939; and a further credit of 350 million francs is provided for in a Government recommendation.

That means a general expenditure of about 1,730 million francs in the period 1933-1939, a very heavy burden for a population of only 4½ million. To cover extraordinary expenditure, a tax on income and property is levied, provisionally for three years.

INCREASE OF SWISS AIR TRAFFIC.

Swiss aerodromes have had a big increase of traffic during the past year. The Official Air Travel Bulletin, after giving a detailed account of the new headquarters of Imperial Airways at Victoria, which it calls a "Palace of Icarus," tells of the business done at the airports of Geneva and Zurich.

Compared with 1937 the Geneva Airport at Cointrin handled 10,841 passengers against 8,265; 72.6 tons of mail against 49.7; and 10 tons of freight, which showed a very slight rise.

Zurich Airport at Dübendorf handled 32,498 passengers compared with 24,028; 205 tons of mail compared with 103; and 125 tons of express compared with 103. The number of passengers and tonnage of mail have tripled since 1933.

NEW SWISS MINISTER TO SPAIN.

The Federal Council has appointed Dr. Eugen Broye from Fribourg, hitherto Counsellor of Legation, to the post of Swiss Minister in Burgos.

Dr. Broye was, until recently, on the diplomatic staff of the Swiss Legation in Budapest.

NEW SPANISH MINISTER IN BERNE.

The Federal Council has agreed to the appointment of Señor De Las Barcenas as Minister representing the Nationalist Government of Spain in Berne. Señor De Las Barcenas has been the unofficial representative of General Franco in Switzerland since September, 1938.

SWITZERLAND TO MAKE AEROPLANES.

It is reported from Zurich that the erection of a factory in Switzerland for the manufacture of aeroplanes has been decided upon. The Federal Government have obtained a licence from a foreign firm of manufacturers, and military as well as civil aircraft will be produced.

The factory will be well protected against air raids, as it will be underground. The site will be hewn out of the rock of the Bürgenstock, which rises to a height of 2,926ft. on the bank of the Lake of Lucerne.

SCHWEIZERISCHER KAUFMAENNISCHER VEREIN.

The "Schweizerischer Kaufmännischer Verein" in Switzerland registered a large influx of new members during the year 1938. The figures published show a membership of altogether 42,000 persons.

REFUGEES IN SWITZERLAND.

It is announced in Zurich that the number of refugees in Switzerland does not exceed 12,000. Of these, 3,000 are without means and are supported by the Union of Swiss Jewish Communities, which spends about 250,000 francs each month for this purpose. The well-to-do refugees are allowed to reside wherever they choose, but those without means are to be placed in labour camps.

NEW COMMAND OF FRONTIER BRIGADE.

Colonel Paul Spinnler has been appointed to the command of the Frontier Brigade, in succession to Colonel Alfred Strüby.

Colonel Spinnler, who for some time was a member of the General Staff, held previously the following commands: Battalion 53; Infantry Regiment 21 and Montain Brigade 10.

DUTCH ROYAL VISIT.

Princess Juliana and Prince Bernhard, together with their little daughter, Princess Beatrice, have arrived in Grindelwald, where they will stay for about three weeks.

SWISS PAPERS REPRIMANDED.

The Federal Council has addressed a severe warning to the Editors of the "Schweizerische Zeitung am Sonntag," and the "Risveglio" for having published incorrect news concerning a friendly neighbouring country.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Dr. H. Brockmann-Jerosch, Professor of Geography at the "Oberrealschule" in Zurich, has died following a motor accident.

GRISONS.

The death is announced from Chur of M. Leonard Cantieni, who was for forty years Manager of the "Kurhaus Hotel" Lenzerheide, at the age of 80. The deceased was one of the pioneers of the Hotel profession in the canton of Grisons.

AARGAU.

The late Daniel Lüscher-Greminger in Aarau, has left an amount of 60,000 frs. for various charitable institutions in the canton of Aargau.

TICINO.

The final result of the elections for the Grand Council of the canton of Ticino is as follows:

Liberal Radicals 22 (old Council: 19); Conservatives 24 (old Council: 22); Socialists 8 (old Council: 10); Democrats 8 (old Council: 9); Peasant Party 3 (old Council: 3).

* * *

From Bellinzona comes the news of the death of M. Bruno Bruni, advocate. M. Bruni was President of the Grand Council. For a great number of years he rendered invaluable services to the town and community of Bellinzona. In the army he reached the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

LA POLITIQUE.

Les élections tessinoises.

Le canton du Tessin a eu, il y a huit jours, ses élections cantonales, le Conseil d'Etat comme le Grand Conseil étant soumis à l'épreuve du scrutin populaire.

Les partis radical-libéral et conservateur avaient proposé l'élection tacite, par la voie d'un arrangement amiable entre les diverses organisations politiques; non qu'ils eussent des motifs de craindre la lutte, mais parce qu'ils estimaient que, dans les circonstances présentes, on pouvait éviter, au profit de tous, une compétition stérile. Ce ne fut point l'avis des politiciens influents de l'extrême-gauche, et de leurs amis démocrates, qui voulurent la bataille, qui l'ont eue, et qui en ont fait les frais.

Au Grand Conseil, en effet, les conservateurs et les radicaux-libéraux ont obtenu une indiscutable victoire, les premiers enregistrant 13,057 suffrages, les seconds 11,978, tandis que les socialistes arrivaient à 4,621, les démocrates à 4,117, les agrariens, enfin, à 1,624. Il s'ensuit que les conservateurs obtiennent vingt-quatre sièges, contre vingt-deux pour la précédente législature; les radicaux libéraux, vingt-deux (au lieu de dix-neuf); les socialistes huit (au lieu de dix); les démocrates huit (au lieu de neuf). Deux sièges précédemment occupés par la "Ligue nationale" sont revenus aux partis historiques.

Les conservateurs ont gagné deux sièges; les radicaux-libéraux en ont gagné trois. Les socialistes en perdent deux, les démocrates un. Sans exagérer la signification de ce scrutin, on peut bien dire qu'il traduit la confiance du peuple tessinois dans les partis nationaux et qu'il équivaut à une douche froide sur le dos de l'opposition.

Ici, il est utile d'ouvrir une parenthèse et d'expliquer qui sont ces "démocrates," dont l'on parle toujours à propos de la politique tessinoise, comme à propos de celle de Zurich. Les démocrates forment une sorte de scission du parti radical et se situent un peu plus à gauche, comme à Zurich le groupe auquel appartient M. Wettstein. Sur le terrain cantonal ils sont carrément schismatiques. A Berne, ils appartiennent au groupe radical. Leur représentant au Conseil national, le sympathique et disert M. Gian-Battista Rusca, syndic de Locarno, — "il sindaco della pace," comme on l'avait appelé à l'époque des mémorables conférences européennes qui se tinrent dans sa charmante cité — est membre du groupe radical: mais il vote souvent avec les socialistes, comme les Billieux, les Rittmeyer, et autre "guigne-à-gauche."

Ces accointances parlementaires, sur le terrain fédéral, ne sont point dénuées de signification; elles laissent entendre beaucoup de choses, et quand on a vu ce qu'un terrible agité, heureusement voué aujourd'hui à des travaux plus tranquilles, a pu tirer, en fait d'espoirs, de certains rapprochements, on ne juge pas sans intérêt les expériences de front populaire tentées sur le terrain cantonal.

Celle du Tessin est claire: la grande majorité du peuple a donné sa confiance aux deux partis qui représentent la collaboration nationale, dans un esprit modéré. Pour le Conseil d'Etat, les magistrats sortants, deux conservateurs, deux radicaux-libéraux, un socialiste ont été confirmés.

Le parti socialiste suisse, où pourtant les dissensions ont été, ces derniers temps, assez remarquables et remarquées, proclame sans cesse qu'il a l'opinion publique avec lui, que ses conquêtes iront désormais se multipliant, qu'il a le droit d'avoir au moins deux représentants au Conseil fédéral. Dans la mesure où les scrutins cantonaux peuvent servir d'indication, il ne faut

pas trop haut crier victoire. Au Tessin, en tout cas, le résultat des dernières élections est nettement encourageant pour les partis nationaux et pour leur entente future.

Léon Savary.
(Tribune de Genève.)

CONCERT NEWS.

Our countryman, M. Adrian Aeschbacher, has recently given a piano recital at Wigmore Hall, the Press notices were very favourable and we are delighted to publish the following:

Sunday Times (19.2.39).

ADRIAN AESCHBACHER.

This young Swiss pianist can keep his end up even in a world so rich in good pianists as the present one: he sustains our interest in everything he does by virtue not only of his expressive tone and the vitality of his rhythm but of the insight he shows into the mentality of the composer he happens to be performing: it was no small achievement, at his recital in the Wigmore Hall on Thursday, to convey the impression, in works so separated in time and so diverse in spirit as the youthful A major sonata of Beethoven, the opus 1 of Berg, and the fourth sonata (F sharp, op. 30) of Scriabine, that this was very much how the composer must have looked at his own music.

Mr. Aeschbacher created a world of exceptional loveliness for us in the moving andante of Schubert's posthumous B flat sonata; but neither he nor anyone else can reconcile any but the confirmed Schubert addict to the tedium of a good deal of this ill-knit, copiously padded work. The Scriabine sonata has to-day only a historical interest, and that a rather pathetic one: surely no other composer has even harped so long on one or two chords and called the result a sonata! The Berg sonata in one movement, though it dates from the composer's twenty-third year, is a finely-concentrated piece of thinking: it was a pleasure to watch the play of these tense muscles after the flabbiness and sprawl of the weaker parts of the Schubert sonata.

E. N.

Daily Telegraph (17.2.39).

A SWISS PIANIST.

Adrian Aeschbacher, a young Swiss pianist who last summer had won admirers here, reappeared yesterday at Wigmore Hall. His programme was heroic — sonatas by Beethoven, Schubert (B flat, No. 21), Scriabine and Alban Berg, and Brahms's "Handel" variations.

The Beethoven was an unusual choice — Op. 2, No. 2, in A — and very soon there was apparent again the feeling for rhythmical continuity which had, when he played here before, been one of the signs of a musical nature. Schubert's last sonata was the centre-piece. If some possibilities were missed here, that is hardly more than to say that Londoners have lately been put into a position to be exacting judges of performances of this music.

What was unmistakable was the young artist's deep reverence for the great work. It still remains, for the sake of incisiveness, for him to think more with his finger tips. The two modern sonatas, each in its way an improvisation, or at least improvisatory in effect, were evidently a simple relaxation for him after Schubert; and at the end came a bold and successful performance of Brahms's variations, where the effect of glitter was all that was wanting.

R. C.

SCHWEIZER PRODUKTE IN ENGLAND.

Während der englischen Industrie Ausstellung, wo ausschliesslich englische Erzeugnisse anzutreffen sind, findet zugleich in London eine Internationale Ausstellung neuer Patente statt. Verschiedene sehr praktische Neuerungen für Haushaltung, Gewerbe und Landwirtschaft sind anzutreffen.

Ein neuer Radioapparat, der zugleich ein deutliches Fernsehen ermöglicht, erweckt vielseitiges Interesse. Ebenso ein Maschinenmensch, der auf all die gestellten Fragen immer die richtige Antwort gibt, scheint die Besucher zu verplüffen.

Gebührende Aufmerksamkeit findet auch eine Präzisionsarbeit der Schweizer Bakalitindustrie durch die Firma W. Steiger Reinach. (Aargau). Ein aus Kunstharz, für die individuellen Anlagen verstellbarer Rasierapparat beweist die Exportfähigkeit unserer neuaufkommenden Pressharzindustrie.

EDITOR'S POST-BAG.

February 20th, 1939.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer.

Dear Sir,

It has been brought to my notice that exception has been taken to some remarks of mine in the account of the last meeting of the City Swiss Club which appeared in the Swiss Observer of February 10th.

I should like to say that I deeply regret that any remarks of mine should have given offence to Messrs. Pagani.

I have often praised Messrs. Pagani for their dinners and on this occasion my remarks were intended to be taken in a jocular sense and I am more than sorry that they should have given another impression.

I therefore wish to apologise sincerely to Messrs. Pagani and trust that they will accept the expression of my regret.

Yours faithfully,
ck.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

A meeting of the Committee was held on Tuesday evening, the 21st inst., at Pagani's Restaurant, when Mr. Louis Chapuis, who had just returned from a business trip in America, presided. Several matters came up for discussion, notably the report of the last monthly meeting, signed by "ck.", which appeared in the S.O. of the 11th inst. It was stated to the general satisfaction of those present, that neither the Hon. Sec. nor any of the Committee members had been consulted about or were aware of the contents of this report. The letter published in the S.O. on the 18th inst. and the allegations it contained in connection with the Hon. Secretary are therefore totally unfounded and unjustified, and it is regretted that the letter was ever published.

EDITOR'S NOTICE.

The Editor wishes to thank other correspondents who have expressed their views on this matter which is now closed.

HIDDEN CHURCHES.
Discoveries at Meiringen.

At Meiringen, in the Bernese Oberland, there is a particularly interesting collection of ecclesiastical buildings in the churchyard. The villagers, who are Zwinglians, use for worship a large church which was built in the fifteenth century and remodelled in 1684; it has on the outside of the south wall large fifteenth-century paintings of St. Michael and St. Peter, with triple tiara. Detached from the church on the south side there stands a massive tower bearing a painting of St. Christopher, and housing three bells, two of them dated 1351 and 1480 respectively. At the entrance to the churchyard is a small chapel, built in 1486, with remains of wall-paintings inside; beneath it is a charnel house.

Even more interesting than these buildings above ground are two churches which had been completely buried by enormous masses of stones and mud washed down by torrents from the Hasliberg; they are superimposed and are underneath the large church which is now used. All knowledge of them had been lost, and it was only by accident that they were discovered in 1915.

While tons of mud and stones were being removed from them, the excavators discovered two skeletons of people who had apparently been trapped by the flood, a bronze censer, a glass goblet, two glass ampullae, and fragments of stained glass.

Of the lowest church, built not later than the eleventh century, only part of the apse and the stone altar have been uncovered. When this church was buried a larger one was built on top of it in the thirteenth century; two side altars were added to it about the year 1300. Not long after, in the early part of the fourteenth century, mountain torrents completely filled this one with debris. The chancel with high altar *in situ* is separated fom the nave by a stone screen, which has three apertures in the centre and a doorway on either side. The altar on the south side, standing under a semi-circular arch, was dedicated to St. Peter. There is an opening for relics in the front of each altar under the *mensa*.

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