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:	- (1935)
Heft:	717

Rubrik: Home news

# 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. <u>Mehr erfahren</u>

# **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. <u>En savoir plus</u>

# 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. <u>Find out more</u>

# **Download PDF:** 15.07.2025

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

# Che Swiss Observer FOUNDED BY MR. P. F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain. EDITED WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2. Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595. Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

Vol. 14-No. 717

LONDON, JULY20 . 1935.

PRICE 3d.





(Compiled by courtesy of the following contem-poraries: National Zeitung, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, St. Galler Tagblatt, Vaterland and Tribune de Genève).

# FEDERAL.

#### SWISS AIR PORTS.

In every civilised country there is a law which compels airplanes arriving from a foreign country to land at a customs air port in order to fulfil the necessary duty and passport formali-ties. Only after having done this is the pilot free to land in other parts of the country.

Switzerland possesses seven customs air ports and twenty-four air ports for internal traffic. In comparison with other countries Switzerland, with an area of sixteen thousand square miles, much of which is impracticable for landing, has relatively the largest number of air equipped for air touring.

The custom air touring. The custom air ports are in three categories. Those permanently attended by customs officials are in the first category and are at Båle-Birs-felden, Geneva-Countrin and Zurich-Dübendorf. It will be noted that in the case of large cities, the name bracketed to it indicates the suburb in which the air port is situated. It is from these three that the main international lines radiate to other Duranen custom. to other European centres.

Any pilot wishing to start from an air port in the second category has to give notice so that a customs official may be present. Berne-Belpmoos, Lausanne-Blecherette and St. Gall-Altenrhein are in this section. The only air port in the third category is Eplatures, serving the towns of La-Chaux-de-Fonds and Le Locle, which has no officials continually on duty has no officials continually on duty

The first air port to be used for civil services was Lausanne where a civil air training school was established during the war.

The first modern air port for civil aviation was at Bâle-Birsfelden, created in 1924. Bâle is the main entrance to Switzerland from North and North West Europe, both by air and rail. A night postal air service to Frankfurt a/M was inaugurated in 1934.

Geneva-Cointrin was the starting point of the first regular international line and the port is being reconstructed on the lines of the Zurich and Bale stations. The conditions at Zurich were at first rather

unsatisfactory as both military and civil aero-planes had to use the same ground. But Zurich now possesses a huge civil air port, fully equipped with buildings constructed according to modern architectural constructed according to modern

The air port of Berne is noted for its lovely surroundings and it is the starting place for the famous Alpine air cruises.

FINANCIAL POSITION ON THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS FINARCIAL POSITION ON THE FEDERAL RAILWAYS. Although the financial position of the Swiss Federal Railways and associated transport un-dertakings has been mentioned frequently in these columns as giving rise to serious criticism and genuine anxiety, it is significant that in 1934 the surplus of earnings over expenditure amounted to fr. 96,715,000, a higher figure than in either of the two preceding years. This improved state of affairs is due entirely to the determined effort that has been made to reduce expenditure, which has come down from all but fr. 260 millions in 1932 to under fr. 236 millions last year. This reduc-tion has much more than counterbalanced the continued fall in receipts amounting to just about

continued fall in receipts amounting to just about fr. 10 millions in the same period. So that although the surplus is still insuffi-cient to meet the interest due upon the capital debt, it shows a healthy improvement, which can be accelerated sufficiently to meet the interest charges — upon which this land of tourists has so greatly to depend — become more favourable to visitors from abroad. A few comparative figures for the last three years are as follows :— 19321933 1934

Passengers carried (millions) 116.9 114.9 113.7 Goods carried

(millions tons) 15.3 14.8 15.1 Receipts (million fr.) .... 342.9 336.6 332.9 Expenditure (million fr.) 259.7 247.1 235.9

It is satisfactory to note that the goods tonand even the rate of fall in passengers seems in-clined to slow up, but the total fall in receipts is still serious.

R.G.

#### MINISTER STUCKI.

Great efforts are made in Commercial and Industrial circles in Switzerland to retain the services of Minister Stucki, who has proved to be such a successful negotiator. As will be remem-bered, Minister Stucki has expressed a wish to be relieved of his post at the end of the current year.

### UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

At the end of June, 59,678 unemployed were gistered or 6,000 less than at the end of May. This figure still exceeds last year's figure by 12,700.

## REICHSMARKS IN SWITZERLAND.

A decree from the Swiss Ministry of Economy makes it a severe offence as from 22nd July to deal in German reichsmarks in Switzerland.

It was found that German tourists in Switzerland. It was found that German tourists in Switzerland were able to buy Rm.100 at the rate of exchange of Sw.Frs.104, the parity being Frs. 123.45. German transport firms, it is revealed, did the averaged did the same.

The difference between the low rate of exchange and the parity ran into many million frances owing to these speculative purchases of

reichsmarks in Switzerland. In view of the fact that such purchases en-danger the Swiss-German clearing agreement, the Swiss Ministry of Economy decided to prohibit dealings in reichsmarks throughout Switzerland.

#### MYSTERY PLAY AT EINSIEDELN.

MYSTERY PLAY AT EINSIEUELN. The famous Mystery Play of the Spanish classic Calderon, "The great World's Theatre," is performed every Wednesday and Saturday eve-ning in front of the magnificent Baroque Church of the Einsiedeln Abbey. The Play begins with the Creation and ends with the Last Judgment. In the beginning God creates, from chaos, the human soils, who appear before him to obtain the rôles they must play in life, representing a king, a peasant, a beggar, a rich man, Wisdom, Pornte the Fore a short while their joys and roles they must play in life, representing a king, a peasant, a beggar, a rich man, Wisdom, Beauty, etc. For a short while their joys and passions fill their lives with action, till Death approaches and they are brought before the throne of Judgment. Hundreds of performers act in this Play, which leaves a deep impression in the minds of the andience. The Play is staged by Dr. Oscar Eberle, who has also adapted the Spanish text in a good modern translation.

#### "WILLIAM TELL " PERFORMANCES IN INTERLAKEN.

Schiller's drama of the liberation of Switzer-Schiller's drama of the liberation of Switzer-land from the Austrian yoke in 1291, "Wilhelm Tell," is the most popular of various similar works on the subject, and almost each phrase of this piece rests in the memory of the Swiss as a proverbial saying. Ever since the 16th century pieces treating this subject have been played at Altdorf, which is historical — and for the Swiss almost sacred ground. Taking the steamboat at Lucerne, the tourist can make a tour of the lake, passing the historic Rutli, where the patriotic pact was originally concluded by representatives of the ancient four cantons, and Tell's Chapel, which was founded in commemoration of his heroism. heroism.

At Interlaken about 300 persons participate At Interlaken about 300 persons participate in the performances, which are given every Sun-day at both places. At Interlaken the perform-ances are in the open-air, a whole village serving as the stage, across which two dozen hunters race past the covered stand on their horses. The stand can seat 2,000 persons. In **both** towns the regular Sunday mathematican are given from July to Sun-Sunday performances are given from July to Sep

# CLIMBERS KILLED IN ALPS BY FALLING STONES. Snow is melting rapidly on the higher Alpine eks, with the consequence that the danger of falling stones is now great.

On Sunday two Genevese alpinists were seriously injured by falling stones in the Mont Blanc range, and on Monday two other Swiss

climbers were killed. One, Herr Fricker, of Basle, was struck on the head while descending from the Breithorn above Lauterbrunnen; the other, M. A. Pellau, of Canton Valais, was knocked down on the mountains above Champex. A Swiss tourist fell over a precipice while gather-ing wild flowers on the Alpetli in the Bernege Oberland, and a young student of Basle, Herr H. Müller, fell down a rock wall above Zermatt and fractured his skull.

#### SWISS GOLD INFLOW.

The Swiss National Bank return for the week ended 15th July shows that gold holdings in-creased by Sw.Frs.31.300,000 (approximately £2,086,600) to Sw.Frs.1,252,200,000 (£83,480,000), which is the highest gold influx recorded in 1935. Gold exchanges slightly dropped by Sw.Frs. 700,000 to Sw.Frs.10,500,000.

On 15th July notes in circulation and other sight obligations were covered by 80.59 per cent. of gold stocks, and gold exchanges compared with 77.14 per cent. a week ago.

#### SWISS PRIEST MURDERED.

A Swiss Missionary, M. Anton Joerg, who was stationed at Mongudatuin in Northern Manchukuo was kidnapped and murdered by bandits.

M. Joerg was 33 and had been in the East since 1929. Last winter his work brought him to the northern frontier of Manchukuo. There he found thousands of White Russians who had fled from the Soviet provinces of Eastern Sheria, encamped along the southern bank of the Amur River. He made two journeys to the refugees during the winter and was preparing to visit them again when he was attacked by the bandits.

He had several encounters with outlaws, escaping successfully each time, sometimes after being robbed and maltreated, and other times amid a shower of bullets.

During the recent hard times in northern Manchukuo he did much to relieve the distress of the suffering farmers and won the esteem of the Government and the people.

A "SILENCE WEEK" AT ZURICH. The experiment of a "silence week" for traffic tried at Zurich during the first week of July was a complete success. The police report states that the suppression of sound-signals in the centre of the town showed such signals to be unnecessary, and that a general prohibition might well be attempted.

well be attempted. The most disciplined road-users were the motorists and the next the cyclists, except users of delivery cycles. The category most difficult to educate was the pedestrians, and more particu-larly women. The results of this "silence week " were much appreciated by business people. As compared with the preceding week, acci-dents numbered 61 against 101, and those in which persons were injured 25 against 38. The week is to be extended to a year, and attention is to be turned to two other sources of noise — carpet-beating and the wireless.

#### JUBILEE OF LIFE-BOAT ASSOCIATIONS OF LAKE GENEVA.

Fifty years ago the towns situated on the shores of Lake Geneva formed Lifeboat Associa-tions, as fishermen and holiday-makers are in great danger when a storm breaks on this large lake in winter. On July 20-21 an international Jubilee fête will be held at *Ouchy* — Lansanne, on which occasion a great fireworks display, row-ing and swimming commetitions and a pageant ing and swimming competitions and a pageant will be organised.

#### LEOPOLD ROBERT MEMORIAL EXHIBITION IN. CHAUX-DE-FONDS.

Leopold Robert, the Swiss painter, was a great artist, some of whose classical pictures are the pride of the Museum of Neuchâtel. To com-memorate the hundredth anniversary of his death, an achivitin has been avanised, which exclusion an exhibition has been organised, which contains a great number of his masterpieces. This exhibi-tion will be held from July 20th, till September 22nd in his native town La Chaux-de-Fonds.

# MONKEYS RUN RIOT IN GENEVA.

The escapades of a troop of monkeys, fugi-tives from the local zoo, have kept the city of Geneva in a state of amusement for the past twenty-four hours.

The monkeys arrived at the zoo, which has been recently opened, only last week and were housed on a mass of rocks surrounded by a moat filled with water. Workmen repairing the moat yesterday left it dry during the lunch interval

and returned to find that the thirty denizens of the rocks had seized the opportunity of exploring the international city. A number of the monkeys were seated on the

roof of a neighbouring building from which any number of succulent bananas could not tempt them. The reason for this was clear when an them. The reason for this was chear when an irate householder discovered that his kitchen had been raided. The least appealing of the exploits of this particular group was when one of them captured a rare water foul from the zoo and solemnly plucked it alive.

#### LOCAL.

For the second time within three weeks the offices of the French Consulate in Basle were visited by burglars. The first time an amount of 500 frs. was taken and the second time nearly 2,000 frs. disappeared.

BASLE.

On going to Press we hear that the Petrol Tanks at the Swiss Federal Railways station goods Depót in Basle caught fire. Heavy explo-sions occurred, the entire Fire Brigade of the town and surrounding villages have been sum-moned. Two people were seriously injured.

The accounts of the Municipal Tramway Co., for the first 6 months show a deficit of 230,967 frs. ZURICH.

M. Emile Hardmeier from Uster, a member of Parliament (National Council) since 1917 is not seeking re-election. (The parliamentary elec-tions are taking place in autumn of this year.) \* .

Two detectives of the cantonal Police were shot at, when they questioned a cyclist whom they suspected. They made use of their revolvers in self defence, and the man was killed. Investi-gations have proved that the man, named Otto Bickel had a very bad criminal record.

The death is reported from Zurich of Dr. E. Cesane, a well-known advocate, at the age of 81.

# GENEVA.

From Geneva comes the news of the death of M. Louis Chauvet, a former President of the Municipal Council.

#### BERNE.

The "Niesen" Railway has celebrated its 25th anniversary, the first train leaving for the "Niesen-Kulm" on the 15th of July 1910.

#### LUCERNE.

A monument errected to the memory of Isabelle Kaiser, the well-known writer was inan-gurated at Beckenried. The monument was exe-cuted by the sculptor Hans von Matt.

## THURGAU.

National-Councillor Ullmann and States-Conneillon Böhi, will not contest their seats at the next Parliament in 1911 and M. Albert Böhi is a membra since 1010 is a member since 1910.

#### AARGAU.

Max Koenig, late manager of the firm Frikart, A.G., Ironmongers in Zofingen, has been condemned to three years imprisonment for fraudulent bankruptcy.

#### NEUCHATEL.

Dr. E. Morel, for fifty years (1883-1933) Pro-fessor of Théology at the University of Neuchâtel, has died at the age of 77. Professor Morel was a *doctor honoris causa* of the Universities of Glasgow and Padua.

#### ST. GALLEN.

M. Jakob Herzog, who was a teacher at the "Städtische Knabensekundarschule" in St. Gall for 49 years, has celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary.



#### NEW ALPINE ROAD.

A new road is approaching completion in Switzerland which will form an important and long-desired link between the Engadine and Canton Ticino.

At present there is no road along the north western shore of the Lake of Lugano, and travel-lers to St. Moritz must proceed to the southern end of the lake and cross through Italy round the hills bordering the Lake of Como before they can turn north castwards along its western shore to Cadenabbia, Menaggio, and Chiavenna, and so to the Malova Dava the Maloya Pass.

The new road will obviate this detour. It runs north eastwards from Lugano along the lake to Porlezza in Italy at the lakehead, and thence on to Menaggio, where it reaches the old route. This Italian section has been in existence for many years, but it has hitherto stopped some way short of the Swiss frontier. On the Swiss side proposals for cutting a road along the lake shore have been advanced since 1869, but owing partly to their difficulty, and more especially to their effect on the natural beauty of the district, they have not been executed.

A road along the lakeside would have ruined

A road along the lakeside would have ruined its picturesque character: it would have marred the famous Rock of Gandria, and destroyed the whole charm of the village of Gandria, at present mapproachable except by water or the footpath which climbs over the Rock. The village clings to the steep hillside with its feet in the lake. The new road, therefore, has been cut high up on the cliffs, so as to pass above the Rock and the village. The people of Gandria regret the num-ber of steps which they will have to climb to reach the road, but they must realise that to cut a road through the arched alleyways of their village would rob it of all attraction for visitors. The existing road, which runs to the summit of Monte Bre from the village of Castagnola, now a subbrb of Lugano, has been widened and

of Monte Bre from the village of Castagnola, now a suburb of Lugano, has been widened and straightened to a point where it makes a hairpin bend some 300 feet above the lake. Here the completely new section begins. It soon enters a curving tunnel and issues on to the side of a deep cleft in the mountain side. The road crosses this on a viaduct carried on stone arches, and enters a second tunnel lit at intervals by side shafts, therough which are dimnses of the lake below and through which are glimpses of the lake below and

through which are glumpses of the lake below and the mountains on the far side. Further on the road runs along an almost precipitous stretch of cliff, protected at places by covered galleries against falls of rock and cuts through a third tunnel above the Rock of Gan-drin. Basing above the nuclear fact the sill. dria. Passing above the red roofs of the village it begins a gentle descent fowards the Italian frontier. A paved footpath, a metre wide, occasionally juts out beyond the road over the

Occasionary justs out experi-cliffside. The way runs through vineyards, olives, and cypresses. The cliffs are covered with luxuriant vegetation, the product of the Italian sun and the frequent showers; lizards run about the stones, and the workmen are sometimes startled by dis-consing such as of imnosing length — always

and the workmen are sometimes startled by dis-covering snakes of imposing length — always considered deadly — sleeping under paving stones. Over the lake buzzards fly, mewing and swooping to pick up refuse from the surface. They are highly regarded in these parts as scaven-gers, keeping the lake cleaned of carrion. Gandria is the last Swiss village, and the Italian frontier is reached at another tunnel which pierces a huge rock bastion dividing the two countries. On the other side, the traveller is in the district known to readers of Fogazzaro's novels as "11 Piccolo Mond Antico." The lovely little towns of Oria and San Mamette, standing among cypresses and oleanders at the lakeside, lead through the Val Solda to the lakehead at Porlezza, and so over the hills to the Lake of Como at Menaggio.

Porlezza, and so over the hills to the Lake of Como at Menaggio. It is hoped to open the new road for traffic in October, and by arrangement with the Italian Government, Swiss mail coaches will then main-tain a daily direct service between Lugano and St. Moritz, passing through Italian territory. The run is expected to take four hours. Private cours and towists coaches hope to do the journey cars and tourists coaches hope to do the journey in three hours. The road will be a boon to all those who want

to make a quick exchange between the snows of St. Moritz and the more languid delights of Lugano, and will also make a notable addition to Lugano, and will also make a notatie addition to the scenic highways of Europe. It is comparable both in construction and beauty with Azenstrasse round Lake Lucerne, but will be unique in Swit-zerland as an Alpine road passing through Italian lake scenery.

#### COMMODITY MARKETS.

The Swiss Bank Corporation has issued a second edition of its useful booklet dealing with the organisation and working of the principal commodity markets. The text, which has been revised and enlarged, has been compiled in con-sultation with authorities in the various branches of trade which are described. Copies of the book-let may be obtained on application to the Swiss Bank Corporation, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

#### HERE AND THERE IN THE ALPS. Miniature Sketches.

Of the three little mountain states Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden which pronounced their declaration of independence in the "Ewiger Bund," or perpetual pact, on August 1st, 1291, Schwyz has ever since remained the heart of Swit-zerhand. It has given the Confederation its name zerland. It has given the Confederation its name (Schweiz) and its coat+of-arms, with a 'change only having been made in the shape and placing of the cross. It is said that the original flag of Schwiz was entirely red, and the little white cross which now appears in the upper right hand corner was a distinction bestowed upon the Schwyzers after a campaign at Besançon. The federal flag displays its cross in larger form directly in the center of the red field, and this same arrangement, but with colours reversed, was, as a compliment to Switzerland, adopted by the international Red Cross Society, which came into being at Geneva on August 22nd, 1864,

by the International Ref. Cross Society, which came into being at Geneva on Angust 22nd, 1864, with Jean Henri Dunant, a philanthropic citizen of Geneva as its founder. That Schwyz, the tiny cantonal capital, and the districts of Steinen, Seewen, Auf Iberg, Brun-nen and the Mnotta valley, which made up the state in the beginning, were much more populated in their early days, is indicated by the historic records showing, for instance, that 1,500 men of Schwyz participated in the Besaucon campaign, also by the fact that of the three pioneer cantons Schwyz assumed leadership. A delightful patrician atmosphere prevails to-day yet in the little town of Schwyz, which is impressively located at the base and on the slopes of the twin peaks of the Mythen. Here one en-counters a "Herrengasse," a freie Reichsgasse, and along these and other less pretentiously named thoroughfares stand fine old patrician resi-

and along those and one of patrician resi-dences. High walls, towers and gables are some of their visible marks of distinction, and through handsome wrought-iron gates one gets glimpses of the attractive gardens in which they stand. As Schwyz was the victim of a big conflagra-

As Schwyz was the victum of a or connagra-tion in 1642, all these residences were built after-wards. Among these mansions are included the Reding houses, homes of branches of one of the most illustrions families of Schwyz, whose name appears 45 times in the annals of the state's chief appears 45 times in the annals of the state's chief magistrates. Thus, in a beautiful framework of trees in the Schmidgasse, which leads to nearby Brunnen, on the lake of Lucerne, beckons the Reding von Biberegg residence, with the family's escutcheon above the hospitally open entrance gate. Higher up in the town rises like a fortress the Ital Reding domain. The spacione shoring Rathaus Square is

The spacious sloping Rathaus Square is, however, the beauty spot of Schwyz. Here, as its name suggests, stands the medieval City Hall, whose two main façades are strikingly adorned with frescoes from Swiss history. Portraits of 53 magistrates, from 1544 on, are displayed in the 53 magistrates, from 1544 on, are displayed in the large council-chamber. A fountain, crowned by a standard bearer, rises on the square and on the north side of the quadrangle invites the lofty church of St. Martin. Behind this edifice are two interesting chapels, "Heiligkrenz" and "Kerchel." the latter reminiscent of the days when the liberty-loving, independent Schwyzers had been temporarily excommunicated by the Pope, and had been forbidden to celebrate divine services " on " Schwyz ground. A three-stoned tower behind the Rathaus.

services "on" Schwyz ground. A three-stoned tower behind the Rathaus, known as the "Archiv," houses some of the most sacred Swiss documents, including the priceless original deed of confederation between Schwyz, Uri and Unterwalden. It is written in Latin and bears the date of August 1st, 1291. At Schwyz it becomes clearly apparent to a visitor that these pionneor Swise wear by no means an important pionneer Swiss were by no means an ignorant people of herdsmen, as some of their haughty oppressors chose to describe them, but men of culture, courage and unusual foresight.

