

Zeitschrift: Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand
Herausgeber: Swiss Society of New Zealand
Band: 8 (1942-1943)
Heft: 10

Rubrik: Sundry news from Switzerland

Nutzungsbedingungen

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. 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. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

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. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

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. [See Legal notice.](#)

Download PDF: 31.01.2025

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

veil (loaned by the bride's sister, Mrs. W. Waldvogel, Otakeho), was caught to the head with a coronet of orange blossom. Her only ornament was a string of pearls. A sheaf of arum lilies completed her toilette.

Attending the bride were her cousins, Misses Agnes and Mary Steiner, Kapuni, who were dressed in blush pink and apple green taffeta respectively. Their frocks were cut with fitting bodices and puff sleeves, the full skirts being finished with a frill above the hemline. Bandeaux of matching flowers and shoulder length net veils were worn. Both wore gold lockets and carried bouquets of pink roses and maidenhair fern.

Mr. E. Steiner, Mahoe, brother of the bride, was best man, and Mr. J. Muller was groomsman.

As the bridal couple left the church Pauline Schupfer, a niece of the bride, presented a lucky horse shoe to the bride.

At a reception held at the Windsor Mr. and Mrs. Steiner, assisted by Mrs. J. Schupfer, received about 85 guests. Mrs. Steiner wore a navy tailleur with matching hat and accessories. Her shoulder spray was in autumn tonings. Mrs. Schupfer chose an air force blue tailored costume with navy hat and accessories and wore a shoulder spray of autumn-tinted flowers. The British and Swiss National Anthems were sung at the reception, where the usual toasts were honoured.

For travelling in the Auckland and Hawke's Bay districts, the bride chose a light grey coat and hat with navy frock and accessories.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Fohn's future home will be at Mangatoki.

.

SUNDRY NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

The National Bank has stated that the expenses in connection with the war have up to the present reached 5,700 million francs of which 1,100 million have been obtained by a capital levy and a quarter by taxation. The issue of an internal loan of 300 million francs is under consideration for the purpose of paying off floating debts and procuring the necessary funds for current requirements.

.

People living along the shores of Lake of Geneva are likely to witness some strange spectacles. Some 200 Italian sailors have arrived at Evian and Thonon on the southern side. Fast motor patrol boats will be keeping guard and it is expected that the peaceful waters will be turned into a landing surface for flying boats.

.

Mother Helvetia requires that her sons are preparing themselves physically for the military service prior to the recruit examinations. At this year's examinations the young men liable to register for service have to undergo a severe test; a sprint over a lap of 80 metres, a long jump, putting the weight weighing 500 grammes, climbing a pole, a distance run of 3 km., and a route march of 25 km. Those unable to comply with the minimum requirements will have to undergo a special compulsory training during the year.

.

Planning for after-war civil aviation is one of the favourite subjects discussed by many a municipal council. Lucerne wishes to be connected with the European Air network and claims an airport to serve central Switzerland. A similar proposal is being debated by the Grosse Rat of Zug which maintains that this central Swiss airport should be constructed between Cham and Zug. Geneva is going to enlarge the existing Cointrin airfield and fancies to convert "le petit lac" - the lower end of the lake of Geneva - into an anchorage for large seaplanes; it also plans for two motor roads, one to Basle and the other one to Schaffhausen.

A fresh statement by the Vichy Government announces the definite stoppage of interest payments on French loans subscribed in Switzerland. The total of French state issues placed in Switzerland amounts to 168 million Swiss francs.

.

The campaign for salvaging old tyres is so far responsible for the reclaiming of sufficient rubber to meet the country's needs for several months to come.

.

The 1st of August collection of 1942 ended up with a net result of frs. 1,170,500 - i.e. frs. 150,000 more than in the previous year. This increase is principally placed to the credit of the sale of the postage stamp blocks. Of the amount frs. 390,000 are given to the Don National for soldiers and their families and frs. 750,000 are handed over to the Swiss Samaritan Fund.

.

Recently two trains with about 200 Swiss on board arrived in Switzerland from Paris. They were mostly all Jewish Swiss citizens who resided for many years in France. Each was allowed to have 50 kg. of luggage, whilst their other movable belongings were collected and later on sent to Switzerland.

.

A Swiss Institute for the study of foreign countries has been formed. At its head is a Committee formed amongst others by the Rector of the Federal Technical Academy (E.T.H.) and the Rector of the University of Zurich. This institute is to make scientific and objective studies of foreign countries and particularly those which are of special interest to Switzerland.

.

The Swiss House in Milan has been destroyed in an air-raid on February 15th. There were some 27 people actually in the building but they had escaped to the basement shelter and nobody was hurt. The Swiss House in Milan was the home of the Swiss Club, the Swiss School, the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Employment Department of the latter. The Library containing some 7,000 volumes, the school with all its furniture and the caretaker's rooms were completely destroyed. The employment department suffered least, all its records are safe and its work is carried on, thanks to the temporary hospitality offered by the Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Milan.

.

No less than 65 designs have been examined by the prize committee set up in connection with the proposed Motta monument. Top honours have been awarded to Romo Rossi of Locarno whose project is recommended for execution.

.

Not long ago there was a large fire in one of the barns belonging to the Corporation of Stans. Hay, straw and cereals filled the barn and in the sheds were machines of all sorts. The fire could easily have been mastered, as next door to it there was a Federal depot which was well equipped with fire fighting appliances and two motor pumps; eighty well-trained firemen were also on the premises. But these fire fighters were not allowed to meddle in a fire in Nidwalden without having been specially invited to do so. This great fire was, however, considered as "iiseri Brunscht" (our fire) and the building burnt completely down, without the firemen of the Federal depot being allowed to make themselves useful. Motto: Diä Chaibe vo Bärn miend nid iberall d'Finger denne ha (The blighters from Berne must not have their fingers in everything.)

.

The Federal Council issued an important decree on May 18th, containing measures to make it possible for the Federal Department of Justice and Police to withdraw Swiss citizenship from Swiss citizens residing abroad who have committed grave offenses against the country's security and political independence, and are therefore no longer worthy of their nationality. The Canton and Community of

origin of the Swiss citizen must be consulted prior to the withdrawal of citizenship. Moreover, the person involved and the Canton and Community of origin, and Canton where he was born, have the right to appeal to the Federal Council. This decree will remain in force until the end of the year.

o o o o o o o o o o o

An official announcement was made in Bern on May 19th on the activity of Switzerland in the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of war. It said, 'Thanks to the good services of the Confederation, an exchange of seriously wounded and sick prisoners, and medical staffs, could be organized between Great Britain and Italy. 4834 soldiers were exchanged. The first occasion was in Lisbon and Smyrna, on April 18th and 19th, and the second in Smyrna on May 8th.'

o o o o o o o o o o o

The Swiss carriers and forwarding agents' Union has taken a stand against the continued maintenance of a Swiss merchant marine after the war. A fleet on the high seas may be a wartime necessity for an inland country, but in peace times it is neither a practical nor a paying one.

o o o o o o o o o o o

The British Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland held its annual general assembly in Zurich on May 12th. This meeting, the 25th of the organization, was attended by the British Minister in Switzerland, Mr. O.J.Norton. While speaking of the very delicate problem brought up by the blockade and counter-blockade measures of economic war, the Minister assured his audience, that his efforts were held to deal with these problems in the spirit of understanding for the special situation of Switzerland.

o o o o o o o o o o o

On Sunday, May 2nd, Central Switzerland and Appenzell held their annual Landsgemeinden. In Unterwalden, Glarus, Appenzell Inner- and Ausser Rhoden, the popular electoral turned out in full numbers. In Glarus the people turned down a law, proposing to fix an age limit for the holders of public offices.

In Appenzell Ausser Rhoden a proposal to introduce the system of proportional representation for district elections was rejected.

In Saanen after some debate it was decided to elect Mr. von Moos as cantonal representative to the States Council. Mr. von Moos, who is president of the Commune of Saxoh, succeeds Mr. Amstalden, who has retired. Both the present and the past deputy belong to the Catholic Conservative Party.

o o o o o o o o o o o

The Geneva Right-Wing socialists that gained 26 seats in the election to the Municipal Council, have now appealed to the government to permit the daily publication of their heretofore weekly paper "La Voix Ouvriere".

o o o o o o o o o o o

Election Sunday was held in the Town of Geneva on May 9th. Geneva's Town Parliament is now composed as follows: 19 Radicals, 12 Liberal Conservatives, 6 Christian Socialists, 26 Socialists, and 1 Socialist of the new Socialist fraction. The Independents failed to obtain a seat, and the Liberals lost nine.

o o o o o o o o o o o

In the half-Canton of Obwalden, the electors rejected by 1067 votes against 829, the passage of a law calling for the levying of a special tax to cover expenses brought upon the Canton by the general price increases. On the other hand the electors of Obwalden approved by a very great majority a law that provided for unemployment insurance, as well as a number of bills of minor importance.