

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: - (1923)

Heft: 95

Rubrik: Extracts from Swiss papers

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: 02.03.2025

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

of its conduct—humour and a critical taste that stops short of personal invective. The true satirist never loses his temper, nor seeks to disturb the temper of his victim. His aim is to arouse a sense of amusement or of genial disgust at what is absurd, foppish, and indecorous. He points a moral without preaching a homily. And the more impersonal his survey, the more effectual and searching is its judgment."

* * *

Professor Einstein and Switzerland.

To most of our readers it will most likely be a surprise to hear that this famous professor acquired Swiss nationality in 1901, according to the *Evening News* (March 23rd), or that Switzerland is his native country, according to the *Morning Post* (March 23rd). Well, it may be so, or not. The eminent professor would be an addition to the Mathematical Faculty of any University in any country. But, he seems to be getting mixed up politically, if we are to believe the *Evening News* (March 23rd), which has the following:—

"The Swiss Government Political Department has requested the Swiss Legation in Madrid to furnish precise details of the recent visit to Spain of the famous Professor Albert Einstein, who has been a Swiss citizen since 1901.

Einstein, says an Exchange message from Geneva, is alleged to have visited Spain under the patronage of the German authorities and to have been received officially by the German Ambassador at Madrid.

Nevertheless, when he left Spain, he applied at the Swiss Legation for a passport. It is considered in Swiss official circles that, if Einstein really considers himself a Swiss subject, he has acted in contravention of the restrictions imposed on those leaving the Confederation."

The *Morning Post* reports, with zest, no doubt, the "snub" which it thinks Prof. Einstein has administered to the League of Nations by tendering his resignation as a member of the Commission of Intellectual Co-operation. We are firm believers in the ultimate triumph of the present or a subsequent League of Nations or Federation of European States, but we can very well understand the motives, even if we have doubt as to the wisdom of the action inspired by them, which underline Prof. Einstein's resignation at this moment. And, without agreeing with his action, we cannot honestly say that in his place—mind, gentle reader, who art on the look-out lest we should give ourselves superior airs, we do not for a moment wish to convey an idea that we might possibly or conceivably ever occupy so eminent a place as the professor—we should have done otherwise. We remember the war and how we felt then, when our blood was up! And we bow our heads, and, although we preach the gospel of international understanding in season and out of season, we yet understand those who have not reached our conclusions yet.

* * *

A Movement to Combine the Middle Classes.

We read in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 13):—"An International Middle-Class Congress is to be held in Bern on Sept. 18 and 19 next, when papers will be read and discussed on the various middle-class callings, and suggestions in this connection are invited by the Secretariat of the Congress at the Bürgerhaus, Bern. The draft statutes of the proposed International Middle-Class Union, which is to be founded at the Congress, will shortly be completed, and copies will then be sent to the various associations of artisans and small manufacturers, traders and brain-workers of the different countries to be represented."

Knowing the middle classes and their ideas of collaboration in the field of politics or economics, which, after all, comes to the same thing, we are not sanguine that the Congress mentioned will achieve anything worth having. If the middle classes were inherently capable of joint action, there would be no middle classes! Just think! Therefore, and as there are busybodies also in this wonderful London of ours who call forth the middle class man to join them in order to fight the other classes, the "Haves" and the "Have-Nots," we say to our readers: Beware! Every penny given to such a foolish cause, foolish because intrinsically nonsensical and unsound, is pure waste and much better invested in buying a few flowers for the wife or sweetheart! Dixit!

* * *

Swiss-Canadians.

As all Swiss know, there is already a strong Swiss Colony in Canada, mostly farmers. The writer has even a school friend of his, who, during the pre-war land boom on the Saskatchewan, round about Saskatoon (Mr. Editor, please verify the spelling of these places before letting the M.S. go to the printer [*Done*—Ed.]) netted some £40,000 and kept it! We now read in the *Daily Telegraph* (March 14th):—

"The Swiss Government are, says the 'Liverpool Echo,' evidently bent upon a resort to emigration as, at any rate, one solution of their problem of unemployment, with the consequent huge cost in the way of doles. It is computed that since the war Switzerland has paid out about 800,000,000 frs. in doles. Evidently they have had nearly enough of it. Hence the choice of emigration as a means of ridding themselves of it—at any rate, to some extent. This is the interpretation to be placed upon the scheme of the Swiss Government for the settling of large numbers of Swiss folks on the land of Canada. Mr. Fritz Beck, representative of the Swiss Colonist Association, has arrived in Liverpool from New York on the White Star-Dominion liner Regina, armed with the authority of the Swiss Government to arrange for the carrying out of the scheme. He said they expected to send out to Canada, via the Canadian Pacific Line, the White Star-Dominion Line, the Cunard Line, and the Canadian National Railways, by the end of March, about 200 men."

Société Commerciale des Missions, Bâle.

According to *West Africa*, which on March 17th printed a letter from our compatriot, Mr. A. Palliser, concerning the above Missionary Society's confiscated properties in India and on the Gold Coast, etc.,—

"The question had just been raised in the Federal Parliament, and the Swiss Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Motta, in his reply, after stating the position of the matter, concluded by expressing his conviction that British sense of justice and equity would, no doubt, result in a solution satisfactory to both parties."

We cannot help a feeling that the British authorities may be not altogether wrong. We must say that we cannot feel any sympathy with any "Missionary Trading Society" for any "confiscatory evils" which may have befallen them.

* * *

Swiss public opinion warmly resents new French move.

It used to be said of the Prussians that they could never understand the mentality of foreign nations. We are painfully surprised that France should exhibit, as will be seen from the extract from the *Daily Telegraph* (March 26th) below, an entire misunderstanding of the constitutional rights of the Swiss people and of the principles which form the basis of our Democracy. Truly, M. Poincaré is following up the advantages which Might gives him, but he, too, will have to learn that Right is stronger than Might. At least, we hope so, in the interest of the future of the human family.

"A very curious diplomatic situation has arisen between France and Switzerland, and a Note received from M. Poincaré by the Federal Government is reported to have aroused considerable feeling in Bern. In August, 1921, the French and Swiss Governments concluded a convention, modifying the régime in the so-called 'free zones' in the neighbourhood of Geneva and elsewhere on the Franco-Swiss frontier. This convention was ratified a few months ago by the French Parliament, but was subsequently thrown out in Switzerland as the result of a referendum. The French Government, it now appears, is declaring that, notwithstanding the popular Swiss vote, the convention should be executed, inasmuch as it had been ratified by the Federal authorities before the system of referendum had been introduced. The Federal Council, on the other hand, insists upon its formal obligation towards the Swiss constitution, and is believed to have informed the French Government of this view. It appears to have been suggested that The Hague Court of Arbitration should be called upon to give a judgment, but it is by no means certain that the French Government would be ready to accept this procedure."

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Waadt.—Im Waadtländer Amtsblatt findet sich eine Ediktalladung an einen gewissen Tell Wilhelm, unbekanntes Aufenthalts, der vor dem Polizeirichter erscheinen soll wegen Widerhandlung gegen die Vorschriften über den Kleinverkauf geistiger Getränke. — Wenn man solch berühmten Namen trägt, sollte man entschieden nicht mit der Polizei in Konflikt kommen! (*Berner Jura.*)

* * *

Das Bürgergeschlechter-Stammbuch.—Der Urner Landrat hat, entgegen einem Antrag der Regierung, beschlossen, das Stammbuch der Urner Bürgergeschlechter weiterzuführen. Dieses Stammbuch, das einen Umfang von nahezu hundert Grossfoliobänden hat, führt die Stammbäume der Urner Familien nach, die aus allen alten Kirchenregistern mit Bienenfleiss einst zu Anfang des letzten Jahrhunderts von einem geistlichen Genealogen zusammengestellt worden sind. Man kann darin einzelne Familien lückenlos bis ins 13. Jahrhundert in allen Zweigen zurück verfolgen. Unterwalden und Glarus führen ähnliche Stammbücher. Der gegenwärtige Urner Stammbuchführer arbeitet an dem Werke schon 60 Jahre und ist daran noch unermüdet tätig. (*Neue Berner Zeitung.*)

* * *

Von den Zigeunern.—Im Geschäftsbericht des eidgen. Justiz- und Polizeidepartements wird über die Behandlung von Zigeunern ausgeführt: "Es handelt sich hier meistens um Leute, die unsern Behörden schon bekannt waren, und nicht erst identifiziert werden mussten. Eine weitere Abnahme dieser Eindringlinge gegenüber dem Vorjahre ist zu konstatieren. Auf Grund des mit der Leitung der Heilsarmee im Jahre 1914 getroffenen Uebereinkommens werden in ihrem Zufluchtsort in Zürich und ihrem Kinderheim Sunnemätteli bei Bäretswil immer noch eine Anzahl Zigeunerkinder, die von ihren Eltern verlassen und ohne Schriften sind, verpflegt. Von diesen Kindern wurden während des Berichtsjahres einzelne von ihrem Vormund in geeignete Erziehungsanstalten oder in Lehrstellen versetzt. Wir kamen wiederholt in die Lage, Behörden gegenüber für die aus der Duldung dieser schriftenlosen Kinder entstehenden Kosten Gesprache zu leisten. Die Versorgung der jugendlichen Zigeuner geschieht sowohl aus Gründen der öffentlichen Ordnung, als auch um diese an eine geregelte Lebensweise zu gewöhnen und sie zu brauchbaren Gliedern der menschlichen Gesellschaft zu machen." (*Aargauer Tagblatt.*)

* * *

Le 1er avril-Pâques.—Le 1er avril, cette année, coïncidant avec le dimanche de Pâques, les amateurs de "poissons d'avril" remplaceront-ils la farce traditionnelle par des cloches et des oeufs en chocolat?

C'est la première fois, en notre siècle, que ces deux dates se rencontrent, et cela se reproduira en 1934, 1945 et 1956.

Dans le courant du siècle dernier, en 1804, 1866, 1877 et 1888, le dimanche de Pâques était également un 1er avril. En 1907, et en 1918, le lundi de Pâques tombait le 1er avril et les fêtes étaient par conséquent, à cheval sur deux mois différents. Ceci s'est produit quatre fois le siècle dernier; en 1839, 1850, 1861 et 1872.

D'après le Concile de Nicée, le premier jour de Pâques doit être célébré le premier dimanche qui suit la première lune du printemps.

La date la moins tardive à laquelle puisse tomber Pâques est le 22 mars, fait excessivement rare, et qui ne s'est pas produit depuis 1818.

Et pour voir célébrer des Pâques aussi précoces, il nous faudrait vivre jusqu'en 2285!

En 1913, les fidèles ont fait leurs Pâques le 23 mars, ce qui ne s'était pas produit depuis 1845 et 1856, et n'arrivera plus qu'en l'an 2008!

La date la plus lointaine pour la célébration des fêtes de Pâques est le 25 avril. Cette coïncidence s'est produite en 1886, et se reproduira en 1943.

A moins que la réforme du calendrier, dont on a tant parlé, ne soit appliquée d'ici là?

(Express, Biel.)

* * *

Le banquet du Club alpin suisse.—Omis sur son programme des "courses," bien qu'on enregistre toujours en de pareilles occasions la plus forte participation de la saison, le banquet annuel de la section genevoise réunissait le 17 fév., dans la spacieuse salle du Faubourg, plus de deux cent cinquante clubistes, heureux de fraterniser pour une fois dans un même et bel esprit, autre part que sur les sommets et dans les rochers.

Et si le dîner ne fut pas tiré des sacs, il n'en fut que plus gai.

Au dessert, M. Joerimann, président de la section, souhaila la bienvenue au président du comité central, M. le Dr. Leuch, de Berne, aux délégués de sept sections sœurs, à ceux de la Fédération montagnarde genevoise, de l'Association cantonale genevoise de gymnastique, de Pro Helvetia et de la Société des sous-officiers.

Très applaudi, M. le Dr. Leuch apporta le salut du comité central et de la section bernoise, tandis que M. le Dr. Amann parla au nom de la section des Diablerets (Lausanne). Deux discours encore: ceux de M. Brunet, président de la F. M. G., et de M. le professeur Balavoine, doyen d'âge de la section. M. le professeur Lauber et M. Charrot, firent précéder de leurs productions une spirituelle revue "clubistique," oeuvre de M. Dourouze, interprétée brillamment par les membres du club.

La section de chant du C. A. S. prêtait également son cours. Et ce n'est que fort tard, sans doute moins fatigués qu'après une longue traversée où une rude ascension, que les clubistes genevois se séparèrent. (*La Suisse.*)

A BANKING APPOINTMENT.

We learn that Mr. Xavier Castelli, London manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, has been appointed one of the Bank's managing directors. After a wide experience of international banking, gained in India, Egypt, and elsewhere, Mr. Castelli entered the London office of the Swiss Bank eighteen years ago, and under his direction the bank's business in Great Britain has been developed with marked success.

(Times, March 28th.)

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

	BONDS.		Mar. 20		Mar. 26				
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	79.40%	...	78.90%	...	78.90%			
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	...	102.60%	...	102.75%	...	102.75%			
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	...	84.40%	...	83.70%	...	83.70%			
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	105.25%	...	105.15%	...	105.15%			
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	...	76.30%	...	75.35%	...	75.35%			
Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909	...	100.50%	...	100.70%	...	100.70%			
		SHARES.		Nom.		Mar. 20		Mar. 26	
				Frs.		Frs.		Frs.	
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	663	...	627	...	649	...	627
Crédit Suisse	...	500	657	...	649	...	649	...	649
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	519	...	525	...	525	...	525
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	2085	...	2075	...	2075	...	2075
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	1585	...	1625	...	1625	...	1625
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	980	...	1000	...	1000	...	1000
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	629	...	639	...	639	...	639
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	610	...	598	...	598	...	598
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	500	322	...	318	...	318	...	318
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	184	...	180	...	180	...	180
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	...	100	111	...	111	...	111	...	111
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	...	500	465	...	460	...	460	...	460

MAGGI'S SEASONING

is a true friend to the housewife. With its help it is possible to impart, at the last moment, strength and relish to all kinds of savoury dishes which have turned out too weak.

OF ALL LEADING GROCERS & STORES.

Sole Agents for Gt. Britain and Ireland:

MARBER & CO., 17 & 18, Gt. Pulteney St., London, W. 1.