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**LA FORTUNE NATIONALE de la SUISSE.**

Quelle est la fortune nationale de la Suisse ? Il est évidemment difficile de répondre à une telle question avec quelque exactitude, car l'on ne peut pas se mettre d'accord aisément sur les éléments qui constituent cette fortune globale. D'autre part, le calcul de l'importance de chacun de ces éléments se heurte bien souvent à de grosses difficultés. Celui qui cherche donc à étudier le problème est obligé de se contenter de réponses approximatives. Un des éléments à prendre en considération est la fortune imposable. Ce qui rend ce calcul particulièrement compliqué est la multitude des systèmes fiscaux cantonaux. Voici les résultats approximatifs auxquels parvint, en 1915, le Professeur Steiger, chargé d'évaluer le rendement probable de l'impôt fédéral de guerre.

	Fortune imposable 1913 selon calcul du professeur Steiger	Fortune imposable 1916 selon statistique de l'impôt de guerre
jusqu'à 10,000 frs.	1,677,288,684	—
10—50,000	3,240,846,071	4,476,792,500
50—100,000	1,726,919,322	2,285,322,500
100—500,000	3,348,297,440	4,086,745,000
500—1 million	1,193,434,115	1,373,150,000
plus de 1 mill.	1,974,506,186	2,429,005,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,161,291,818</b>	<b>14,651,015,000</b>

(Nous tirons nos chiffres du Bulletin de la Banque Populaire suisse.)

Il va de soi que la fortune imposable, évaluée, en 1916, à 14½ milliards de francs ne constitue qu'un des éléments de notre richesse nationale. Cette fortune totale, que de nombreux économistes ont cherché à évaluer, s'élevait, avant la guerre, à trente milliards environ, un peu plus pour les uns, un peu moins pour les autres.

Voici comment, par exemple, le Dr. Fahrlander arrivait en 1913 au chiffre de 40 milliards:

*Actif en millions de francs.*  
1913

Fortune à l'intérieur du pays	34,496
Dettes de l'étranger et placements à l'étranger	7,467
<b>Solde</b>	<b>41,963</b>

*Passif en millions de francs.*  
1913

Dettes envers l'étranger et placements étrangers en Suisse	1,839
<b>Solde</b>	<b>40,124</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,963</b>

M. Fahrlander répartit comme suit la "fortune à l'intérieur du pays":

	en million de francs
Biens-fonds ruraux	4,600
Biens-fonds urbains	3,826
Forêts	1,196
Mines	25
Fortune immobilière et mobilière	21,707
Fortune immatérielle	495
Services suisses de transport	2,225
Marchandises en circulation, argent métallique	307
Forces hydrauliques	115
<b>Fortune à l'intérieur</b>	<b>34,496</b>

Des calculs analogues ont été tentés après la guerre par le même statisticien qui est arrivé aux constatations suivantes:

*Actif en millions de francs*  
1919

Fortune à l'intérieur du pays	47,033
Dettes de l'étranger envers la Suisse et placements suisses à l'étranger	3,000
<b>Solde</b>	<b>50,033</b>

*Passif en millions de francs.*  
1919

Dettes de la Suisse envers l'étranger et placements de l'étranger en Suisse	1,600
<b>Solde</b>	<b>48,433</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,033</b>

Voici comment se décompose, en 1919, le poste "Fortune nationale à l'intérieur du pays":

	1919
Biens-fonds ruraux	5,689
Biens-fonds urbains	3,826
Forêts	1,216
Mines	100
Fortune assurée contre l'incendie: immeubles, mobilier et fortune immatérielle	33,300
Service de transport	2,260
Marchandises en circulation, argent métallique	527
Forces hydrauliques	415
<b>Fortune à l'intérieur du pays</b>	<b>47,033</b>

Durant la guerre, la fortune totale de la Suisse aurait donc passé de 40,1 à 48,4 milliards. Il ne s'agit bien entendu que de la fortune privée. Comme on s'en doutera aisément, ces chiffres ne sont pas absolus, ils ne servent bien entendu qu'à donner une idée approximative des ressources dont nous disposons. Ces ressources, hélas, ont sensiblement diminué pendant l'après-guerre, pour des raisons sur lesquelles nous n'avons pas à insister ici. Bornons-nous à rappeler les pertes fabuleuses que nous a valu la dépréciation du mark. En 1920 déjà, l'Association suisse des banquiers évaluait ces pertes à 6 milliards, se répartissant approximativement comme suit:

Hôtellerie	400 millions
Chemins de fer de montagne	90 "
Sociétés financières	50 "
Titres austro-hongrois	1500 "
Titres allemands	2400 "

Il est plus que probable qu'actuellement notre fortune nationale est inférieure à ce qu'elle était avant la guerre.

Qu'en est-il maintenant de la fortune nationale (privée) dans les autres pays ? Un tel problème est évidemment plus difficile à résoudre que celui que nous avons examiné tout à l'heure. Les chiffres qui s'y rapportent n'ont d'ailleurs avec ceux qui nous concernent qu'une valeur comparative très relative. Avant la guerre, par exemple, on évaluait la fortune de l'Allemagne à 332 milliards de marks, celle de la France à 283 milliards, celle de l'Angleterre à 319 milliards de francs.

Voici les derniers chiffres publiés à ce sujet par le Dr. Fahrlander. Ils datent de 1913, car, depuis la guerre, les pays qu'ils concernent ont subi de telles perturbations que toute étude comparative serait impossible:

	Fortune nationale en millions de francs	Population en millions	Fortune par tête de population en francs
Suisse	40	3,765,000	10,690
Grande Bretagne	365	45,800,000	7,969
France	300	38,700,000	7,751
Allemagne	417	66,800,000	6,242
Italie	112	35,400,000	3,163
Etats-Unis	1036	97,800,000	10,592

La statistique ci-dessus tendrait à prouver, qu'avant la guerre, notre pays était le plus riche — relativement — des principales nations. Il va de soi, répétons-le, que comme ces évaluations ne sont pas établies sur la même base, elles ne présentent qu'une valeur approximative. Elles n'en sont pas moins intéressantes, car elles constituent un aperçu de la richesse comparée des nations.

(Bulletin Officiel du Comptoir Suisse.)

**SWISS TEACHERS IN LONDON.**

Dr. Ag. Kraftt writes:—

The Swiss Colony in London will certainly be very pleased to hear that about thirty-six Swiss students will come to London on the 12th of July and remain in London until the 2nd of August. This visit is being organised by the "Fédération suisse des Etudiants, département des affaires étrangères." This Federation already arranged a journey to Italy this spring, and great importance is attached to the relationship between the students and the members of the different Swiss colonies in the towns they visit. Dr. Marjorie Thomson, Tours Secretary of the National Union of Students of England and Wales, is responsible for the arrangements made for this party. She would be glad if some Swiss of the Colony would agree to undertake to help in looking after these students, especially in accompanying them when they visit the Exhibition and the different parts of London. She is organising other visits of foreign students to London and has found compatriots of theirs here who have been kind enough to put themselves at her disposal. I would, therefore, be much pleased to hear from anybody (at my office address, 28, Red Lion Square, W.C.1) who would be willing to help in this way, so that I may inform Dr. Thomson. It is, of course, hardly necessary to add that such assistance would not be required for the entire period of the students' visit, but only for one afternoon or a day.

As will be seen from the advertisement appearing in another column, the Swiss Mercantile Society has made arrangements for entertaining the party to dinner on Friday, July 18th, and no doubt very few of the younger members of our colony will miss the opportunity of shaking hands with their former teachers. The party will stay at the University College Hall, 5, Queen's Walk, Ealing, W., and we are giving below the names of the participants, so as to enable old pupils to get in touch with their former mentors. Their time is, of course, fully taken up, but apart from the above dinner the S.M.S. has arranged a river excursion for Sunday, July 20th, from Hampton Court to Windsor, when a limited number of their London friends will be able to join them. After London the party will take an extended tour to Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Belfast, Edinburgh, etc., to get an insight into the shipping, steel and other industries. At Newcastle they will embark for Antwerp on August 2nd on their return journey to Switzerland.

Leiter:

Brockmann, Heinrich, Dr. phil., Prof. an der Universität und an der Kanttonsschule Zürich.  
Wetterwald, Franz, Dr. phil., Prof. an der Kanttonsschule Zürich.

Teilnehmer:

Appenzeller, Eduard, Sekretär am Technikum Winterthur.  
Bieber, Gottlieb, Handelslehrer und Experte, Bern.  
Boli, August, Sekundarlehrer, Winterthur.  
Boss, Emil, Kommerzieller Experte des eidg. Versicherungsamtes, Bern.  
Cassani, Karl, Hotelperte der Schweiz. Volksbank, Bern.

Cornaz, Adolphe, Fabrikdirektor, Bülach.  
Dudle, Adolf, Reallehrer, Wil.  
Ehrensberger, Paul, Lic. rer., Handelslehrer und Sekretär der Kaufm. Rekurskommission, Bern.  
Eichenberger, Woldemar, Direktor der Schweiz. Volksbank, Bern.  
Fragnière, Georges, Vizedirektor der Schweiz. Volksbank, Bern.  
Gass, Paul, Rektor der Fortbildungsschule des K.V. Burgdorf.  
Graf, Adolf, Dr. rer. cam., Handelslehrer, Schaffhausen.  
v. Grünigen, Jakob, Lehrer an der Töchterhandelschule, Bern.  
Hiestand, Willy, Gewerbelehrer, Gelterkinder.  
Kamer, Adof, Dr. oec. publ., Handelslehrer, Zürich.  
Koller, Fritz, Primarlehrer, Zürich.  
Kuhn, Gottfried, Dr. phil., Prof. an der Kanttonsschule, Solothurn.

Künzi, Hans, Aufsichtslehrer, Bern.  
Lenoir, Marcel, professeur à l'Ecole de commerce de Vevey.  
Müller, Rudolf, Dr. phil., Handelslehrer, Basel.  
Ott, Adolf, Dr. phil., Fachlehrer, Winterthur.  
Raustein, Willy, Dr. jur., Sekretär am Bezirksgericht Zürich.  
Rothenberger, Christian, Dr. jur., Advokat, Basel.  
Schlaepfer, Hans, Dr. jur., Sekretär der Handelskammer, Zürich.

Schmid, Alfred, Sekundarlehrer, Zürich.  
Senn, Ernst, Sekundarlehrer, Oberrieden.  
Stehlin, Emil, Vorsteher der Handelsschule des K.V., Basel.  
Steiger, Viktor Jakob, Dr. jur., Juristischer Adjunkt der Alkoholverwaltung, Bern.  
Steinmann, Arthur, Dr. jur., Sekretär, Zollikon.  
Wegmann, Jakob, Dr. rer. cam., Handelslehrer, Winterthur.  
Wettstein, Otto, Dr. phil., Sekundarlehrer, Wollishofen.  
Widmer, Alfr., Handelslehrer, Bern.  
Wildi, Ernst, Dr. phil., Rektor der Kanttonsschule, Wiggiswil.

**After the International Shooting Contest.**

**WHY SWITZERLAND WAS SECOND.**

By W. KRUCKER, Range Officer S.R.A.

As already published, Switzerland was second in the International Shooting Contest at Rheims. Is it possible that the old reputation of our crack shots is on the decline? "La Suisse" put this question to the well-known shot Frank Jullien on his return from Rheims, who replied that the Americans' victory was due to the extraordinary material specially constructed for this purpose across the Atlantic. A member of a French rifle club, during his stay in the States, chanced to read a report a passage of which should be of particular interest to us; it ran as follows:—"The Swiss shots are much better than ourselves, but are not so well provided as regards arms and material, which is the chief cause of our superiority." In other words, it is a fight between man and mechanism. But how precise that mechanism is! Only after the most minute selection do the Americans decide which rifles are to be used for their team. Out of 2,000 rifles so examined fifty are selected, and the latter are submitted to a further test to discover the 25 best barrels to be used by the competitors. With such arms as these very surprising results may be attained, so much so that at a distance of 300 metres it is possible to fire a hundred cartridges into a rectangle measuring 5 cm. x 7 cm. Thanks to an ingenious system of straps and cushions, an almost absolute immobility of the rifle is obtained. Apart from this, the peep sight on an American rifle ensures deadly accuracy. In comparison with the Americans we are, from a material point of view, much inferior, and yet we have never had such a brilliant team in the field before. If we wish, therefore, to continue taking part in these international shooting contests, it is essential that we modify the regulations established in 1920 and permit the complete "mechanisation" of shooting. It would also have to be arranged that the committee of the International Rifle Association place at the disposal of the competitors a rifle of highest precision with a double trigger (Druckpunkt-Abzug), no peep sight and no sling. All competitors would then have to use this rifle, and none of them would have to shoot under certain disadvantages as compared with others.

In the above-mentioned interview Mr. Jullien lays stress on the fact that the interest taken in shooting, our national sport, is almost negligible. The Conseil Fédéral votes an amount of 65,000 fr. for the development of sport in general, the quota earmarked for the rifle association being too insignificant to be of any practical service.

**SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION.**

Last Sunday's shooting practice resulted in some new records being established by members. 980 rounds were fired on the 100-metre automatic target. In scoring two series of 95 (possible 100), Holliger maintained his lead; the next were Krucker with

93 and 88, and J. Haesler with 90. On the 300-metre target Krucker scored 23 points out of a possible 30. Thanks to the sacrifice of some ardent members who spent a few evenings digging and shifting earth and sand, the 300-metre range is again "bulletproof." In order to facilitate control and regulate shooting generally, the range officers have decided that practice on the 300-metre range should take place on Sundays only between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and under certain conditions on Wednesdays (by arrangement only). Furthermore, only those members who have arrived at a certain degree of efficiency and are of full military age will be entitled to shoot with the Swiss army rifle and ammunition. The test will be three scores of at least 85 points on the present Michoud target. Those who have already qualified during previous practice are: Burger, Ernest, Holliger, J. Haesler, Krucker, Rohr, Ar. Schmid, Ad. Schmid. Their number should soon be increased, as a good many have already two such scores to their credit.

Last Tuesday Col. Borel, the president of the City Swiss Club, accompanied by Madame and Mademoiselle Borel, handed over the Swiss army rifle kindly presented by the latter club. (His patriotic speech will be fully reported next week.) About forty members of the two clubs were present, and the competition which the City Swiss Club had arranged was very successful and, in view of the fact that practically all those competing had not handled a rifle for 10 to 20 years, the results were most creditable. Mr. Despond, the popular secretary of the C.S.C., was an easy first with 76 points out of a possible 100; the second prize was secured by M. Corbat with 70 points. At about 6.30 those attending were taken over by cars to the Brent Bridge Hotel for the dinner and dance of the C.S.C. and, needless to say, passed a glorious evening, exceptionally fine weather favouring the occasion.

#### CORRESPONDENCE.

##### ENFANTS SUISSES A L'ETRANGER.

Monsieur le Rédacteur du S.O.

La lettre de Monsieur Ag. Krafft publiée dans le dernier numéro du S.O. nous a beaucoup intéressé car la question si les enfants de parents suisses nés en Angleterre peuvent rester Suisses n'est certe pas facile à résoudre.

Quand nos enfants sont nés, nous les avons faits inscrire, avec plaisir et fierté, dans notre commune d'origine en Suisse, croyant que par ce fait ils étaient Suisses. Toujours nous leur avons inculqué l'amour de la Suisse et avant la guerre nous les conduisions passer les vacances en Suisse pour leur apprendre à aimer notre patrie.

En 1918 notre fils atteint l'âge de 18 ans, et l'Angleterre l'a appelé aux armes. Son devoir était naturellement de répondre à cet appel quoique nous aurions pu invoquer l'aide de la Suisse pour obtenir l'obtention de l'armée anglaise, mais l'Angleterre avait alors besoin de tous les soldats et notre fils a fait partie de l'armée britannique pendant deux ans.

A 21 ans il a dû opter pour l'un ou l'autre des deux pays et c'était notre grand désir qu'il opte pour la Suisse. Mais voici ce que la Suisse nous dit: "Votre fils, né en Angleterre est de ce fait Anglais, nous lui donnons la qualité de Suisse en Suisse, en retour il doit ou faire son service militaire en Suisse ou payer la taxe militaire, en dehors de la Suisse il est anglais et nous ne nous intéressons nullement à lui."

Que pouvait faire le jeune homme? Naturellement renoncer à être Suisse et être anglais pur et simple.

Mais supposons qu'il ait opté pour la Suisse et qu'il soit allé habiter la Suisse, il aurait été Suisse en Suisse, mais s'il avait voulu sortir du pays il aurait dû avoir un passport anglais.

Il y a encore un autre aspect à la question que nous devons reconnaître malgré notre patriotisme et notre amour pour la Suisse: il y a bien plus d'avantage pour le jeune homme né en Angleterre et habitant l'Angleterre à être anglais que Suisse. La protection d'une nation aussi puissante que l'Angleterre n'est pas à dédaigner.

Si encore la Suisse se contentait dans ces cas d'une taxe nominale et régulière, disons de 20 à 50 francs par an, on les payerait avec plaisir pour pouvoir être Suisse en Suisse, mais au lieu de cela la taxe est fixée, nous dit on, non seulement sur son revenu mais aussi sur l'héritage prospectif qui pourtant est problématique et sur lequel l'Angleterre met une main déjà bien lourde.

"QUARANTE ANS EN ANGLETERRE."

#### SWISS BANK TENNIS SECTION.

Owing to the past wet weather, the Swiss Bank members have been severely handicapped in regard to the above section of recreation. Their ground at Preston Road until last week was quite unplayable. However, in their first match, played last Sunday, versus the Maida Lawn Tennis Club, with only a medium-strength side, the Bank met with a very meritorious win by 16 matches to 10.

Dr. Rufer and Herbert were the leading lights and they found very little difficulty in overcoming their opponents, Herbert at times showing parti-

cular brilliancy, while Rufer played a steady game throughout.

Havary and Wyss were also a successful pair, although they were hard pressed throughout their games.

Luscher und Steiner made the third pair, and were unfortunate in losing two out of three of their matches.

In the mixed, Miss Lofthouse, playing with Dr. Rufer, the latter substituting for Dixon, who was unable to play owing to a slight injury, played well together, and the first set brought forth a keen contest, which they eventually won. In the second set their opponents collapsed, and they came out easy winners.

Miss March and Leu, making the second mixed pair, found their opponents too strong for them, and lost two sets to nil.

A return match is being arranged. The Bank's next match is versus Nestlé's, away, on Sunday, July 6th.

#### PERSONAL.

Nous apprenons avec plaisir que notre compatriote tessinois, M. Clément Rezzonico, Docteur en sciences politiques et économiques de l'Université de Berne, vient d'être promu au grade d'Attaché Consulaire et désigné pour remplir les fonctions d'Adjoint de l'Attaché Commercial de la Légation de Suisse à Londres.

#### KIRCHLICHES.

The Schweizerkirche (Deutsch-Schweizerische Gemeinde) wishes to inform the readers of *The Swiss Observer* that Mr. A. Brauen, who was elected a member of the provisional "Kirchenpflege" while out of town, on returning from the Continent finds that, owing to his many other engagements, he cannot accept a commission in this new organisation. Unfortunately, the long silence on the part of Mr. Brauen was deemed to indicate acceptance, and as a consequence his name was erroneously mentioned as a Trustee in the circular recently sent out to the Colony.

F. G. SOMMER,  
Hon. Sec. "Kirchenpflege."

#### EMIL BUSER. †

We are very sorry to announce the sudden death, at the age of 66, of Mr. E. Buser, of 12, Versailles Road, Annerley, S.E. His health had been failing since last October, but he was able to come to the City up till Friday week (20th June), when he collapsed on his way up.

Mr. Buser was born at Rotenfluh (Basel-land) and came to England in his early youth. He lived first in Manchester, until he founded, about 35 years ago, the firm which bears his name at 44, Gutter Lane, E.C. He was a very hard worker, who never spared himself. He was always open-handed, and no one in real distress appealed to him in vain. Not long before he died he was talking of going for some time to Switzerland, which always held a warm corner of his heart, to try to regain his health there, but, alas! it was too late; he felt already too tired to carry out his purpose. What must have been a great satisfaction to him, and certainly a consolation to his wife and daughter, is that he was able to see his son, who was just back from India for his holiday after four years' absence. Mr. Buser will be missed by a good many in private as well as in business circles, and will long be remembered for his kindness of heart.

Mr. Buser was a most useful member of the "Commission économique Suisse" in London, and in former years actively interested himself in the work carried on by the Swiss Institute, the Swiss Mercantile Society and the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

He was buried on Friday, June 27th, at Elmers End Cemetery, Annerley.

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## Swiss Mercantile Society

### SOUPER FAMILIER,

arranged in honour of a party of 36 members of the Association Suisse pour l'Enseignement Commercial who will be visiting England from the 12th inst., to be given on

Friday, 18th July at 7 p.m.,

in the large hall of the

UNION HELVETIA CLUB,

1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1

We extend a Special Invitation to the members of the CITY SWISS CLUB, NOUVELLE SOCIÉTÉ HELVÉTIQUE and SWISS INSTITUTE, also to the Patrons and friends of our Society, with their Ladies.

Please write for Tickets (5/-) or telephone City 7719, not later than Wednesday, the 12th inst., to Mr. J. PRAXENDER, Hon. Sec., Education Committee, 21, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4.

TENUE DE VILLE.

### Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE, 79, Endell St., W.C. 2.  
(Communauté romande.)

Dimanche, 6 Juillet, 11h.—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme,  
(Service de Ste. Cène.)

BAPTÊME.

Gabrielle Solange DE CINTRA, née le 14 Août 1923,  
fille de Raoul et d'Augusta née Dimier, de Genève—le  
29 Juin 1924.

### SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutsch-Schweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

Sonntag, 6. Juli, 11 Uhr vorm.—Gottesdienst.

Pfr. W. Dietsche.

6.30 abends (79, Endell Street).—Bibelstunde,  
Phil. 2, 19—30. Pfr. W. Dietsche.

Requests for Pastor's visits, Baptisms, Weddings, etc., can be made on Sunday morning after the service, or to the Treasurer, C. Bertschinger, 114, Fore St., London, E.C.2.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Friday, July 18th, at 7 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Souper Familier to certain party of Swiss teachers, at 1, Gerrard Place, W.1. (See adr.)  
Sunday, July 20th.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: River trip from Hampton Court to Windsor; particulars to follow.

Every Saturday and Sunday (weather permitting).—SWISS RIFLE ASSOCIATION: Shooting Practice at Hendon (opposite Old Welsh Harp).

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