

**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:** - (1927)  
**Heft:** 299  
  
**Rubrik:** Home news

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**Download PDF:** 13.05.2025

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# The Swiss Observer

Telephone : CLERKENWELL 9595

Published every Friday at 23, LEONARD STREET, LONDON, E.C.2.

Telegrams : FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 7—No. 299

LONDON, MAY 21, 1927.

PRICE 3d.

## Where are you going this day week? To Herne Hill, for the Swiss Sports, of course!

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### HOME NEWS

Important Federal and cantonal proposals were submitted for the decision of the electors in Switzerland during last week-end. A new "Motor Bill" with the object of substituting Federal legislation for the varied and often unsatisfactory cantonal regulations was rejected by a large majority, though it seems hardly possible that in the face of modern developments of road traffic the present antiquated conditions can last much longer. The opposition of the motorists and cyclists to the fixing of their liability by compulsory insurance and to a stricter general control seems to have sealed the fate of this Bill from the beginning.—The second proposal concerned the doubling of the existing Federal subsidy for the upkeep of the great alpine routes granted to the four cantons Uri, Grison, Valais and Ticino; the verdict in favour was practically unanimous, though the canton of Aargau made a strange exception. The voting on both Bills is appended:—

Canton.	Motor Bill.		Alpine Road Subvention.	
	Yes	No.	Yes	No.
Zurich	35084	59950	61177	27412
Berne	21141	53575	35615	30972
Lucerne	6907	13405	10523	7666
Uri	576	2822	3062	361
Schwyz	1627	4540	3710	2294
Obwalden	505	1322	1088	669
Nidwalden	363	1027	820	568
Glarus	3091	2674	4023	1638
Zug	784	2323	1720	1280
Fribourg	6191	6067	6495	5573
Solothurn	6755	12316	6843	5376
Basel-Town	6975	14144	16695	3956
Basel-Land	2860	7327	5195	4196
Schaffhouse	3648	6064	5752	3300
Appenzell A.-Rh.	3416	5633	5003	3778
Appenzell L.-Rh.	1131	864	1066	936
St. Gall.	17777	32362	22682	19325
Graubünden	7522	6298	10679	3125
Aargau	15045	35163	20030	28374
Thurgau	12802	11993	13402	10529
Tessin	10309	2151	12378	385
Vaud	38359	32184	42349	25882
Valais	6777	2056	8036	782
Neuchâtel	9624	12292	13201	7652
Geneva	6458	10617	16893	1519
Total	225727	339169	318310	197442

In the municipal elections in Geneva the "Udeists" (a new Bourgeois Party created since 1922) scored their first success by securing nine seats, the remainder of the 41 mandates being distributed as follows: Socialists 15 (14 in the old Council), Democrats 6 (12), Radicals 8 (11) and Independents 3 (4).

In the municipal elections in the canton Neuchâtel the Socialists gained victories all along the line. In Neuchâtel itself they obtained, for the first time, control of the council by capturing five seats from the Liberals. In La-Chaux-de-Fonds they increased their mandates by one seat and now command 22 against the 19 of the bourgeois bloc. In Le Locle they turned the scales by securing the majority on the council.

In Basel-Stadt the friends of feminine suffrage experienced a heavy defeat, a large majority deciding against this extension of the franchise; the electors were also averse to increasing the salaries of the members of the Regierungsrat, which are somewhat out of tune with modern conditions of life.

A reactionary measure to allow the Grand Conseil to nominate the members of the Conseil

We have much pleasure in giving publicity to the following communication:—

### "SACCO DI ROMA"

32, Queen Anne Street, W.1.  
19th May, 1927.

To the Editor of the *Swiss Observer*.

Dear Sir,—I should be greatly obliged if you could draw the attention of the readers of the *Swiss Observer* to the conference on the Swiss Guards in Rome which the Legation are organising at the Union Helvetia, 1, Gerrard Place, W.1., for Friday, May 27th, at 8.30 p.m.

As you know, a monument was erected at the Vatican on May 6th, the 4th centenary of the "Sacco di Roma" in the year 1527, in which the Swiss Guards made a heroic stand and were annihilated. The Committee which erected the monument includes men well known in the public life of our country, like prominent members of the National Council, of the Council of States, commanders of the Army Corps and Divisions of the Federal Army, the Swiss Minister in Rome, and various professors of our Universities.

The Committee having applied for financial help to the Swiss abroad who, in a sense, are especially interested in deeds of valour by our ancestors in foreign countries; various members of the Swiss Colony in London to which I addressed myself were of opinion that a conference, to which the moderate entrance fee of half-a-crown is charged, would give our countrymen an opportunity to help towards the costs of the monument.

I have asked M. Borsinger, my secretary, to give the conference, and I hope that all those who will come to the Union Helvetia will spend an interesting evening. In order to make it a financial success, any publicity which you can give to this event will be greatly appreciated, since I trust to be able to forward a substantial cheque to Switzerland as a contribution of the Swiss Colony in London to the monument, and as an act of homage of their descendants to the men who upheld the prestige of their country through many centuries.

I remain, Yours sincerely,  
C. R. PARAVICINI.

d'Etat (the executive) did not find favour in the canton Vaud; the Conseillers d'Etat will, in future, be elected by a direct vote of the people.

In the elections for 67 members of the Kantonsrat of Appenzell A.-R., the Socialists lost one of their former two seats.

A proposed lottery and betting bill exclusively for the benefit of philanthropic institutions was thrown out in the canton of Thurgau.

In the canton of Solothurn credits to the amount of 1.3 million francs were granted for the correction of the water-course in the districts of Thal and Gäu and the construction of a new bridge across the Aare near Schönenwert.

Following the refusal of Zurich, the Communist Party in the Grosse Rat at Basle endeavoured to pass a resolution congratulating the Federal Council on the settlement of the Russian dispute and inviting it to take advantage of the presence in Geneva of a Russian delegation for the purpose of re-opening diplomatic and commercial relations between the two countries.

The apparently unjustified delay in the ratification by France of the Free-Zone convention may probably be explained by the fact that France is now suggesting that this and the ratification by Switzerland of Article 435 of the Versailles treaty (the abrogation of the neutrality of Upper Savoy) should go hand in hand.

On an appeal the Federal Tribunal in Lausanne has declined to interfere with a decision of the Geneva authorities to expropriate "La

### ANNIVERSARIES OF SWISS EVENTS.

May 5th, 1424.—Establishing an Everlasting Alliance between the heads of the "Obere" or "Grauen" Union, viz., the Abbot of Disentis and parishes belonging to the Monastery, the lords of Rhäzüns and of Sax zu Misox and their followers, with the Ammann and peasants of the valley at Glarus.

May 25th, 1818.—Burckhardt, the celebrated Basel Historian, died.

May 26th, 1773.—Nägeli, called "the father of Swiss Songs," born.

May 26th, 1857.—Paris treaty, at which Prussia renounces Neuchâtel.

May 27th, 1444.—The murder at Greifensee. Zurich made an alliance with Austria. Against this alliance the other Confederates took exception, because they considered this a contravention of their agreement. They, therefore, marched against Greifensee, the only fortified town belonging to Zurich, which was defended by 70 men. The little garrison held out for nearly a month, when they had to surrender. On the following day 62 of the garrison were beheaded in a meadow near Nänikon.

May 27th, 1564.—Jean Calvin, the Reformer, born at Geneva.

May 28th, 1412.—Establishing a fifty years' truce between Austria and the eight districts (Ort), the town of Solothurn and Appenzel.

May 28th, 1810.—Alexander Calame, celebrated landscape painter, born.

May 28th, 1817.—Louis Agassiz, great authority on natural philosophy, born.

May 29th, 1809.—Johannes von Müller, historical writer, died at Cassel, where he filled the position of Minister to the Westphalian King. Celebrated as the author of the History of the Swiss Confederation.

Perle du Lac," a beautiful domain on the shores of the lake, which has been chosen as the site of the new League of Nations building. The estate was acquired in 1924 for half a million francs by the industrial magnate Hans Wilsdorf, who recently refused an offer by the Geneva Council of Frs. 650,000.

Signor Mussolini, the Italian Prime Minister, has presented the Lausanne museum with three pictures which were shown at the recent exhibition of modern Italian painters in Zurich.

With reference to the 1928 Olympic Games at Amsterdam the winter sport events of which take place at St. Moritz, the Federal Council is contributing Frs. 120,000 towards the cost of the arrangements.

Owing to the premature explosion of a shell during artillery practice near Bülach (Zurich), the 24 year old corporal Maurice Weber, from Payerne (Vaud) was so badly lacerated that he subsequently died in hospital.

Three men lost their lives in a smithy at Neu St. Johann (Toggenburg) through the explosion of a shell; it was found in an adjoining field by one of them, and as the cap was missing he erroneously concluded that it had spent itself. The names of the three victims are Friedrich Stäubli and Paul Schwyzer, both from Neu St. Johann, and Willy Geser from Nesslau.

Through the accidental discharge of a pistol which was supposed to have been unloaded, J. Reck-Christen, aged 50, of Safenwil (Aargau), lost his life; the victim, whilst having a game of cards, was discussing with his friends the use of firearms in case of attack.

Louise Catherine Breslau, a Swiss portrait painter of considerable merit, has died at Neuilly at the age of 70; she left her native town of Zurich at an early age to study at Paris, where the whole of her life was spent in artistic pursuits.