

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: - (1928)

Heft: 369

Rubrik: Prepaid subscription rates

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: 18.03.2025

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

The Swiss Observer

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 9595

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

Telegrams: FREPRINC. LONDON.

VOL. 8—No. 369

LONDON, NOVEMBER 17, 1928.

PRICE 3d.

PREPAID SUBSCRIPTION RATES

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| UNITED KINGDOM AND COLONIES | 3 Months (13 issues, post free) - | 3/6 |
| | 6 " (26 " " " " " " " - | 6/6 |
| SWITZERLAND | 3 Months (13 issues, post free) - | 12 |
| | 6 Months (26 issues, post free) - | Frs. 7.50 |

(Swiss subscriptions may be paid into Postcheck-Konto Basel V 5718.)

HOME NEWS

Official figures with reference to the general elections have now been published by the Federal Statistical Office. Altogether 804,773 citizens have recorded their votes (743,679 in 1925) and the present strength of the different political parties is shown by the following percentages compiled from the actual votes cast:

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Radicals | ... 27.3% | (27.8% in 1925) |
| Socialists | ... 27.3% | (25.87% ") |
| Catholic Cons. | ... 21.4% | (20.9% ") |
| Agrarians | ... 15.8% | (15.3% ") |
| Communists | ... 1.8% | (2% ") |

The composition of the National Council as regards occupation is of considerable interest; the legal profession supplies the largest quota. This is how the 198 magistrates are recruited: Lawyers 39; cantonal state councillors 27; farmers and estate managers 26, trade union and party secretaries 24, industry and commerce 18, municipal councillors 11, editors and publishers 12, judges 9, teachers 9, liberal arts 9, civil servants 6, employees 5 and independent means 3.

The speculations as to the successor of Federal Councillor Chuard have now taken a more definite form by the officially endorsed candidature of Dr. Marcel E. E. Pilet (Radical), a well-known lawyer at Lausanne who, though only 39 years old, has for a number of years been a prominent member of the Valdois Grand Council.

The exchange of Notes with the Italian Government in the "Rossi" affair has now been satisfactorily terminated and it is officially stated that the regrettable incident is thereby closed.

The Federal Tribunal at Lausanne has, on appeal, confirmed a judgment by the Zurich Courts which fined a motorist for warning others of the existence of a particular police trap. The Lausanne Tribunal maintains that such a practice would nullify the action of the authorities. It seems, therefore, an offence in Switzerland to warn a person who is about to break the law!

The re-introduction of the hazard games at hotels and casinos, which is the object of a coming initiative demand, is being favourably received by the many popular meetings called for the purpose of discussing the matter.

One of the inmates of the bear-pit in Berne, the 22 months old Romeo, has been presented by the town to the Swiss Colony in Barcelona. The animal was despatched last week to its future abode in a motor lorry in charge of a keeper. It is not disclosed what rôle this accession to our enterprising sister colony has been allotted.

Following the discovery of irregularities in his accounts, H. Villiger, a chief clerk in the cantonal taxing office at Zurich, was found to have committed suicide by throwing himself under a train near Cham.

The unguarded level crossing between Uznach and Scherikon (Zurich) was the scene of a fatal accident when a motor lorry was run into and completely destroyed by an approaching train; the driver, Vincent Kuster from Eschenbach, was killed.

EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.

Press Opinions on the "Rossi" Affair.

La dernière note italienne est d'une brièveté frappante. Le gouvernement de Rome se borne à constater l'intention réciproque des deux gouvernements de considérer l'incident comme clos et affirme à nouveau ses intentions amicales. Il renonce complètement à poursuivre la discussion sur la matérialité des faits; il ne tente plus de contester ce que nous avions affirmé dans notre première note et confirmé encore dans notre seconde note.

Pour avoir une impression exacte de la manière dont ce conflit se termine, il faut considérer encore le désaveu très net infligé par le gouvernement fasciste à M. Parini, l'auteur de la note inconvenante pour la Suisse adressée aux fascistes résident dans notre pays, et le fait que, spontanément, le cabinet de Rome a déplacé le fonctionnaire italien Signori, impliqué dans l'affaire des renseignements illicites qui ont abouti à l'arrestation de Rossi. Ajoutons encore que, de notre côté nous avons expulsé deux fascistes mêlés à l'affaire et menacé d'expulsion deux autres Italiens habitant le Tessin, De Vitto père et fils.

Il y a entre la première et la seconde note italienne une différence de ton dont on ne peut s'empêcher d'être frappé. Cet échange d'explications dans lequel le Conseil fédéral parle un langage à la fois ferme et courtois et le gouvernement italien fait preuve d'une volonté marquée de conserver l'amitié entre l'Italie et nous, laisse l'impression que si nous n'avons pas obtenu des satisfactions formelles, l'Italie veillera soigneusement à empêcher le renouvellement de tels incidents.

Gazette de Lausanne.

Es wird konstatiert werden müssen, dass der Notenwechsel eine Annäherung der Standpunkte, die die beiden Regierungen in dieser Angelegenheit eingenommen haben nicht gebracht hat. Die Abklärung, die der Notenwechsel hätte bringen sollen, ist also negativ ausgefallen. Dem entspricht auch sein Ausgang. Diesen Ausgang wird man allerdings bei uns mit sehr gemischten Gefühlen aufnehmen. Aus dem Ausgang des Notenwechsels erscheint sich für uns die Aufgabe zu ergeben, jeweilen sofort die nötigen Ausräumungsarbeiten vorzunehmen, sobald wir die Organisation eines unerlaubten ausländischen Nachrichtendienstes auf unserem Territorium gewahr werden. Wir werden es zu unserer Aufgabe rechnen müssen, auch jenen Zwischenfällen inskünftig mit Energie entgegenzutreten, die wir vielleicht bisher geneigt waren, als blosse Spektakelszenen zu betrachten, denen aber das fascistische Italien eine grössere Bedeutung beizumessen scheint.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung.

D'intéressants discours.—M. Henri Martin, ministre de Suisse, en présentant ses lettres de créance, a prononcé une brillante allocution au cours de laquelle, rappelant les luttes pour l'indépendance de la Suisse il y a dix siècles, il a dit que la Suisse suit avec grand intérêt les efforts de la Turquie pour sa rénovation dans les domaines national, politique, économique et culturel. La Suisse est fière de voir la Turquie adopter son code civil. La Suisse, patrie de Rousseau, est heureuse d'être l'amie de la République turque.

Dans sa réponse, le président de la République a déclaré que le but de la Turquie, tout comme celui de la Suisse, est d'organiser une vie sociale et de principes démocratiques, après les longues luttes qu'elle a soutenues pour son indépendance. La Turquie est heureuse de posséder des institutions et des lois analogues à celles de la Suisse et est fière d'être son amie.

Après avoir fait l'éloge de l'héroïsme historique des Suisses, il a déclaré que ces derniers sont des guerriers émérites; mais ce n'est pas pour des buts offensifs ou par provocation qu'ils gardent leurs armes; c'est à seule fin de faire face à toute attaque éventuelle contre l'existence de leur honneur. Nous sommes fiers d'avoir toujours en vue l'exemple d'une telle nation.

—Journal de Genève.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Roman Switzerland.

A very interesting work dealing with Roman remains in our country has recently been published at Basle (Benno Schwabe) under the title "Die Schweiz in Römischer Zeit," by Felix Stähelin. The literary supplement of *The Times* (Nov. 8th) devotes to it a most appreciative review, which we reproduce in extenso as probably few of our readers have waded so far back into our early history.

Switzerland has been the playground of schoolmasters and professors for so long that it is rather surprising that we have had to wait until now for an authoritative account of its Roman remains. Most guide books are silent on such points as the exact nature of the Roman buildings at Martigny (really an amphitheatre and a forum, the latter with a temple and some houses adjacent to it), the relation of the late Roman fort to the medieval town at Solothurn and at Basle, or the real date of the Septimer pass, which Baedeker calls "one of the oldest Alpine routes" and enumerates among Roman roads—whereas it has been ascertained to be medieval. As a fact, however, the author is able to quote only three general works on Roman Switzerland—a short though masterly article of Mommsen's (only 27 pages), published over 70 years ago, and two popular works, respectively sixty-five and forty years old; so that this book certainly satisfies a want.

The work before us is intended, as the author explains in the preface, for both specialists and laymen; the illustrations will, he hopes, be equally welcome to both, while the latter, if they wish, can neglect the footnotes: at the same time he recognises that "le secret d'ennuyer est celui de tout dire" (he should not, however, have omitted the discovery of remains of a post station on the Italian side of the summit of the Little St. Bernard in 1924), and his object is to emphasise the characteristic features of Roman Switzerland without attempting to describe everything that has been found in the country.

One of the difficulties of the subject is, that the modern and ancient political boundaries do not coincide; so that the inscriptions, for example, fall into four different volumes of the *Corpus*. Under the early Empire the western part of Switzerland belonged to Gallia Belgica, and was largely organised on the cantonal basis. But Geneva, as a dependency of Vienna (Vienne), belonged to Gallia Narbonensis; while Eastern Switzerland belonged to Raetia. The towns and villages are, as would be expected, to be found in the lower country to the north-west and north, and along the main Alpine routes, the Great and Little St. Bernard on the south-west, and the S. Bernardino, Splügen and Julier on the east. The road system as a whole forms a kind of parallelogram—but with no cross-connexions eastwards through the territory of the Lepontii from Domodossola through Ticino (these were only possible along the Rhône and Rhine Valleys (Furka and Oberalp passes) but for some reason there is no road marked in the map between Disentis and Coire)—surrounding the centre of the country. This was occupied by the Helvetii, whose capital was Aventicum (Avenches), the most important Roman city in Switzerland. The Raurici lay to the north, round Basle; the Sequani and Allobroges held small portions of Western Switzerland; and the present Canton Valais was held by four tribes, who were grouped under the name of Poenini. All these tribes were Celtic, while the Raeti, who were perhaps of Illyrian origin, extended from Glarus eastwards into Tirol.

It is interesting to note that the only specimen of the 400 villages of the Helvetii of which Caesar speaks, the remains of which have been found at Basle, shows clear traces of having been suddenly abandoned in 58 B.C., at the time of the great migration, which, owing to Caesar's military genius, ended so disastrously with the Battle of Bibracte. But it should also be noted that the courage with which the Helvetii fought led to their being granted the privileged position of *foederati*, allies of the Roman people. Galba's attempt, in the autumn of the next year, to occupy the Gr. St. Bernard permanently failed owing to the insufficiency of the forces employed; and Caesar's main achievement was the foundation, at Noviodunum (Nyon) on the lake of Geneva, of the Colonia Julia Equestris. He had perhaps planned the foundation of the Colonia Raurica (later Augusta, the present Augst, near Basle) which was actually carried out by his successor in Gaul, Munatius Plancus, to whom Lyon also owed its origin: and it may be due to the fact that Plancus came from Tibur, where Hercules was especially honoured, that at Augst, and nowhere else in Switzerland, works of art connected with his worship have been found.

Augustus found himself obliged, for the safety of Italy, to reduce the Alpine tribes, especially the Salassi, founding the colony of Augusta Praetoria (Aosta) in their territory, and then the *immanes Raeti*, who had a reputation for brigandage. As a result the Valais or Wallis (Wallis Poenina) was combined administratively with Raetia and the land of the Vindelici in a single province under first, a military praefectus, and then an imperial procurator. Besides this, one of the four legions of the Army of Upper Germany was quartered (probably as early as 15-13 B.C., as recent finds indicate) at Vindonissa, on the site of a Celtic *oppidum*, halfway between Basle and Winterthur, where considerable remains of its permanent camp have been found. This was a strong position between the Aar and the Reuss, and at an important road centre; and it is one of the most interesting Roman sites in Switzerland. Like all other camps north of the Alps, it began as an earthwork with palisades, the stone wall having been substituted after a fire in A.D. 46-47.

Claudius made both the Great and the Little St. Bernard into regular roads; and the inhabitants of the towns at the foot of each pass called