

**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:** - (1929)

**Heft:** 420

**Rubrik:** Notes and gleanings

### **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:** 17.05.2025

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

*Please reserve FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd,  
for the BANQUET and BALL of the  
CITY SWISS CLUB.*

have her children recognised as Italians. This was vehemently opposed by M. Wild, who brought an action against his wife at Milan, which was decided in his favour, the Court declaring that during the father's life-time it was impossible for his sons, being minors, to lose their Swiss nationality. The Countess, nothing daunted, appealed, and this time she has won her case.

Seeing that the mother, an Italian lady, is bringing up the children, I should have thought it monstrously unfair and stupid if the Tribunal had upheld the first decision and given the children Swiss Nationality. And mind you, I am not influenced in this by any political considerations. As a matter of fact, this question of the Nationality of Children born in a foreign country has occupied me, in the abstract, for a very long time, i.e., ever since the early days of the N.S.H. in London.

I am satisfied that children born in a foreign country, i.e., a country in which their parents are foreigners, should not be influenced too much in favour of their parents' country, at least not when the country in which they are being brought up is of similar culture and civilisation. Take Switzerland and England for instance. Had I any children, I would wish them to be absolutely free to decide for themselves, when they reach maturity as regards their nationality. They would be British by birth, anyhow and would probably do and prosper best if brought up here, not according to Swiss ideas, but in accordance with English ideas. True, we know our Swiss Schools are in many respects better, but then, is it wise to create a sort of dual personality? What about the assimilation of Immigrants in Switzerland? What about its counterpart in England? What would happen if all Nationalities kept rigidly to their own ideas all the time? I think assimilation should proceed as quickly as it is possible and no egotistical patriotism should stand in its way. As for keeping a foreign nationality for three generations, I think it is snobbery, pure and simple.

Please, Mr. Editor, may I say a word or two about the correspondence on speeches at banquets? I have always found that a jolly, rattling good humorous speech, such as very few can really make, enlivens proceedings no end and puts the whole assembly at ease with one another. Contrarywise, a dry, solemn oration, spiced with statistics, exhortations, praise for those up high, flattery, etc., in short the sort of oration everybody, who has ever been to one such banquet, knows by heart and could make himself with his eyes shut, i.e., not looking at the cuffs for the notes thereon, generally makes people frightfully and rightly impatient and should be stopped. Nobody, I think, except the one who makes such a speech, wishes to hear it. Nobody comes to such a Banquet "in the hope" of hearing such a speech, but everybody comes with an idea that he or she are going to have an amusing time. Well then, why not get up the funny man of the assembly and let him say a few funny things and make people laugh? Make them laugh and they will feel happy and the whole show will be voted a success, irrespective of whether the band was good or not. But, stuff them with statistics, with important facts, try to make them feel solemn on such occasions, and they will stay away in future.

Telephone Numbers:  
MUSEUM 4302 (Visitors)  
MUSEUM 7055 (Office)  
Telegrams: SOUVEILLE  
WESDO, LONDON

"Ben faranno i Pagani!"  
Purgatorio C. xiv. Dante  
"venir se ne dee gith  
tra' miei Meschini!"  
Dante. Inferno. C. xxvii.

Established over 50 Years.

## PAGANI'S RESTAURANT

GREAT PORTLAND ST., LONDON, W.1.

LINDA MESCHINI } Sole Proprietors.  
ARTHUR MESCHINI }

Allow me to introduce myself,  
I am

**Caran d'Arche**

the Swiss Pencil of smart  
appearance and finest quality.  
Not more expensive than other  
makes but better than the best.  
Whether your requirements be  
large or small write or phone  
**Central 6467** for samples  
and price list or call at above  
address and make my personal  
acquaintance.

Yours faithfully,

*Caran d'Arche*



### A RHONE-TO-RHINE WATERWAY

Switzerland, with no seaport of her own, is naturally alive to the possibilities of reaching the sea by artificial waterways linking up with the great rivers. A successful experiment has already been made with the Rhine waterway, and now a scheme is proposed for linking Switzerland with the Mediterranean through the Rhône.

Allied with this are two supplementary schemes, the first for the improvement of Rhine navigation, and the second for connexion of Basel with the Lake of Constance. The port of Basel, built 24 years ago, has been steadily growing since 1919, but navigation on the Rhine is handicapped by the Istein Rapids. An international commission has just met to consider means of getting rid of them, and it is probable that explosives will be used. Recently the Basel Grand Council voted a sum of £320,000 for this purpose. Further, engineers are at present examining the possibility of connecting Basel and the Lake of Constance by the Rhine to allow the passage of 1,500 ton barges, a scheme which would cost about £2,500,000. If, as is probable, a canal is made also from the Danube by German initiative, Switzerland will then have access to Bavaria, Austria, the Balkan States, and the Black Sea.

But the meeting at Geneva last July of the Congress of the "Union Rhodanienne"—an organisation including representatives of all districts in the Rhône Valley from the Mediterranean to the Furka—has revived interest in the main scheme of a Rhône-to-Rhine waterway. Investigation has shown that the Rhône can be made navigable from Lyons to Geneva, despite all natural obstacles, and that the connecting of the Lake of Geneva with the Rhine is a comparatively easy matter. The part of the scheme which offers the greatest technical difficulties is the Lyons-Genève section, where the Rhône passes through a very mountainous region. It would be necessary to build a dozen locks and dams and many side canals between Lyons and the Swiss frontier, a distance of about 150 miles. A sum of nearly £28,000,000 would represent the cost of the section, an important part of which could be repaid by the sale of electric power from six or eight of the biggest dams. From Bellegarde, near the border, four dams and locks, one of which is already made, and two side canals would enable 700-ton barges to reach the Lake of Geneva. In order to pass through Geneva itself and to avoid the pulling down of a quarter of the town it has been suggested that a canal tunnel could be bored under the town. The Geneva authorities are taking steps to acquire the land for a port on the lake. The construction of the Bellegarde-Genève section would cost about £10,000,000.

From the Lake of Geneva, vessels would reach the Lake of Neuchâtel through the Canal d'Enteroches, 23 miles long, the necessary construction of which would cost about £6,720,000. The waterway would then pass through the Lakes of Neuchâtel and Bienne, run along the River Aar, and enter the Rhine at a short distance from Felsenau, about half-way between Basel and Constance. Part of this last section is ready for navigation; its completion would involve an expenditure of £900,000.

The whole scheme would connect Marseilles and Lyons with Geneva, Basel and Rotterdam, and eventually with the Balkans, and would have a great influence on the economic development of Switzerland. While all natural obstacles can be conquered, it is still doubtful, however, whether the financial resources can be found. The share of Switzerland would be about £17,620,000, and it is not certain that the French Government would find it possible to provide its share of £28,000,000. Supporters of the scheme are of opinion that private enterprise may be successful where Governments may hesitate, and hopes are entertained that the Rhône-to-Rhine waterway may be built with the assistance of the chambers of commerce, the business organizations, and the municipalities concerned.—*The Times*.

### INCREASE IN CUSTOMS' REVENUE.

During the third term of 1929 the total receipts of the Swiss customs attained 64 million francs exceeding by over 6 millions the amount obtained during the corresponding period of 1928. This increase is chiefly due to favourable economic conjunctures.

### FOREIGN TRADE.

During the first 9 months of this year Swiss imports reached the sum of 2,012 million francs and exports that of 1,542 million. These figures are considerably higher than those obtained during the corresponding period of the preceding year.

H. & L. BIPP, 79, Goldhurst Terrace, N.W.6  
(near Selas Cottage)

Take orders now for artistic hand-painted

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Children's Party Frocks, Dressing Jackets, Scarves  
Cushions, Table Runners, Dinner Sets, Handkerchiefs, etc.  
LARGE SAMPLE COLLECTION ON HAND.

### Compatriots, Soldiers! Read

## THE SWISS ARMY

Its Origin and Traditions. Its present Form. Its Necessity.

Introduction by Federal Councillor Scheurer. Authors:  
Colonels Wildbolz, Sonderegger, Feldmann, Lederrey,  
Feyler, Major de Vallière and Professor G. de Reynold

The most successful publication of the year.

To be obtained from the publishers of the 'Swiss Observer.'

### GESCHÄFTS-ANZEIGE

Anstatt durch Zirkular, gestatte ich mir auf diesem Wege  
meinen verehrten Landsleuten anzuzeigen, dass ich das von  
Herrn F. W. Rühmann anno 1887 gegründete, sich  
eines sehr guten Rufes erfreuende,

### DELIKATESSEN-GESCHÄFT

32 Tottenham Court Road, W.1

käuflich erworben habe.

Es wird mein eifrigstes Bestreben sein, meine verehrten  
Kunden und Gönner durch Prima Ware und mässige  
Preise zufrieden zu stellen.

Im ersten Stock von 32 Tottenham Court Rd., habe ich ein

### RESTAURANT

eröffnet, wo gut zubereitete SCHWEIZER-PLATTEN und  
andere kontinentale Spezialitäten täglich zu bekommen  
sind.

Darauf mache ich insbesondere die lieben Studenten der  
Swiss Mercantile Society in Fitzroy Square, aufmerksam.

"Ich luh nüd nah, und luh nüd nah,

bis dass mer überall seid:

Wä mer würlch öppis Guets will z'Esse ha

So mues mer zu üsrem Landmas Störi gäh."

Erfreuen Sie mich durch Ihren werten Besuch, ich werde  
dafür sorgen, dass Sie wiederkommen!

Hochachtungsvoll empfiehlt sich,

Telefon: Museum 1622 **PETER STOERI.**

N.B.—Bestellungen durch die Post oder das Telefon auf  
meine Prima Delikatessen-Waren, werden prompt und  
sorgfältig ausgeführt.

Von jetzt ab täglich frische St. Galler Schüblinge,  
Frankfurter Würstchen, und Schweins Knöchel,

Telephone: Museum 3762

### O. BARTHOLDI'S

Swiss Charcuterie and Restaurant

4, CHARLOTTE ST., LONDON, W

### Blut & Leberwurst

Every Tuesday after 2 p.m.

All kinds of Swiss Charcuterie made fresh daily; Bratwurst,  
Schüblig, Cervelat, Wienerli, Frankfurterli, Landjäger,  
Aufschnitt, etc., etc. Mail Orders promptly attended to.

Just Received—Stock of Records of the famous Jodlers  
Herr & Frau Frey-Bernhardsgrütter, also new numbers of  
other Jodel, French-Swiss and Ticinese Song Records.  
Prices 4s. and 3s. each

### M. T. NEWMAN'S

Gramophone Salon,

2, LOWER PORCHESTER ST., Connaught Street, W.2  
Open till 7.30. Saturdays, 6 p.m. Close Thursday 1.30

\*Phone: Paddington 4300.

3 minutes from Marble Arch.

### MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

Not exceeding 3 lines.—Per insertion 2/6; three insertions 8/-  
Postage extra on replies addressed *c/o Swiss Observer*

GENERAL or MOTHER'S HELP wanted in  
Swiss Family of 3 (1 girl 5 years), Kent.—Write  
E. W. *c/o Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

WANTED COOK-GENERAL, preferably Swiss,  
for small labour-saving Maisonette. Two in family;  
very comfortable home. Good personal references  
required. Write "ALF." *c/o Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard  
Street, E.C.2.

GERMAN GENTLEMAN requires Bedroom and  
Sitting-room, spacious and comfortably furnished with  
nice, homely family, preferably West London. Breakfast  
desired, other meals out.—Address offers to Mr. Horra,  
*c/o Hayes Cocoa, Ltd., Hayes (Middlesex).*

OCCASION. MODERN LIGHT OAK DOUBLE  
BEDROOM, 2 single beds, 2 pedestal tables, 2 wardrobes  
with mirror, 1 dressing table with mirror, 1 linen cup-  
board, 2 chairs, complete suite to match. Best offer  
accepted.—Write B. L., *c/o Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard  
Street, E.C.2.

WANTED middle January for Guildford (50  
minutes from London), Good Swiss Cook-General and  
House-Parlourmaid over 30, speaking some English.  
Good Wages.—Write to E. R. *c/o Swiss Observer*, 23,  
Leonard Street, E.C.2.

WANTED Young Canvasser, preferably with office  
experience, for Forwarding Company. Must know  
Continental traffic. State salary required and experience  
in confidence to—T. G. *c/o Swiss Observer*, 23, Leonard  
Street, E.C.2.