

**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:** - (1936)  
**Heft:** 741  
  
**Rubrik:** Eglise suisse = Schweizerkirche

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ports of battles took the place of dull theory; tactics were learned in the actual field. The real military school, in fact, was war itself. Youth, inspired by the deeds of its elders, acquired a dangerous taste for heroic feats and adventures. In 1477 more than a thousand children who had followed the army as far as Nancy, had to be brought home by force. In Zurich, Berne and Freiburg hundreds of youths fought pitched battles in the public squares. Energetic measures had to be taken to curb the excessive eagerness of these future defenders of the Fatherland.

In olden times Switzerland also had her sports festivals, her Olympiads — events organised on a grand scale which often coincided with the anniversary of a victory or signing of a political treaty of alliance. They opened with a religious ceremony. The populace cheered the procession, which was preceded by heralds in the colours of the Canton. The banners were attended by a guard of honour. This tradition has been preserved down to the present day in the shooting and gymnastic festivals. With a rattle of drums and a blare of pipes and trumpets, the combatants entered the lists, there to swear a solemn oath that they would observe the rules of the contest and abide by the verdict of the umpire. The programme of the Federal "Olympiad" of 1465, for instance, reads as follows: Foot race over 400 paces, endurance race over 10,000 paces. Jumping: three leaps on one foot over three standard measures of length and height. Putting the Stone: over three distances with three stones of from 45 to 67 pounds weight. Wrestling: three rounds with elimination. Riding: race over 1,000 paces, obstacle jumps. Cross-bow shooting: free-arm, butt against shoulder, over distances of from 100 to 300 paces. — There were also fencing championships and exhibition bouts between lancers and halberdiers.

In the intervals popular ballad-singers praised the heroic deeds of the last military campaign. To the excited enthusiasm of the multitude Veit Weber struck up his famous "Murten Song":

"Sad winter-time has fled away  
And birds in the wood are singing;  
Now the wooing month is here,  
But also the time for battle.  
To arms, then, comrades bold!  
With God to victory and safe return!"

Substantial prizes were offered, consisting of richly decorated horses, bullocks and sheep, or golden rings which the soldiers wore in their ears; there were silver or gilt goblets, too, and daggers and doublets (in the colours of the Canton), weapons, suits of armour, and lance-pennants embroidered by the senators' wives. The champion marksman received a golden chain, so long that he could put it three times round his neck. Victors became exempt from taxes, tolls and socage. The mountain-dwellers from the heart of Switzerland, their bodies tanned by the Alpine sun, were loudly cheered as they presented themselves before the umpires; the laughing, lively Appenzellers, too, with alpsroses in their hats, were loudly applauded, as were the tall athletes of the Grisons, the archers from Lausanne, the shepherds of Gruyère, while joyous, unending yodel songs echoed from one group to the other.

These festivals, many of which lasted a full month, ended with songs and merry feasting in which the participants swore eternal friendship. The return of the victors to their native Cantons was a veritable triumphal procession.

Such peaceful contests, which were repeated nearly every year, strengthened the bonds of Federalism, aroused a sound spirit of rivalry between the districts and Cantons, and promoted agility, daring and endurance — the best qualities a soldier can possess.

Thus the old Confederacy, with its allies and subjects (barely two million citizens in all) was in a position to train an army of 100,000 soldiers about the year 1470, put men in the field who were experienced in the art of war, and face every one of its adversaries with a superior force — the famous foot-soldiers whom Machiavelli called the "Conquerors of Kings."

S.V.Z.

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The arms of Vaud symbolize particularly *romand* into the Swiss Confederation as a separate canton in 1803. No arms existed prior to that date.

Green, a colour much in favour with the liberals, was the distinctive sign of the inhabitants during the French invasion that put an end to the rule of Berne. The insurgents had, in addition to the green cockade, a green flag and the motto: "Liberté, égalité, borrowed from the French.

Green remained popular and was readily adopted for the national emblem, and the motto, altered to *Liberté et Patrie*, incorporated into the escutcheon. In order to comply with the heraldic usage that two metals cannot come into contact but must be contrasted with a tincture, the gold letters of the motto are surrounded with a black border.

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Le Comité.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, February 4th — City Swiss Club — Monthly Meeting — (preceded by dinner 7.15 sharp) at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, W.

Saturday, February 15th, at 7 o'clock sharp — City Swiss Club — Dinner and Dance, at the Hyde Park Hotel, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. Provisional Date.

Saturday, February 22nd, 1936 — Annual Banquet and Ball — Swiss Mercantile Society — at the Trocadero Restaurant, Piccadilly, W. Provisional Date.

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6h.30 — Prédication : M. R. Sauty.

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Sonntag, den 26. Januar 1936.

11 Uhr morgens.

Gedächtnisgottesdienst der Colonie aus Anlass des Ablebens Seiner Majestät Georgs V. in der Eglise Suisse in Gegenwart des Schweizerischen Gesandten in Grossbritannien.

Liturgie : M. R. Sauty, suffragant.

Predigt : Pfarrer C. Th. Hahn.

Ansprache : Herr Minister C. R. Paravicini.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst in St. Anne und St. Agnes, 9, Gresham Street.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde : C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon : Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden : Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche; Mittwoch