

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: - (1937)
Heft: 816

Rubrik: Swiss Mercantile Society LTD

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: 14.05.2025

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

LA POLITIQUE.

La Suisse et l'Éthiopie.

La reconnaissance "de jure" de la souveraineté italienne sur l'Éthiopie a été évoquée mardi au Conseil national, comme elle l'avait été, il y a quelques jours, au Conseil des États, mais dans une atmosphère un peu différente. Les interventions de MM. Meierhans et consorts se greffaient sur la discussion du rapport de gestion, qui donne libre cours aux critiques les plus diverses.

Dans l'opinion publique, la décision du Conseil fédéral incriminée par les socialistes et par certains orateurs bourgeois n'a pas été parfaitement comprise, il faut le dire; et cela tient à un malentendu. Beaucoup de gens, en effet, même dans les milieux cultivés, ne savent pas ce que signifie la reconnaissance "de jure" d'un gouvernement. Ils croient, de bonne foi, quelle équivaut à approuver, à tenir pour légitimes, pour fondées en droit et en morale, les conditions dans lesquelles ce gouvernement a pris le pouvoir ou a étendu sa conquête sur une région donnée. Or, il n'est pas question de cela.

Comme M. Motta, président de la Confédération et chef du département politique l'a très judicieusement exposé devant l'Assemblée, la reconnaissance "de facto" et la reconnaissance "de jure" ne se distinguent l'une de l'autre qu'en ceci, que la première suppose un état de fait provisoire, transitoire, tandis que la seconde constate un état durable, définitif, — à vues humaines, cela va de soi, et pour autant qu'il y ait quoi que ce soit de définitif en ce monde.

En déclarant que la Suisse reconnaît la souveraineté italienne sur l'Éthiopie, et qu'elle la reconnaît "de jure," le Conseil fédéral unanime (et non point M. Motta seul, sur lequel daubent la presse d'extrême-gauche et certains aristocrates qui font figure de chevaliers servants de la S.D.N.) a simplement tiré une conclusion des faits. Il a constaté que l'Italie a conquis l'Éthiopie et y a établi un régime nouveau. Il a estimé que la Suisse ne pouvait feindre d'ignorer cet événement, et qu'en l'occurrence elle devait se soucier de ses intérêts et de ceux de ses nationaux plutôt que d'une idéologie doctrinale. Le gouvernement central a bien manœuvré et a saisi l'occasion propice: s'il avait tardé, s'il n'avait pas profité de l'alcalmie qui se manifestait en Europe, c'est alors qu'il eût paru faire un geste tendancieux. Au moment où il a pris sa décision, après mûr examen, et après que d'autres eurent donné l'exemple, ses intentions ne pouvaient être suspectées.

S'ensuit-il que la Suisse affirme, par là même, que l'Italie a eu raison de conquérir l'Éthiopie? Nullement. Elle n'a pas à se prononcer sur ce point, n'étant à aucun titre, que l'on sache, l'arbitre des nations, le censeur de la vie internationale. Au moment où les sanctions ont été déclenchées par la S.D.N. (dans des conditions dont il faut d'ailleurs se souvenir), elle s'y est ralliée, pour autant que sa neutralité le lui permettait. Maintenant, il y a une situation acquise; et il faudrait avoir perdu l'esprit pour admettre que cette situation puisse être modifiée autrement que par une guerre. C'est précisément là tout ce qu'il importe de savoir pour reconnaître "de jure" le régime italien dans les États de l'ancien négus. Celui-ci n'envoie plus de délégués à la S.D.N., parce qu'il n'ignore pas que ces délégués ne verraient pas leur mandat validé. Sous une forme ou sous une autre, les autres pays constatent, eux aussi, le fait accompli. Nous n'avons rien tenté de plus.

M. Motta a très opportunément rappelé qu'après la défaite française, en 1871, la Suisse a reconnu également les effets du traité de Francfort. Est-ce à dire qu'elle estimait légitime la conquête de l'Alsace-Lorraine par l'Allemagne? Aucunement. Elle enregistrait un fait, et rien de plus. De même, après la grande guerre, la Suisse est entrée en relations avec les États formés en vertu des nouveaux traités de Versailles, de Trianon, etc., sans se prononcer pour autant sur l'équité de ces traités, mais en se souciant, uniquement, des conséquences qu'ils déplaçaient.

Une mauvaise interprétation du sens de ces mots: "de jure," a faussé la position du problème pour nombre de gens; quelques-uns, malheureusement, en ont pris prétexte pour accuser le Conseil fédéral d'une complaisance à l'égard de notre voisin du Sud, qui lui est totalement étrangère.

Le débat qui s'est déroulé au Conseil national, et où l'on a regretté de voir certains représentants des partis nationaux faire le jeu de l'extrême-gauche, a surabondamment prouvé quelle confusion régnait, à cet égard. A la réflexion, les esprits sensés se rendront compte de leur méprise.

Léon Savary.

(Tribune de Genève).

AN ANNIVERSARY.



We are extending heartiest congratulations and best wishes to M. H. Senn, who has recently celebrated his 50th birthday Anniversary.

M. Senn has for many years played an important part in the Swiss Colony in London, where he is a popular personality.

Amongst the many offices which he has held during the last 30 years, we might mention the following:

Member of the Committee of the Swiss Mercantile Society, and President of the Sports section of this Society for several years. Member of the Committee of the City Swiss Club and President of the Club in 1933 and 1934. President of the Swiss Rifle Association for two years running. Vice-Chairman of the House Committee of the "Home for Aged Swiss." Member of the "Swiss Sports" Committee and for 15 years its Hon. Treasurer.

In addition M. Senn has been elected a Honorary Member of the "Union Helvetia" and the "Swiss Gymnastic Society."

We sincerely hope that M. Senn will be able to render to the Colony many more services, which have been appreciated in the past by the members of the Colony and his numerous friends.

DINNER.

MME. PARAVICINI.

Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone, and Major-General the Earl of Athlone honoured the Swiss Minister and Mme. Paravicini with their presence last Tuesday at a farewell dinner given by them for the Netherland Minister and Mme. de Marees van Swinderen.

The other guests were:—

The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Mrs. Anthony Eden, the Austrian Minister, the Danish Minister and Countess Ahlefeldt-Laurvig, the Swedish Minister, the Czechoslovak Minister, the Norwegian Minister, the Earl and Countess of Cromer, the Earl and Countess of Granard, the High Commissioner for Canada and Mrs. Vincent Massey, Viscountess Cowdray, Lady Leonfield, Lord and Lady Lloyd.

Sir Edward and the Hon. Lady Packe, Sir Robert and Lady Vansittart, Lieutenant-General Sir Sidney and Lady Clive, Mr. J. B. Monck, Sir John and Lady Dashwood, Baroness Renata von Herwarth-Bittenfeld, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyer-Millar, Countess Ingegerd Ahlefeldt, M. s'Jacob, M. and Mme. Vincent Paravicini, Mlle. Livia Paravicini, and Mlle. Jacqueline Paravicini.

FOURTH CENTENARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LAUSANNE.

The fourth centenary of Lausanne University, so well known to English visitors, has just been celebrated.

The Academy of Lausanne was founded in the spring of 1537 by the Bernese, shortly after the conquest of the Vaud Canton and the religious disputes. The education of the young generation was necessary, and above all to form the ministers the Church needed.

For this reason from the very beginning the School of Lausanne required a college of seven classes and some public lectures intended for the students. The new task was confided to young men, most of whom had not yet reached 30 years of age. Conrad Gessner of Zurich, who was to be one of the greatest naturalists of the century, began at Lausanne as a professor of Greek; later on, Théodore de Bèze, the brilliant French humanist, occupied that chair with great success; Pierre Viret added the teaching of theology to his pastorate during a period of ten years in which he commented and criticised on the original of the old and new Testaments; whilst Maturin Cordier, the author of the "Colloques," directed the college in which François Hotman, the jurist, was to be the regent of the first class.

The School of Lausanne, the regulations of which date back to 1547, was, for 20 years, the only Protestant Academy in the French-speaking countries. Pupils were attracted to it from all

parts, and it has deserved the name of the "School of Martyrs" before Geneva.

The Academy has existed in spite of the storms which twice partially destroyed it in 1559 and in 1846; it has little by little enlarged its precincts. For more than 350 years it has educated the upper-ten of the country and contributed to its moral unity and its political independence.

The people of the Vaud Canton recognised what they owed it in consenting to the sacrifices necessary for the Academy to become a University in 1891.

In the eighteenth century the names of Barbeyrac and of Ruchat, in the nineteenth those of Vinet, of Charles and Edouard Secretan, of Walras and of Pareto, still nearer our period, those of Henri Vuilleminier, of René Guisan, of César Roux, of Marc Dufour, of Jules Gonin and of Gustave Juvet, only to cite those who have disappeared, have contributed towards the fame of this University. The students of the old Academy were the first to hear of the works, *The Canton de Vaud*, by Juste Olivier, and *Port-Royal*, by Sainte-Beuve.

Deeply rooted in the soil of the Vaud Canton, the University of Lausanne has always had foreigners amongst its professors and students, one of whom was Gibbon. It is proud of this tradition which goes as far back as the sixteenth century and which it intends to maintain.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

LECTURE.

(Continuation).

3. The third school is what we call the Locarno school, the school of Westerners, the school of limited liability. That is the school to which the present government belongs, although it never says so quite precisely. It wants to carry out our treaty obligations towards France and Belgium if they are attacked. Thus for instance in a German attack on Czechoslovakia we would keep a free hand. That is the policy of the present government, the school of Westerners who say we should keep our interests of status quo in Europe so directed that we will not say in advance, whether right or wrong, what we would do. The interests in Central and Eastern Europe are so much less ours that the government cannot and ought not to say what we would do. Our little tiny army could not be sent out of the country. If we are to intervene effectively, the volunteers must come along in millions. The government cannot see the reaction of public opinion until the emergency arises. A couple of days ago I had the visit of a distinguished Austrian and only this evening a distinguished Hungarian journalist asked me: "Why does not England say what she is going to do?" We cannot tell you what we will do! It would be folly or worse on the part of the government to give a promise which they might not be able to fulfil. If you look back at the three thoughts of school there is a great deal to be said about all of them. Our relationship involves us in the danger of another Franco-German war. It involves us once more in the danger of getting drawn into war, starting either with a Russian-Japanese war and or a Russia-German war. Much is to be said for and against these three schools of thought. The supreme issue, including our own, is when and where ought we to say we are prepared to fight. I have given you my view for what it is worth. The third school of thought is, broadly speaking, the school of the government; whether ideally best or otherwise it is the only possible school in view of the divided public opinion.

Isolation is just impossible. If we sever all connections with France she is literally at the mercy of Germany. Isolationism is impossible. Collective security in the sense that we should regard a German attack on Prague in the same light as a German attack on Brussels and Antwerp, seems to be equally impossible in the sense that your promise could be fulfilled only if the cause appealed to millions of Englishmen sufficiently to provoke them like the Belgian issue in 1914, to go and risk their lives. Unlimited commitments are, therefore, also impossible. What is left but to accept limited liability, the maintenance of the Anglo-French Block, beyond that keeping a free hand and not saying whether you will keep in or go out?

The lecturer then invited questions on these difficult and puzzling issues. Such widely diverging subjects as the possibility of American intervention, Turkey's part as an onlooker, the future of the League of Nations and the restitution of Colonies, were discussed. Of the League of Nations the lecturer said: "The prestige of the League has never been lower than it is now. It is not going to help its revival by latering the Covenant. The League will remain alive because it still performs very useful and indispensable functions, above all as Professor Gilbert Murray said, "It is an organ of consultation," which

did not exist in 1914. It provides a round table. Despite the spectacular failures of the last year or two it has from time to time been a most useful body; so it recently settled the controversy as between France and Alexandretta.

In conclusion Mr. Joss proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Gooch for his most interesting address which was followed by a tremendous ovation by the audience.

W.B.

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US. EUROPE REVISITED.

(World Radio.)

Comparatively few visitors to this most famous of all tourist centres of Europe are familiar with the real history of Switzerland, the country which has solved within its boundaries the most complicated of racial, linguistic, and religious problems.

Of the four million inhabitants of the Swiss Republic the majority, some 2.8 millions, speak German, about 800,000 French, a quarter of a million Italian, and about 45,000 Romansch. Three official languages prevail in the country — German, French, and Italian. And there is still another, and fifth, linguistic medium, for in the Germanic parts the colloquial speech is a dialect which is hardly understood by Germans outside Switzerland. True, only about 1 per cent. of the population still converse in the quaint relics of a *lingua rustica* of the Roman epoch — namely, Romansch, and, in some parts, Ladin, which is closely related to it.

An admirable administration, the origin of which dates back several hundred years, has succeeded in uniting many races and creeds under one central Government, creating a State, which in present-day history is one of the wealthiest and happiest in Europe. The Swiss have learned their lesson from their past history, when they succeeded in shaking off the yokes of the autocratic domination which the Habsburgs exercised upon them, and grew strong and powerful by shedding their racial discords in the fight against the common enemy.

Keeping this in mind, one may be tempted to describe the Swiss Republic as a model State in the best sense of the word. The Republic, or rather, Confederation (*Bundesstaat*), as the Swiss prefer to call their States, is divided into 22 cantons, all of them, unlike the English counties, almost self-contained and different from each other in many ways. The inhabitants of these cantons vary greatly in cultural, political, religious, and also physical characteristics, and often speak entirely different languages and devote themselves to different customs and ideas from those of their neighbours. Yet they all form the most patriotic nation imaginable.

The Confederation.

It was in the thirteenth century that the Habsburgs' power began to rise in an unprecedented manner. Their fortress, Habsburg, or Habichtsburg (hawks' castle), from which they derived their name, stood near the junction of the Aar and the Rhine; it was built in the eleventh century and was the centre of a great number of estates which were acquired in later years. In the twelfth century the Habsburgs became Counts of Zürich and Landsgraves of Upper Alsace, later protectors, or "*Vogts*," over the Waldstätte (Schwyz, Uri, Unterwalden, and Lucerne). Another line of the dynasty achieved still further honours, Rudolph I of Habsburg being elected German King in 1273.

A few years later the men of Uri and of the neighbouring woodlands and valleys took the initiative in forming the Swiss Confederation by creating a close alliance, promising to defend each other's interests and territories against any aggressor. This treaty of alliance between Uri, Schwyz, and Nidwalden, dated August, 1921, on which the history of Switzerland was based, is still preserved in the museum of Schwyz.

Parallel to this alliance of the three districts around the Lake of Lucerne, a Burgundian confederation, with Berne as centre, and an eastern Swiss confederation around Appenzel, were formed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. These three confederate unions agreed to unite their forces in the common struggle for their independence; and, despite many setbacks, the Confederation grew steadily in power, embracing gradually more and more districts, and developed into an important military Power in the early sixteenth century.

They defended their integrity and independence with varying fortune in the centuries to follow, until in 1848 the people of Switzerland formed a Federal Constitution, which was revised in 1874 and which has since developed into a Federal State, administered by a central Government, although the 22 cantons have also their own individual Governments. The Federal Government meets at Berne, and is presided over by a President who is elected every year.

High Class *Kunzle* Chocolates

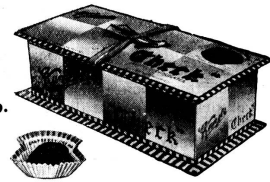
AN EVER POPULAR ASSORTMENT

IN FOUR ATTRACTIVE
COLOURS

BLUE
ORANGE
GREEN
RED

"Check"
4/- LB.

packed in $\frac{1}{4}$ lb., $\frac{1}{2}$ lb., 1 lb.
and 2 lb. sizes.



C. KUNZLE LTD., Five Ways, Birmingham 15.

The scenery.

Swiss scenery is probably the finest of its kind in Europe. The four great rivers, the Rhine, the Rhône, the Danube, and the Po, with their many tributaries, flow through the picturesque valleys in the mighty masses of the Alps and the Jura. Beautiful lakes, bordered by gigantic mountain ranges, flower pastures, and glaciers covering the saddles between the snow-covered rocky chains, which cut the country into two parts — these are some of the features which make of Switzerland Europe's playground.

The mountainous character of the country is best described in the following few figures. Sixty-one per cent. of the nearly 16,000 square miles of Switzerland are taken up by the Alps, 12 per cent. by the mountain ranges of the Jura, and 27 per cent. by the often densely-wooded Midlands. It is in the Midlands that the "garden of Switzerland" unfolds itself. There the towns and industrial centres lie in the midst of gentle pastures, beautiful forests, and around numerous picturesque lakes.

The Jura range is comparatively "low," if such a term can be applied to any part of Switzerland; but in view of the fact that no fewer than fifty peaks of the Alps reach a height of more than 15,000 feet, the plateaux of the Jura, hardly exceeding 5,000 feet in altitude, seem almost unimportant. Monte-Rosa, with its majestic peak towering to 15,210 feet, is the highest mountain in the country.

The making of chocolate and cheese plays an important part in the national industries of the country. In the Jura districts watch and clock making are still the most important industries, in a country which used to be predominantly agricultural, but has since developed into an industrial State.

The visitor to Switzerland will meet happy faces everywhere, the people are contented, and enjoy a high standard of living. Their national festivals and fairs bear witness to their light-heartedness. Yodelling, which is heard throughout the mountain districts, is in itself a manifestation of the happiness and high spirits of the people. Its familiar cadence is well known to listeners the world over. Happily enough, the Swiss broadcasting authorities never miss an opportunity of introducing the national melodies into their programmes, which often mirror in their music the country — beautiful in winter and in summer, attractive to foreign visitors both for sport and recuperation, mountaineering and leisurely holidays — and its people, who have a welcome for everyone crossing the frontier and greet him with their heartfelt "Grüss Gott!"

(To be concluded).

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

MODERN DETACHED VILLA for sale; exc. cond., select. Long Lease. 5 bed, 2 rec. rooms, bath, large kitchen. Garage, good garden. 7 min. station. 3 min. by trolley bus. Bargain, owner retiring abroad. A. Walchli, 218, London Road, Twickenham. (Phone: Popesgrove 1066.)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

July — City Swiss Club — No Meeting.

Wednesday, July 7th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

July 19th-31st — Haslemere Festival — under the direction of Arnold Dolmetsch, at the Haslemere Hall — Haslemere (Surrey.)

Wednesday, August 4th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

SWISS BANK CORPORATION,

(A Company limited by Shares incorporated in Switzerland)

99, GRESHAM STREET, E.C.2.

and 11c, REGENT STREET, S.W. 1.

Capital Paid up £6,400,000
Reserves - - £1,560,000
Deposits - - £39,000,000

All Descriptions of Banking and
Foreign Exchange Business Transacted

: : Correspondents in all : :
: : parts of the World. : :

When at HAMPTON COURT
have Lunch or Tea at the

MYRTLE COTTAGE

Facing Royal Palace, backing on to Bushy
Park between Lion Gate and The Green.

P. GODENZI, PROPRIETOR.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762).

(Langue française).

70, Endell Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.C.2.

(Near New Oxford Street).

Pasteur: Mons. R. Hoffmann-de Visme.

Dimanche, Juillet 4.—11h.—Culte et prédication.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

7h. — Culte et prédication.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 4. Juli 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

Keine Abendgottesdienste während der Monate Juli und August.

Während der Ferien des Gemeindepfarrers amtet Herr Pfarrer Valentin Nüesch von Roggwil bei Langenthal, an den, bitte, alle Anfragen wegen event. Amtshandlungen zu richten sind: c/o "Foyer Suisse," 12, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

Printed for the Proprietors, by THE FREDERICK PRINTING CO., LTD., at 23, Leonard Street, London, E.C.2.