

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: - (1942)

Heft: 1004

Rubrik: Swiss Club

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: 04.02.2025

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

and Soleure became members of the Swiss Confederation.

For this successful intervention in a crisis Niklaus von Flüe has ever since been venerated as Switzerland's great conciliator. Even to-day the Swiss people cherish the advice he gave the delegates at that time: "Do not seek to enlarge your domain too much. Shun foreign quarrels and be peaceful neighbours. But whosoever wishes to oppress you, may he find you as men. Far be it from you that one of you accept gold for the homeland. Beware of internal strife, for it would lead to your destruction. Love one another, oh Confederates, and may God watch over you kindly as heretofore."

Niklaus von Flüe died on March 21st, 1487. In December, 1934, his last remains were transferred to a new resting place in the beautiful parish church of Sachseln.

In his lifetime Niklaus von Flüe was always ready to assist those in need and many miraculous deeds are credited to his intercession. Instead of being forgotten he is more and more venerated by the Swiss people as a guardian and father of his country. His last resting place at Sachseln is one of the foremost places of pilgrimage in Switzerland. Efforts have in recent years been made that the great Swiss conciliator be canonized and His Holiness Pope Pius XII appears to be most favourably inclined toward this elevation.

**SWISS CLUB DUNFERMLINE.
1st August Celebrations.**

Almost the entire Swiss Colony in Dunfermline was present at the 1st August celebrations again arranged by our club. The evening was spent very appropriate to the occasion. Our president M. F. Gualeni gave a short talk which was followed by three Swiss Films kindly lent us by the London Office of the Swiss Federal Railways. It appeared that all present very greatly enjoyed the films showing pictures of our beautiful country. The rest of the evening passed amidst cheerful talk, games and music. The culinary desires were very well catered for, in the real Swiss way, by our enterprising Social Committee.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

After a short recess during the summer months, the Society resumed its activities at Swiss House on Wednesday, September 9th, when the Monthly Meeting was held. Mr. J. J. Boos, President, was in the Chair, and a large number of Members was present.

The Society was very fortunate indeed in being able to open its Autumn/Winter programme with a lecture by Dr. G. P. Gooch, Companion of Honour, the famous lecturer and eminent historian, who addressed the meeting on "World Outlook." The Chairman, introducing the lecturer in suitable terms, said that Dr. Gooch was no stranger to the audience, having lectured to the Society on many previous occasions. He also mentioned that many amongst the audience no doubt vividly recollected some of the events forecast by Dr. Gooch, which had since come to pass. If only some of his warnings had been heeded at the time by the authorities concerned, things might have turned out differently.

Dr. Gooch then addressed the audience. He said:—

"It is always a pleasure for me to speak at Swiss House. I love Switzerland and have known it for well over fifty years. It was the last country in which I spent some time during my travels before the war. I congratulate your country on its neutrality, which has been preserved without any sacrifice of national honour, and hope you will be able to maintain it until the end of this terrible struggle.

I am first of all going to call your attention to three enormously important facts, viz.

1. That Isolationism in America is dead.
2. That the British and Russian peoples have discovered one another.
3. That China has at last taken its well-deserved place not only as a Great Power, but as, in every sense of the term, an equal among the leading Nations.

The second part of my talk will be devoted to the sort of settlement which we may expect, which we should strive to obtain if and when we win the war. There is my lecture in two parts; part one brought about by the three changes mentioned, which are stamped right across the face of the world, not temporary changes, but changes which I hope have come to stay and which will influence the future of the world for the benefit of mankind.

Isolationism, which was very strong both as a tradition and what we may call an ideology ("Weltanschauung"), died on Sunday morning, December 7th, 1941, when the phone bells rang over the whole of the North American Continent with the news of the attack on Pearl Harbour. Most great events happen within a certain period, such as the Reformation, the fall of the Roman Empire, the French Revolution, etc., but world-historic events sometimes happen in a moment. When the first bombs fell on Pearl Harbour a new era of history began. It not only brought America into the war, which was inevitable, but something more important or equally important happened: Isolationism died. Until that moment millions of Americans had said and millions of Americans had believed that they were safe, whatever happened in Europe or Asia. Before the days of submarines and aeroplanes, Americans

ALLTRANSPORT & STORAGE LTD.
Directors: H. DEPREE, M.I.E.C. O. A. DETTWILER (SWISS) H. E. NACHBUR (SWISS)
 Secretary: F. N. RODGERS.

**ALLTRANSPORT BUILDING,
 LITTLE TRINITY LANE, LONDON, E.C.4.**
Cables: ALLTRANS LONDON. Telephone: CENTral 6341 (6 lines)

For Overseas and Colonial Shipping

TRAFFIC TO AND FROM SWITZERLAND
 CARTAGE, PACKING, WAREHOUSING,
 INSURANCES,
 FURNITURE REMOVALS (Local & Foreign)

Associated firm:
ALLTRANSPORT & STORAGE Co., NEW YORK.
(Manager: H. E. NACHBUR) 6, State Street.
Cables: Alltrans New York. Telephone: Bowling Green 9-5651/52.