

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: - (1948)

Heft: 1096

Rubrik: News at random

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The Swiss Observer

FOUNDED BY PAUL F. BOEHRINGER.

The Official Organ of the Swiss Colony in Great Britain.

EDITED BY A. STAUFFER WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF MEMBERS OF THE LONDON COLONY.

Telephone: CLERKENWELL 2321/2.

Published Twice Monthly at 23, LEONARD STREET, E.C.2.

Telegrams: FREPRINCO, LONDON.

VOL. 31. No. 1096.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27th, 1948.

PRICE 6d.

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NEWS AT RANDOM

Federal

The Shah of Iran, Mohammed Riza Pahlevi, arrived on the 10th of this month at the Airport Cointrin (Geneva) from Paris in the machine of the French President.

He was received, on behalf of the Swiss Government, by Monsieur Cuttat, Chef du protocole, and Lieutenant-Colonel Bracher; the Iranian Minister in Berne, Monsieur Forouhar was also present.

After having inspected a guard of honour he spoke to a number of representatives of the government and municipality of Geneva. A large crowd heartily cheered the distinguished guest.

On the conclusion of the reception, the Shah travelled in a Swissair machine, accompanied by a squadron of Swiss military planes, to Berne, where he landed at the airport Belpmos. On descending from the aircraft he was welcomed by Monsieur Max Petitpierre, Swiss Foreign Minister, who accompanied him to the "Lohn," where he is the guest of the Swiss Government during his stay. Later in the day, he was received by the Federal Council *in corpore* at the "Palais Fédéral." During his address, he expressed his pleasure at re-visiting Switzerland, where he spent several years of his youth. He voiced his admiration for the political institutions of the Confederation, and expressed the hope that the relations between the two countries would always remain friendly.

Monsieur Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, thanked the royal guest for the honour of his visit, which he said, was greatly appreciated by both the Government and the Swiss people, and for the expressions of admiration voiced for our country's institutions. He, in turn, expressed the hope that the relations between the Kingdom of Persia and Switzerland would become still closer, and in conclusion wished him a pleasant stay in our country.

Dr. Chen Li-Fu, Vice-President of the Legislative Council of China, was received at the "Palais Fédéral," by Monsieur Celio, President of the Swiss

Confederation, and M. Max Petitpierre, Foreign Minister.

The Chinese Minister in Berne, Monsieur Nan-Ju Wu, offered a dinner to the distinguished visitor, amongst the numerous guests present, was Monsieur Celio and Monsieur Petitpierre.

* * *

Customs receipts during the month of July, 1948, amounted to 30.6 million francs, or 3.5 million francs less than in July, 1947.

During the first seven months in the current year, customs receipts reached 256.5 million francs, or 33.2 million francs more than in the same period in 1947.

* * *

The Federal Council has delegated M. Edouard Soutter, Consul-General in Asuncion, to represent the Swiss Government at the initiation festivities of the President of the Republic of Paraguay.

* * *

M. Ernest Hahn, Swiss Consul in Nancy and Chaumont (France), and Professor at the University in Nancy, has died.

* * *

The Swiss authorities have recently arrested the Rumanian commercial attaché at Berne, M. Soltan Vitianu, on a charge of economic espionage.

As a reprisal, the Rumanian Government has ordered the closing of all Swiss Consulates in Rumania, and has expelled in humiliating circumstances a prominent Swiss who had spent all his life in Rumania.

A Swiss communiqué declares that Rumania's action is contrary to international law and to the treaties in force between the two countries. The Swiss Foreign Office, it is said "would take necessary measures." In the meantime, the case against Vitianu, has been referred to the Federal High Court.

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Cantonal

Kaplan Alois Horat, in Schwyz, has celebrated his 60th anniversary as a priest. He occupied the "Kaplanei" Holzhäusern bei Risch for twenty-five years. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the "Kurort Bürgenstock," founded by M. Franz, Joseph Bucher-Durrer, *hotelier* in Lucerne, celebrations were held at the Bürgenstock. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. C. G. Jung, the famous Swiss psychotherapist, is celebrating his 73rd birthday this month. He lives in Zurich with his family, which includes nineteen grandchildren, and his home is a meeting place of many distinguished scientists and scholars of our time. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The death is reported from Wetzikon (Ct. Zurich) of Mr. Werner Gubelmann, manufacturer, at the age of 63. The deceased, played an important rôle in the public life of the community. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The sales of the 1st of August badge (for combating tuberculosis) in the town of Zurich, has brought in 102,000.—frs. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The International Music Congress at which delegates from twelve countries are represented, was opened in Zurich on the 2nd of this month by Mr. R. Leuzinger. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The well-known composer of folklore music, Emil Grolimund, has celebrated his 75th birthday anniversary in Zurich, and Rudolf Hägni, known as a prolific writer of books, plays and poetry for children, has celebrated his 60th birthday also in Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

National-Councillor, Gottlieb Duttweiler, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Zurich, he was the founder, in 1925, of the "Migros, A.G.", he is also the founder of the Hotel Plan, the newspaper "Die Tat" and a number of commercial enterprises. G. Duttweiler, entered Parliament (National-Council) in 1935. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The death is reported from Zug of former National-Councillor Josef Stutz.

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The deceased was born in 1877 in Schongau (Ct. Lucerne). He was from 1917 until recently, Director of the agricultural school in Zug. He was a member of the "Kantonsrat" Zug and sat in Parliament (National-Council) from 1931-1934. Stutz was the co-founder and first President of the "Schweiz. Obstverbandes." [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Georg Glaser, from Langenthal (Ct. Berne) has been appointed Director of the "Land-und-Hauswirtschaftlichen Schule" in Schwand-Münsingen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the ascent of the Tschingelhorn (Ct. Berne) two mountaineers, Josef Lehmann (38), from Derendingen, and his brother-in-law, Paul Gasche (31), from Oekingen, lost their lives.

A second mountain accident, costing the lives of three alpinists, occurred on the descent from the Schmadrijoeh to the Schmadribach hut (Ct. Berne). The names of the victims are Hans Schlunegger (1911), well-known guide from Wengen, Dr. Ernst Hopf (1912), a medical practitioner in Berne, and Dr. Gaston von Sury, advocate in Solothurn. [A.T.S.]

* * *

M. Paul Montandon, a well-known alpinist, and honorary member of the Swiss and English Alpine Club, has died in Steffisburg (Ct. Bern) at the age of 90. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Minister Walter Stucki, Delegate of the Federal-Council for special missions, has celebrated his 60th birthday anniversary in Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the month of July, 1948, 417 road accidents have occurred in the canton of Berne. Twelve people were killed and three hundred and fifty were injured. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Good news for wine consumers comes from the canton of Fribourg, where the prices for Vaudois and Valaisan wines have been reduced by 40 and 40 centimes a litre. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The Urban Council of the town of Solothurn proposes to issue a loan amounting to three million francs for erection of two new school buildings. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Amongst the many exhibitors at the International stamp exhibition, which is taking place at Basle from the 21st-29th of August, is H.M. King George VI who has sent altogether 32 sheets. The last time an English Monarch has exhibited a collection outside Great Britain was in 1910, when King George V exhibited in Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Various societies and institutions in the canton of Schaffhausen have received legacies amounting to over 80,000.—frs. from the late Mlle. Emilie Ott, who died in Schaffhausen in January, 1947. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The "Konservator" of the art section of the museum "Allerheiligen" in Schaffhausen, Max Bendel, has died at the age of 63. By profession a dentist, he was for many years head of the school clinic, and ren-

dered great service to the museum of "Allerheiligen" which was badly damaged during an air attack by American bombers in 1944. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The death is reported from Heiden (Appenzell) of the well-known Jodler and singer, Mme. Marie Frey-Bernhardsgrütter at the age of 49. (Mme. Frey-Bernhardsgrütter was well-known in the Swiss Colony in London, having sung on many occasions at some of the Swiss concerts and at the Legation.) [A.T.S.]

* * *

Whilst descending from the Aescher via Seil-Loch (Ct. Appenzell), Mlle Martha Eckert (35) from Basle, lost her life. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Colonel Ruckstuhl of Herisau (Appenzell) has left a legacy of 20,000.—frs. to the District hospital in Herisau. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Dr. Max Hausmann, head of a private clinic in St. Gall, has died at the age of 72. Dr. Hausmann was one of the founders of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, and for many years President of the St. Gall group. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The government of the canton of Grisons has forwarded a demand to the Federal-Council to take over the Rhätischen railway. [A.T.S.]

* * *

Prelate Dr. Leo Haefeli has died in Baden at the

age of 64. The deceased was a priest for more than forty years, and was until recently "Stadtpfarrer" of the town of Baden. He studied Theology at the Universities of Tübingen and Freiburg i. Br. For several years he was at the Papal Bible Institute in Rome, he travelled extensively in the Orient. Dr. Haefeli was for several years Professor of Philosophy, and oriental languages and culture at the University of Zurich. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The late Gotthard Lüscher (Baker) in Wangen a.A. has left an amount of 46,000.—frs. to several charitable institutions. [A.T.S.]

* * *

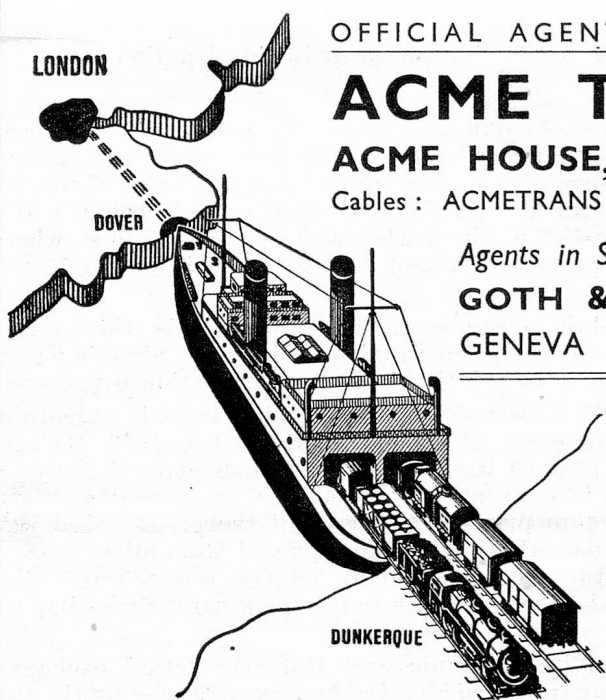
The town of Aarau will celebrate in the autumn of this year, the 700th anniversary of its foundation. The municipal authorities intend to open an exhibition, on the 14th of September, entitled "700 Jahre Aarau." [A.T.S.]

* * *

From Lugano, comes the news of the death of Professor Alberto de Filippis, at the age of 51. The deceased, who was by profession an advocate, was from 1932-1944 mayor of Lugano. He was for many years a member of the Urban Council of that town over which he presided at one time. Professor Filippis was a lecturer at the University of Berne. [A.T.S.]

* * *

The police raided a gambling den in Lausanne and arrested fifteen persons. A considerable amount of money was confiscated. [A.T.S.]



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M. Henri Berthoud, has died in Neuchâtel at the age of 71. The deceased, was from 1916-1941 a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Neuchâtel. He sat in Parliament (National-Council) from 1923-1928, and again from 1941-1947. [A.T.S.]

The date for the next Motor-car Exhibition in Geneva, has been fixed for March 17th-27th, 1949.

[A.T.S.]

Army

During a heavy storm, which occurred at night, a driver of a motor-car ran into a column of soldiers who were returning from night manœuvres. Nine of the soldiers were more or less seriously injured, and had to be removed to the cantonal hospital in Aarau. The accident happened between Aarau-Schönenwerd. [A.T.S.]

General Perez Damera, Chief-of-Staff of the army of Cuba, has arrived in Switzerland to study Swiss army institutions; accompanied by Colonel of Division Dubois, he has visited various military schools.

[A.T.S.]

Economics

The "Financial Times" writes under the headings "Swiss Interest in E.R.P.", "Franco-Swiss Payments" and "Swiss Trade in East Europe," as follows:—

While Switzerland receives no credits under the Marshall Aid plan, the European Recovery Programme has a strong indirect bearing on her economic balance. Swiss economic leaders are fully aware of Switzerland's dependence on the economic recovery of Europe as a whole.

Rather than credits for imports, the need is for payment for exports. The Swiss franc is possibly the hardest currency in the world, but this tends to make marketing extremely difficult. The sounder the economic situation of Switzerland's trading partners, therefore, the easier will be her foreign trade.

The French Swiss payments agreement has been renewed. The payment system as established on March 1st, 1948, has just been extended to November 13th, 1948.

Commercial deals will now continue to be based on an average rate between the official and free price of the French franc as quoted on the Paris market, that is Fr.1.65, whereas financial deals will take place at the free rate of Fr.1.30, a condition that is a disadvantage for Swiss creditors.

In spite of the advantage given to French exporters, the surplus of French exports over imports from Switzerland during the second quarter of 1948 (22 million Swiss francs) does not reach half the amount for the same period of 1947. This is mainly due to the increase of internal French prices.

Moreover, if the balance is favourable to France it is because she only grants imports licences for Swiss goods within the frame of her possibilities which she fixes herself. As long as an increase of French prices is not stopped, the Swiss circles concerned do not expect a considerable improvement in the situation.

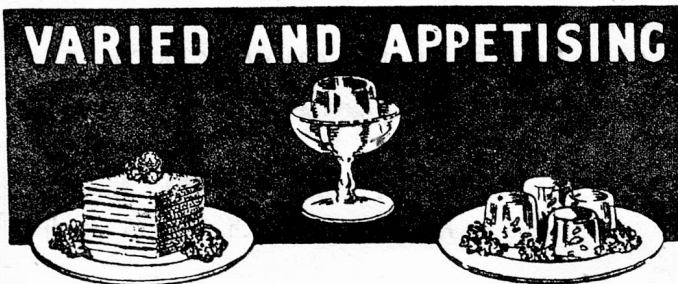
Swiss commercial relations with Eastern Europe are being revised. Talks with Finland are due to start in August. Commercial traffic with the Finns has developed during the last years, imports being in 1947 worth 18.3 million Swiss francs (£1.05 millions), whereas exports to Finland were Frs.13 millions (£.75 millions).

Main obstacle to any increase is the strictly bilateral nature of Finnish trade and Finland's obligation to give priority to its reconstruction programme.

With Poland the chief problem is coal. According to an agreement concluded in August, 1946, Switzerland pledged itself to import Polish coal for five years up to 25 per cent. of its needs, but reserved liberty with regard to prices. In the event the prices asked were not competitive with those offered from other sources, and thus the commercial balance was upset. New negotiations will have to foresee greater Swiss imports of goods other than coal.

With Rumania and Bulgaria actual exchanges are far from reaching the figures envisaged by the 1946 agreements, the difference being Frs.5 millions (£.29 millions) on the average each year for each of these two countries.

This unfavourable development is explained largely by bad crops and informed circles here consider any revival of exchanges will be difficult in the pending negotiations.



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Aus dem Ausweis der Schweiz. Nationalbank vom 31. Juli 1948 geht eine Verringerung der Währungsreserven um rund 110 Millionen Franken hervor. Der Goldbestand nahm als Folge einer Guthabenumwandlung seitens einer ausländischen Notenbank um 97.2 Millionen auf 5,560 Millionen Franken ab. Die Devisen verzeichnen einen Rückgang um 12.9 Millionen auf 124 Millionen Franken. Die Inlandwechsel verminderten sich um 4.7 Millionen auf 149 Millionen Franken, die Wechsel der Darlehenskasse um 0.4 Millionen auf 3.3 Millionen Franken. Dagegen erhöhten sich die Lombardvorschüsse um 1.7 Millionen auf 52 Millionen Franken.

Der Notenumlauf nahm auf den Monatsultimo hin um 86.6 Millionen auf 4,233 Millionen Franken zu. Der Abbau der täglich fälligen Verbindlichkeiten um 196.8 Millionen auf 1,202 Millionen Franken, stets mit der erwähnten Goldabtretung und der Ausweitung des Notenumlaufs im Zusammenhang. Ohne nennenswerte Veränderungen stehen die Verbindlichkeiten auf Zeit mit 337 Millionen Franken zu Buch.

Humanitarian

The Swiss Red Cross has dispatched a large quantity of medicaments to Ludwigshafen (Germany) for the victims of the explosion which occurred some time ago. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A group of twenty Austrian children have arrived at Buchs, they will be distributed amongst Swiss families for a three months stay. [A.T.S.]

* * *

In the issue of the "Birmingham Mail" of August 9th, 1948, appeared under the heading, "Thank you, Mr. Kunzle" the following article:—

"During a recent holiday in Switzerland one of our readers paid a visit to the home at Davos which Mr. Christian Kunzle has placed at the disposal of the Birmingham Education Committee for ailing and delicate children during their period of convalescence.

He says that the parents or guardians of these boys may rest assured that they look fit and well and are being given every possible attention. All were warmly clothed and appeared to be enjoying their stay. A visit was paid to the school-room, where lessons were in progress. This room has a glass veranda overlooking the mountain slopes and is fitted with a desk for each boy. When questioned, the young charges were unani-

mous that they were happy and contented and making good progress. Our correspondent states: "From what I saw during my brief visit to "The Castle on the Hill" I would like to say: Thank you, Mr. Kunzle, for your sympathetic and public spirited action for the loan of your home and staff. To the Birmingham City Councillors who were wise enough to accept the offer I would say: Try and get an increased grant approved for increasing the number of children to 50 boys and 50 girls. And to the parents, do please give these boys a chance when they come home by continuing to give them the care and attention which has been so freely and unselfishly given to them in Switzerland."

—00—

A meeting, under the chairmanship of Mr. A. Berchtold, which took place at Selzach, has unanimously agreed to revive the Passion plays, the last performance took place in 1923. [A.T.S.]

* * *

During the first six months of 1948, altogether 1,731 persons (1947: 1,368) have emigrated overseas.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

The following couple has celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary (60 years): Mr. & Mrs. E. Weidmann-Aeberli, Horgen. [A.T.S.]

* * *

A wrist watch with an alarm (a 25 second "cricket-like chirp") has been produced in Switzerland.

[A.T.S.]

* * *

Over 10,000 boy scouts from 12 nations held, at the beginning of this month, an international rally at Lugano-Trevano.

Monsieur Celio, President of the Swiss Confederation, paid a visit to the camp, where he was received by the camp-leader, National-Councillor A. Janner. He addressed the boy scouts, and later on gave a dinner at the Villa Castagnola to the International Committee of the boy scouts movement. [A.T.S.]

* * *

On the occasion of the 657th anniversary of the Confederation, the town of Berne, in the State of Indiana (U.S.A.) which numbers 2,000 inhabitants and is one of the oldest Swiss Colonies in the United States, sent a telegram of congratulations to the President of the Swiss Confederation, which was replied to by the latter. [A.T.S.]

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Un Américain raconte dans le "Reader's Digest" ce qui l'a le plus frappé en Suisse : Le matin, la literie prend l'air aux fenêtres. Les Suisses dorment bien, car ils ont la conscience tranquille. Chaque année sont imprimés 3,000 livres nouveaux, ce qui en représenterait 95,000 pour l'Amérique. Les Suisses ne sont pas riches, mais ils sont généreux. Je n'ai jamais rencontré de mendiants. Les hôtels suisses, grands ou petits, sont les meilleurs de toute la terre. Les chemins de fer constituent un miracle dans l'Europe dévastée. Seuls les hauts fonctionnaires des chemins de fer voyagent en 1ère classe. Le grand nombre d'appareils téléphoniques est une vraie merveille. A 7 heures, on fait sa toilette matinale, on se brosse les dents et on se peigne les cheveux. Les directeurs d'entreprises, les banquiers, les professeurs sont à leur poste à 8 heures en hiver et à 7 heures en été ; à Paris et à Londres, on ne rencontre ces messieurs qu'à partir de 10 heures. C'est par un travail acharné et constant que les Suisses sont parvenus à un standard de vie élevé . . . Sachons être dignes de pareils éloges !

* * *

Une nouvelle caméra appropriée aux besoins modernes des photographes professionnels, de l'industrie et de l'architecture, a été patentée par un photographe schaffhousois, M. Carl Koch. Elle est fabriquée par la maison "Medic" à Bülach.

* * *

La Priag A.G. de Zurich vient de mettre sur le marché des accessoires pour appareils Roentgen qui apportent une économie de temps et de forces appréciable.

* * *

On vient d'ouvrir à Zurich le garage le plus grand et le plus moderne de la Suisse. Avec ses 2,600m², il présente les dimensions de la Paradeplatz.

* * *

Les avions de la Swissair ont parcouru 4 millions de km. en 1947, alors qu'ils n'en faisaient qu'un million en 1938. Entre ces deux dates, le nombre des passagers a triplé.

* * *

Le second fils du roi Léopold III de Belgique fréquente l'Institut cantonal d'instruction secondaire de Fribourg.

* * *

Le professeur Dr. E. Staehelin, recteur de l'Université de Bâle a été élu membre correspondant de la société de psychiatrie et de neurologie de Vienne.

* * *

La "Ligue gréco-suisse J. G. Eynard," qui a pour but de resserrer les liens culturels et économiques entre les deux pays et les deux peuples, a organisé à Athènes des conférences très fréquentées sur les Suisses philhellènes J. J. Mayer et J. G. Eynard, ainsi que sur les rapports commerciaux entre la Suisse et la Grèce.

* * *

Le premier ministre indien, Pandit Nehru, a parlé de l'amicale sympathie que les Indiens portent à notre pays. C'est avant tout l'antique tradition de liberté de la Suisse qui attire les Hindous, qui durent lutter longtemps et ardemment pour conquérir leur émancipation. La Suisse est de ces pays qui ont su apporter les progrès

culturels et scientifiques de l'occident, sans vouloir par cela tenter de s'imposer.

* * *

La société helvético-polonaise qui vient de se constituer à Bâle a inauguré son activité en présence de deux éminentes personnalités polonaises, le Professeur Dr. E. Herman, directeur de la clinique neurologique de Lodz et le Dr. Z. Askanas, de Varsovie. Le Professeur Herman se fit l'interprète de la sympathie du peuple polonais pour notre pays.

* * *

La Suisse abritera du 18 au 25 août le congrès international de limnologie. Environ 200 hydrobiologues, représentant 40 nations, étudieront au cours de conférences et d'excursions les problèmes actuels de la limnologie et des domaines annexes, tels que l'utilisation et l'amélioration des eaux, la protection des cours d'eau et la pêche.

* * *

Le gouvernement américain a fait appel au Dr. A. Moosbrugger, directeur de l'Institut fédéral des vaccins, à Bâle, pour fonctionner comme expert dans la lutte contre la fièvre aphteuse provenant du Mexique. Les recherches faites en Suisse dans ce domaine ont été poussées très loin.

* * *

Lors du congrès international des médecins-homéopathes, le Dr. Pahud, de Lausanne, a parlé du cadmium et le Dr. Wehrli, de Locarno, de la préparation physico-clinique des patients pour l'homéopathie. Ces conférences ont été très applaudies.

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We issue tickets for all main Air Lines, and arrange passages by all leading Steamship Companies, and will be only too pleased to advise you on all travel problems.

Me redt au Schwyzerdütsch "Wäutsch sowieso, Ticines no' lieber und Romantsch wen's derno emol Digsionär git."