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# The Swiss Observer

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## HOME NEWS

Contrary to anticipations in well-informed circles, the new Liquor Control Bill, *i.e.*, a revision of Article 32bis of our Constitution, was rejected last Sunday by a three to two majority. The votes recorded in this referendum did not display the same intense interest as shown in the many Federal proposals recently submitted, barely 60% of the electors registering their votes on this occasion. We reproduce below the official figures so far published; the names printed in *italics* denote the cantons which have vetoed the Bill:—

|                  | Yes    | No     |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| Zurich           | 51976  | 43571  |
| Berne            | 32606  | 72022  |
| Lucerne          | 5693   | 27574  |
| Uri              | 1227   | 2345   |
| Schwyz           | 2085   | 8164   |
| Obwalden         | 808    | 2574   |
| Nidwalden        | 542    | 2017   |
| Glarus           | 3448   | 3447   |
| Zug              | 1228   | 4082   |
| Fribourg         | 8187   | 17178  |
| Solothurn        | 5055   | 19427  |
| Basel-Stadt      | 12556  | 6126   |
| Basel-Land       | 4143   | 12138  |
| Schaffhausen     | 5380   | 4542   |
| Appenzell A.-Rh. | 4981   | 5273   |
| Appenzell L.-Rh. | 1145   | 1037   |
| St. Gall         | 24219  | 30018  |
| Graubünden       | 10357  | 5750   |
| Aargau           | 16325  | 35044  |
| Thurgau          | 13664  | 11239  |
| Ticino           | 6525   | 3097   |
| Vaud             | 18549  | 22926  |
| Valais           | 5424   | 5012   |
| Neuchâtel        | 10926  | 5476   |
| Geneva           | 9837   | 6117   |
| Total            | 246836 | 356106 |

It will be noticed that practically all the Catholic cantons have rejected the Bill, headed by Lucerne, which exhibits five to one against: Fribourg, the home of Federal Councillor Misy, himself a Catholic, has shown very little sympathy for the untiring efforts of its distinguished citizen, who has worked so hard to bring about this most necessary reform. In all the cantons the farmers and peasants seem to have made a definite stand against the control and reduction of individual liquor distilling.

The result of the voting is considered as forming a red-letter day in the social and economic development of Switzerland; it will considerably retard, and for the present nullify, the initiation of certain social measures (old-age pensions, invalidity insurance, etc.) for which it was hoped the revenue under this liquor bill would supply the much-needed funds. In Government circles it is recognised that the verdict of the people is also meant to be a protest against the creation of new monopolies, increase in State officials and generally against centralisation in Berne of State affairs tending to curtail cantonal and municipal privileges and self-government.

Professor Georg Lasius, the doyen of the Zurich Polytechnicum, is relinquishing his post at the close of the summer term; he is 88 and has, since the year 1867, been lecturing on architecture.

Following a collision between a heavy military lorry and a local steam engine, the latter became detached from its goods train and was precipitated into the river Maggia, near Cevio; the four railway men who happened to be travelling on the locomotive were drowned.

Since the beginning of this month new post-cards have been issued in Switzerland; in the left corner are printed vignettes representing village scenes and other picturesque spots of our country.

The Corpus Christi festivities in Fribourg were marred by a serious mishap; part of the ceremony was accompanied by firing from an old cannon, and whilst gunner Joseph Folli was standing in front of it, the charge went off and blew him to pieces.

The Castle Restaurant in the Eaux-Vives park in Geneva was partly destroyed by fire, which broke out early last Sunday morning.

The Grisons Grosse Rat has expressed itself in favour of admitting the traffic of motor-cars on some of the cantonal roads; the Julier route will probably be thrown open at an early date.

In Zurich the official proposal of the Grosse Rat, gradually reducing the salaries of the municipal employees, such reduction not to exceed Frs. 1,700, was endorsed by a considerable majority of the voters; the annual saving thereby effected will amount to about 2½ million francs.

In the canton of Solothurn the electorate rejected a proposal to regulate apprenticeship; whilst the town pronounced itself in favour of the suggested construction of a crematorium.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

### Scotland and Switzerland.

Many of my readers who have visited Scotland will, no doubt, have noticed a number of things which gave them a "homely" feeling. Not only are there a great many words and expressions in the language which are almost pure "Schwyzerdütsch," but, in the villages off the beaten track, the tourist comes across many customs which have a familiar Swiss note about them. Many reasons can, of course, be given for this similarity of language and customs. Scotland is a hilly country like our Jura. The soil is poor, and people work hard to wrest their living from Mother Earth, just as in Switzerland. As to the language, a lot of expressions have been exchanged between the two nations at the time when Scottish and Swiss soldiers served under the French kings. Have we not, dating probably from that time, some of the Scottish songs among our "Männerchorlieder"?

I was, therefore, greatly interested to come across a splendid article, entitled "The Delight and Charm of Switzerland"—another Scotland more richly endowed by Nature—which appeared in the *Evening Telegraph and Post*, Dundee, 23rd May. The writer of the article, Mr. Garnet D. Wilson, deals chiefly with "lovely Lucerne," and I will quote what he writes about "The Spirit of Switzerland":—

The spirit of Switzerland, like that of Scotland, has always been fiercely national. The history of the 22 cantons and their gradual, and final, complete confederation reveals a single-minded, self-determinative bent. Switzerland for the Swiss, a state of unchallengeable neutrality. Woe to the invader penned in these lone valleys and mountain fastnesses.

Like the Scot, the Swiss has risen, after centuries of travail, to an exact estimation of his own national worth. He works hard and determinedly to snatch profit out of life and shape his ventures to his own satisfaction. It is thus he propels his little world towards material progress.

### And "The Spirit of Sycophants."

I should be shirking my duty towards my readers were I to withhold the following, which appears in the *Saturday Review*, May 26th:—

As an Englishman living in Geneva, I feel it to be in the general interest to bring the following facts to your notice.

The Geneva tennis club organizes every year an international tennis tournament, all the events of which, with the exception of one or two reserved exclusively for Swiss players, are open to all comers. This year the tournament began on May 14th.

Despite the fact that this tournament is advertised as international, by a ruling of the committee of the club, no person of Austrian, German or Hungarian nationality can take part in it, and this although Switzerland was not only a neutral country throughout the war, but has always based her whole foreign policy, and, indeed, the whole conception of her existence as a State, on her strict neutrality.


Doubtless the Swiss hotel-keepers and the host of other persons whose sole means of existence in this town is the fleecing of the unsuspecting foreigner, have concluded that the present rates of exchange will prevent the nationals of any country which fought against the Allies during the war from paying a visit to Geneva. Should they still, however, have the temerity to do so, they will discover that the neutrality of Switzerland, when no question of fighting is involved, is not extended to their nation.

It is happenings like this which "drive the hot blood of shame into our cheeks"—at least, I hope so. It may be that the Geneva Tennis Club is composed of Foreigners. Let us hope so. If not, I should like to know whether any of its members belong to any other Societies, and to which? Geneva readers, please explain.

### Alpine Sport.

*Morning Post* (24th May):—

A course of instruction in mountaineering, both for beginners and advanced climbers, will be given in English from July 25th to August 4th at Klosters, Switzerland, under the direction of the Swiss Alpine Club. The course, the first of its kind, will be followed by eight days of actual climbing.



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### War Effects on Switzerland.

If it is true very often that the looker-on sees most of the game, it is also true, although in a lesser degree, I think, that as the *Journal of Commerce*, of Liverpool (May 28th) puts it, "Spectators feel most":—

When the history of these times comes to be written, the feature which will inevitably stand out most prominently will be the extent to which those countries which were not concerned in the late war are nevertheless considerable sufferers by it. Our own troubles are bad enough in all conscience, but those of Switzerland are out of all proportion greater than ours. Resembling England in that she is anything but self-supporting, Switzerland has the added disadvantage that she must import practically all the raw materials which her workpeople convert into manufactured articles of many and varied designs. For these, of course, she must pay heavily, and, on the other hand, as her former customers have a depreciated currency, and Switzerland has a more or less normal one, she has to look elsewhere for remunerative markets. To what extent the Swiss have succeeded in this direction may be approximately judged by the number of Swiss-made watches in use in England and the United States of America, and in the increased consumption here of Swiss chocolate and condensed milk. Switzerland has had her troubles, but early in the struggle she realised, if, indeed, it had not already become apparent, that the panacea for such ills is hard work.

### New Dutch-Swiss Route.

*The Times* (29th May):—

The normal line of communication between Holland and Switzerland, which was formerly for the most part through Germany, has been interrupted since the occupation of the Ruhr, and travellers have made the journey through France and Belgium. In order to recover their share of international traffic from Holland to the south-east, which is of considerable importance, the German authorities have now organized a new express train service from Holland to Basle, via Osnabrück, Münster, Hagen and Frankfurt. Fast through trains are to be run on the new route, which can easily compete with the French route. The service will start on June 1st.

### Germany and Swiss Mortgagees.

*The Financial News* (30th May):—

The Berlin correspondent of the Exchange Telegraph Co. writes:—

Germany has concluded a new agreement with Switzerland, protecting the interests of Swiss holders of gold mortgages.

The agreement of December, 1920, broke down, owing to the inability of the German mortgagees to meet the reduced liabilities then contracted for.

The mortgages dealt with have a total value of 125,000,000 gold marks.

### Dr. A. Keller, of Zurich, in America.

*Christian World* (May 24th):—

To seek the aid and co-operation of the American Churches in sustaining the Protestant Churches of Continental Europe—some of whom are in peril of collapse as an aftermath of the war—Dr. Adolph Keller, of Zurich, is visiting the United States. He is secretary of the Central Bureau for the relief of the Protestant Churches. His itinerary will take him to the Pacific Coast, and will include a brief visit to some of the Church leaders in Canada. Already it looks as if this idea of a central agency for European Protestantism had caught the imagination of people over in America.

I wish this Mission success. Not because I am a Protestant, but because I welcome any and every endeavour which has for its object the forming of yet one more link in the chain of international brotherhood.

**La Fête de la Jeunesse et de la Joie.**

The Times (May 26th):—  
Recently at Geneva M. Jaques-Dalroze explained to a large audience the scheme of the "Fête de la Jeunesse et de la Joie" which is to be given at Geneva during the summer. The choral society, "La Lyre de Carouge," has undertaken the production, in celebration of its fiftieth anniversary, with the financial and artistic assistance of a large number of admirers of M. Dalroze's work. The performance will take place in the Great Hall of the Electoral Building. An immense stage, on which 600 to 800 participants can move with ease, will be connected by broad staircases with a lower stage for the orchestra and accompanying choir. There will be no scenery, and the action will take place against a background of grey draperies. An amphitheatre for the spectators is to fill the great nave of the edifice, and surrounding gangways will be kept open to permit the access of processions to the stage.

The performance is a celebration of the joys of summer, the labours of town and country, the natural beauties of Switzerland, its mountains, plains and lakes. One of its features is the symbolic representation by massed actors of the traditional actions and gestures involved in religion, recreation and labour of many kinds, while exponents of rhythmic music express the inner life of "a proud people clinging to its independence; simple, loving folk who work gladly for the welfare of all, strong one another and helping one another." This apotheosis of altruism and solidarity is led up to through the tragedies, doubts and hesitations of transitional epochs. The first act represents the hard, resigned workaday life of a people without peace, confidence, or joy; the second is a glorification of holiday time of the fertility of the earth and the wonders of the Alpine valleys in summer; the third represents a national festival of great splendour, ending in saturnalia and in disillusionment. Finally, after almost complete darkness, rise up those who proclaim that life is only sure and sweet to him who loves his country above himself. As M. Debarge has suggested in "La Semaine Littéraire," M. Dalroze is aiming, with the aid of his great artistic ability, at uniting the Swiss nation in a kind of civic cult, joining hearts in one impulse of patriotism, solidarity, and affection.

**EXTRACTS FROM SWISS PAPERS.**

**A la mémoire de Jean-Antoine Gautier.** — En 1921, la Société d'histoire et d'archéologie avait obtenu du Conseil administratif que le nom de Jean-Antoine Gautier soit donné à une rue de notre ville.

Cet hommage mérité au premier des historiens genevois est maintenant réalisé: la rue du Buët et le chemin des Clos, aux Pâquis, portent actuellement le nom de Jean-Antoine Gautier, en face des terrains de la S. d. N. et jusqu'au quai du Léman.

Le comité de la Société d'histoire estime toutefois que cela n'est pas suffisant; beaucoup de nos concitoyens n'ont pas compris le sens de cette appellation; la mémoire de Jean-Antoine Gautier et son oeuvre méritent d'être rappelées d'une façon plus claire encore.

Une plaque explicative placée sous le nom de la rue doit dire quels sont les titres de Jean-Antoine Gautier à la reconnaissance de ses concitoyens.

Toutefois la Société d'histoire ne peut pas détourner ses modestes revenus de leur objet naturel qui sont ses publications: il lui faut trouver des ressources extraordinaires pour mener à bien ce dessein et faire face à la dépense qui en résultera, 150 à 200 francs.

Le Comité de la Société d'histoire s'adresse donc à toutes les personnes susceptibles de s'intéresser à ce projet: il les prie d'envoyer à leur trésorier les dons et les contributions, si modestes qu'elles soient.

Les dons peuvent être versés au trésorier de la Société d'histoire, M. W. Guex, 1, rue des Granges, ou au compte de chèques postaux de la Société I. 290, en mentionnant la destination: "Inscription commémorative Jean-Antoine Gautier."

(La Tribune de Genève.)

**L'Autriche rend à Genève les canons qu'elle lui avait emportés.** — Profitant, l'année dernière, de la présence à Genève de Mgr. Seipel, chancelier d'Autriche, le Conseil d'Etat avait demandé que le gouvernement autrichien voulût bien nous restituer deux canons "Frères" de ceux qui sont sous l'arsenal et qui avaient été saisis par l'Autriche à la suite des événements de 1813.

Ces canons, qui avaient été placés dans un musée, à Vienne, sont arrivés en gare de Cornavin.

Ils avaient été fondus en 1725, à la Couloivre-nière. C'est au commencement de l'année 1814 que Bubna, ayant délivré Genève, marcha sur la Savoie en emportant deux batteries de six pièces appartenant à l'artillerie genevoise. Battu à Saint-Julien, obligé de battre en retraite, Bubna repartit pour Vienne. Les canons genevois firent comme lui. Un officier de la Garde nationale, le colonel Pinon, suivit les pièces d'artillerie et arriva en même temps qu'elles à Vienne. Il en demanda la restitution à l'empereur François II qui, sur douze canons, en rendit six seulement. Trois d'entre eux furent convertis en cloches. Les trois autres sont sous l'ancien arsenal. Et voici que deux autres, après un siècle d'attente, nous sont enfin rendus. Il ne faut jamais désespérer. L'une de ces pièces porte l'inscription: "Martin Emery," l'autre: "Fondu à Genève par Georges Munch, de Dresde, 1725." Elles mesurent trois mètres deux de longueur.

Les deux canons, partis il y a quelques jours de Vienne, sont arrivés, sur un wagon découvert, par Buchs et Zurich. Généreuses follement, les douanes suisses ont bien voulu admettre ces "marchandises" en franchise. La Ville de Genève leur en sera reconnaissante.

Ils sont privés de leurs affûts, ces nouveaux vieux canons. Néanmoins, ils pèsent 1200 kilo: chacun.

Garés pour quelque temps, en Pétite-Vitesse, ils attendent que le Conseil d'Etat les fasse conduire: sous l'Arsenal où ils rejoindront leurs compagnons d'il y a cent ans. Il se peut qu'à cette occasion — probablement le 1er juin — une manifestation solennelle ait lieu. (La Suisse.)

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**Nicht-Thurgauisch.** — In Diessenhofen besteht ein Legat, das seinerzeit Dr. Koch gestiftet hat und der Ausrichtung von Stipendien an Studierende aus Diessenhofen dient. Diese Stipendien können nun aber bis auf weiteres nicht ausgericht werden, weil die Bank, bei welcher die Obligationen des Legates angelegt sind — es ist die: die Banque foncière du Jura in Basel und nicht eine thurgauische Bank — bis 1927 den Zinsendienst eingestellt hat. (Winterthurer Volksblatt.)

**FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.**

An offer has been made by the Schweizerische Lebensversicherungs- und Rentenanstalt in Zurich to the Federal Council, in the terms of which the insurance company propose to make a loan to the State of Frs. 75,000,000 for the Federal Railways. The Federal Council have accepted the offer, and as no objection is likely on the part of the Federal Railways authorities, it may be considered to be a settled transaction. The loan will be taken over at 85%, and the interest will be at the rate of 3½%. The term for redemption is 20 years. The money will thus be somewhat cheaper obtained than was the recent 4% loan. The actual rate of interest paid by the State will be 4.67%, as against 4.77% for the recent issue. The difference is accounted for, of course, by the fact that in the case of the insurance company's loan there will be no expenses, such as are incurred in the case of a public issue, where commission, advertising, preparation of bonds and the like always contribute a certain percentage to the eventual cost of the money. There will be no issue of this new loan in the public market. The Company will reckon the security at par in their balance sheet, a move which is entirely justified in the case of a life insurance concern, where the corresponding liabilities are spread over a long period of years. On the other hand, the Company will have the advantage that the holding of this loan will compensate them for other holdings which have depreciated in value owing to exchange fluctuations.

With a view to converting or redeeming their 4% loan which is shortly due, the Zurich municipal authorities are proposing to raise a new 4½% loan of Frs. 15,000,000. It is also proposed, when the time comes, to issue Frs. 12,000,000 in new Treasury Bonds to replace the 6% issues falling due for repayment in 1923 and 1924.

The trade returns for the first quarter of the present year show a reduction on the figures of the previous quarter, both in the case of exports and of imports, and shared alike by the figures of value and by the figures for volume. Imports amounted to a value of Frs. 531 million, as compared with Frs. 559 million in the last quarter of 1922, while exports amounted to Frs. 406 million, as compared with Frs. 442 million.

The Bernina Railway closed the year 1922 with a debit balance of Frs. 4,235,260. This compares with a deficit of Frs. 4,002,997 at the close of the preceding year. The capital is Frs. 6,000,000, and the shareholders will again have to forego any dividend distribution.

**STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.**

| BONDS.                         |     | May 29  | June 5  |
|--------------------------------|-----|---------|---------|
| Swiss Confederation 3% 1903    | ... | 78.00%  | 78.65%  |
| Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5% | ... | 101.25% | 101.07% |
| Federal Railways A-K 3½%       | ... | 81.45%  | 81.12%  |
| Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921    | ... | 103.75% | 103.50% |
| Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...     | ... | 73.00%  | 73.00%  |
| Zurich (Stadt) 4% 1909         | ... | 99.00%  | 99.00%  |

| SHARES.                            |     | Nom. | May 29 | June 5 |
|------------------------------------|-----|------|--------|--------|
| Swiss Bank Corporation             | ... | 500  | 645    | 641    |
| Crédit Suisse                      | ... | 500  | 675    | 677    |
| Union de Banques Suisses           | ... | 500  | 545    | 539    |
| Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz   | ... | 1000 | 3075   | 3135   |
| Société pour l'Industrie Chimique  | ... | 1000 | 2122   | 2020   |
| C. F. Bally S.A.                   | ... | 1000 | 1050   | 1037   |
| Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon      | ... | 500  | 676    | 700    |
| Entreprises Sulzer                 | ... | 1000 | 675    | 687    |
| S.A. Brown Boveri (new)            | ... | 500  | 348    | 342    |
| Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co. | ... | 200  | 183    | 181    |
| Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler | ... | 100  | 110    | 113    |
| Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman  | ... | 500  | 490    | 475    |

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**Holiday Party to Switzerland.**

Several readers have suggested to us to arrange a trip to Switzerland on similar lines to the Basle Fair Party last April, when a good many joined in order to profit by the reduced price of the ticket and the special travelling facilities. We have now fixed Saturday, July 21st, for this special party to leave, via the Ostend-Brussels route, with an option of the return journey being made via Laon-Calais or Paris. The price of the return ticket will include five days' inclusive hotel accommodation at a delightful spot on the Lake of Lucerne. Full particulars will appear in our next issue, but intending participants should make application at once, as the party is strictly limited.

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