

**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:** - (1962)  
**Heft:** 1422

**Artikel:** The "Swiss Oberserver" thirty years ago  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695012>

### **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:** 01.04.2025

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

## THE "SWISS OBSERVER" THIRTY YEARS AGO

On 3rd December the 12th Anniversary Issue of the "Swiss Observer" appeared. On that occasion, "Kyburg" wrote an appeal, "Twelve Years Swiss Observer and Why". In it he quoted Lord Palmerston's words that if Switzerland did not exist it would have to be invented, and that the same thing applied to the Colony's paper. He said that with the birth of the S.O. a great void had been filled and that the Colony should be grateful. "But what of our readers?" he asked, "They, of course, pay a very small subscription which provides them with a weekly tonic for a whole year. Good value, to be sure, but why don't they, in their turn, *do something* for the Swiss Observer? Why do they not write articles for publication, letters to the Editor, etc." The writer goes on suggesting to the readers to find more subscribers as a birthday gift to the S.O.

In the same issue a report in French, covering six columns of the at that time much larger paper, was published on the 76th Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club. It gave detailed lists of the many guests and members present, and it was signed "J.Z.". The Editor lingered over that report rather more than is her custom, for on that occasion she herself attended the Banquet as the guest of Mr. Gustave Jenne many still remember so well. She has reason to be grateful, for at the same table she met her husband-to-be.

But back to the S.O. of 3rd December 1932. Monsieur Paravicini, the Swiss Minister, had a letter published which he had written to the "Daily Express" in which he rectified the statements, "Switzerland too rich — choking trade with gold". Also in that issue appeared a report on "Le Grand Bal des 22 Cantons" of the Union Helvetia.

On 10th December a decree by the Federal Council was reported according to which all Communists were to be dismissed from the Civil Service by the end of the year unless they left the party. It was announced that in future no more Communists would be employed in any Government Office.

It was reported that Dr. Armin Daeniker (our country's present Ambassador), who was then in Shanghai, had been appointed Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* in Tokio.

The issue of 17th December brought a report of one of the worst railway accidents, that of a collision of express trains in the Guetsch Tunnel near Lucerne in which nine people were killed, amongst them a brother of Mr. F. G. Sommer.

A little poem also appeared on that date called "Boebachter — Swiss Observer". It was the present Editor's first contribution to the S.O. and it seems rather strange that she should have written at that time

"... Zeigt guete Gschmack, Ihr Eidgenosse,  
Helft em Observer unverdrosse!  
Ae vaterländischi Pflicht isch z'schrybe  
Und neu Subscribers haere z'trybe.  
Bald muess ae jede England-Schwyzler  
Durch s'Band weg sy Observer-Bsitzer."

Little did she know that thirty years later she would be responsible for getting The "Swiss Observer" out herself!

On 24th December another annual function was reported which has since been discontinued: The Students' Christmas Dinner and Ball of the Swiss Mercantile Society's College. And again a week later, when a report

appeared on "Old Folks' Christmas Luncheon at the Foyer Suisse". Fifty-two veterans, ladies and gentlemen, were present, and Mr. Stauffer, who reported for the S.O., considered himself a mere youngster amongst them — hardly surprising, seeing how spruce he still is thirty years later!

The last issue of the year ended with the statement that Federal Councillor Motta was retiring after having been President of the Confederation for the fourth time.

**Kettners Restaurant** has no music and is not luxurious . . . but the Food and Wine are superb.



Roast Surrey  
Capon,  
Roast Aylesbury  
Duckling  
Served every day

## ZURICH INSURANCE COMPANY

together with its associates

### THE BEDFORD GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED

and

### THE BEDFORD LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY LIMITED

UNDERTAKE ALL CLASSES  
OF INSURANCE BUSINESS

The funds of the **Zurich** group  
of companies exceed £200,000,000

FAIRFAX HOUSE, FULWOOD PLACE,  
HIGH HOLBORN, LONDON, W.C.1  
Telephone: CHAncery 8833 (20 lines)