

The Swiss seen by a Swiss : "Deutschschweiz v. Suisse Romande" [continued]

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Number of Protestants and Catholics in Switzerland

Of the nearly 5,000,000 population of Switzerland, 2.46 million or 57.6 per cent. are Protestant and 1.75 million or 41.4 per cent. Catholics, according to the last census.

Geneva Car Show

Dr. Kobelt, President of the Swiss Confederation, opening the Geneva Car Show, urged motorists to buy cars that could be used by the army, if mobilised. "It is part of our militia system of 'weapons at home' that not only the soldier but horses and motor-cars must be called up," he said.

Foreign Refugees in Switzerland

The Federal Justice and Police Department reports that there are at present still about 10,000 foreign refugees in Switzerland, the majority of them have received permission to stay in the country.

New "Statute of Agriculture"

The electorate of Switzerland accepted by 480,852 votes to 413,944 a law developing agriculture and protecting agriculturists. With the growing industrialisation of Switzerland, emigration from the land has reached a dangerous level. Since 1850 the proportion of agriculturists has fallen from about 50 per cent. to 18 per cent. of the total population, and it is estimated that nearly 1000 farms are abandoned every year. The new "Statute of Agriculture" provides for the protection of farm products by means of Custom duties and import quotas, as well as by regulating prices on the home market by subsidies derived from Customs duties on foreign agricultural products. Here are detailed results of the voting:—

	Yes.	No.
Zurich	69,353	102,906
Bern	88,926	58,681
Luzern	26,583	23,659
Uri	3,523	2,467
Schwyz	6,419	6,869
Obwalden	2,371	2,087
Nidwalden	2,075	2,057
Glarus	3,282	4,609
Zug	3,124	4,737
Fribourg	22,379	6,366
Solothurn	18,424	14,783
Baselstadt	10,185	18,476
Baselland	10,287	9,672
Schaffhausen	7,038	7,390
Appenzell A. Rh. ...	3,484	7,406
Appenzell I Rh. ...	1,415	1,088
St. Gallen	27,333	36,539
Graubünden	19,353	6,641
Aargau	36,357	36,012
Thurgau	19,360	15,058

Ticino	15,593	4,054
Vaud	38,135	19,915
Valais	23,037	4,045
Neuchâtel	11,849	9,085
Geneve	10,967	9,342

Total 480,852 413,944
63.5% of the electors went to the Poll.

THE SWISS SEEN BY A SWISS

(Continued from last issue)

"Deutschschweiz v. Suisse Romande"

When I was at school, I used to get beaten up regularly once a month for laughing at my French-speaking friends, who weren't able to utter a single sentence in German, save "Dubisch-tumm." Of course, that didn't alter the point at issue. It is an acknowledged fact that our friends in the "Suisse Romande" take the least possible interest in languages other than their own. By way of contrast, the thing for well-bred northern girls to do is to spend a year in places like Corgemont or Villars. They usually come back after ten months, with a change of hairstyle, and knowing less French than they did before.

A friend once told me that, if he could marry again, he would make sure to choose a "Romande" this time, for the two years of plain food he had already endured were just about as much as he could bear. This statement is rather unjust, and little did he say about his meal always being on the table when he came back from work.

It is said that one dresses very smartly on the shores of Lac Lemman, but it is also said that Zurich is a very fashionable town. So we will be prudent and leave it at that.

We will not start to compare qualities, either, for how can you weigh the charm, gaiety and unconsciousness of the ones against the solidity, seriousness and efficiency of the others? Why is it that expressions like "die frache Waltsche" and "ces Suisses Teutons" are in existence? Do you think it is because the "Vaudois" cannot forget a certain day in 1536, when Bernese troops, under the command of Hans-Franz Nageli, occupied the Canton of Vaud and hoisted their flag on Chillon Castle?

And I feel quite sure that the two Federal Inspectors, who ventured to hold an inquest on a black-marketing deal in Bulle, remembered the days of Morgarten, when they were on the point of being stoned by a furious crowd of bearded "Gruyériens."

However, the Bernese troops retired, the Federal Inspectors didn't get stoned, and since the flag of the "Jurassiens" has been officially recognised, everybody should be happy and satisfied.