

# Swiss emigration to Africa

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# Swiss Emigration to Africa.

By A. LÄTT.

## *Introduction.*

Compared with North and South America, Africa has hitherto taken a very small percentage of Swiss emigrants. But who knows whether the situation will not change considerably in the future, if restrictions continue to be imposed on immigration by some of the American countries, whilst on the other hand Africa's fertile lands may be thrown open to white settlers and her mineral treasures unearthed by the digger? Even those tropical regions which earned the Black Continent a bad name as the "White Man's Grave", have lost much of their terror, since the progress of tropical medicine has found new means of protection against many of the dreaded infectious diseases and against other perils of the wilds. New means of communication are spreading in all directions. Better farming methods have been developed, and industrialisation is beginning, in its turn, to help raising the standard of living of the native population. In the same measure as man is conquering nature and more and more adapting himself to her laws, he is given new means of directing and increasing her creative powers. Is not Africa beckoning to her sister Europe for help and guidance in her struggle towards that fuller civilisation which, with all nature's lavish gifts, she has not been able to realize in the past? It needs no visionary to foresee that the opening-up of Africa will be accomplished according to principles differing from those we have seen in operation in America and Australia. Africa will remain essentially the home of the natives, however great the number of white immigrants may become in the North and in the South. And as it is a land of infinite variety, there will never be any such welding-together of the various elements into one uniform nation as we have witnessed in the making of America. The white settlers, as Dr. FRITZ JAEGER points out, will always be a small minority and often have to live in isolation <sup>1</sup>.

For centuries the separation of races seemed like an order willed by God and Man. Behind the broad Mediterranean Sea there was like a second line of defence a belt of very warlike Mo-

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<sup>1</sup> Dr. *Fritz Jaeger*, Basel: Siedlungsmöglichkeiten der weißen Rasse in den Tropen, Basel 1944.

hammedan nations, the fanatical Moors of Morocco, the pirates of Barbary, the Turks and the Arabs. And behind them lay that still broader belt of the Atlas Mountains and the immense desert region of the Sahara. No wonder, therefore, the few white settlers keenly felt and still feel their isolation and their numerical inferiority amidst the teeming millions of negroes.

### *Military and Civilian Emigration.*

In Africa there was little or no demand for that military emigration of the Swiss which in most European countries would open the way for their civilian settlements. Merely a handful of mercenary adventurers can be traced in northern Africa in the first 500 years of our history. Most of them were soldiers in the Spanish or Portuguese armies or in the service of Venice or France. Several of them confessed that in going there they were chiefly challenged by the contrasts existing between their mountain home and sunny Africa. Love of adventure, the old mercenary spirit, fear of punishment for wrongdoing, or merely a desperate resolution after some personal tragedy have for the last 100 years driven some 50,000 Swiss to take service in the well-known French Foreign Legion. This celebrated corps had been founded in 1831 for the express purpose of providing employment for those professional soldiers who had served in the Swiss Guards and other regiments which were disbanded on the outbreak of the July Revolution. Their deeds are recorded in many "citations à l'ordre du jour de l'Armée". Though distinctions for bravery were more numerous than in any other body of troops, and though a good many of the men rose to the ranks of non-commissioned officers and subalterns, really brilliant careers inside the corps were rare. Notable exceptions were those of Colonel STOFFEL of Arbon, first commander of the Legion, and Colonel BONAVENTUR MEYER of Olten. The latter's career—as a colonel both in the French and Swiss armies—has had a parallel in our days. ALBERT DE TSCHARNER, who before the second World War had been a colonel in the Legion, has since served his own country in the same rank during the War. As the heroic Captain JUNOD told Major DE VALLIÈRE<sup>2</sup>, author of "Honneur et Fidélité", "the Swiss in the Legion are proud of being the last handful of men who, down there in the African wastes, have remained faithful to a traditional service, which in its heyday contributed so much to the military glory of Switzerland".

<sup>2</sup> *Paul de Vallière: Honneur et Fidélité, Lausanne 1940.*

The young Swiss emigrant of to-day will no longer proffer his services as a soldier in foreign uniform. But you will meet him all over the world as a clerk, book-keeper and correspondent, hotel porter or waiter. He usually is a good linguist, a hard worker, honest, reliable, and adaptable to circumstances. For some 60 years an uninterrupted stream of young men has flowed down from Switzerland to North Africa and Egypt, and further afield to British and Portuguese colonies, to the Belgian Congo and French Equatorial Africa. We do not hesitate to say that they have long fared best under British rule, where they are well treated, paid in good money, and usually given a chance which they know how to make good use of. An ever increasing number every year has found work as agents of Swiss firms, too, and in trading stations all over the Continent.

When off duty, they like to go to their Swiss Club, where boss and clerk, old and young, rich and poor meet in democratic fellowship, listening in to the news from home, seeing Swiss films, attending lectures and concerts, or discussing the affairs of the colony and politics at home. Wherever possible, they will have meals together and wind up the meeting with a game of "Jass", a dance, a song, and a yodel. If you want to meet really "everybody", go there on the night of the 1st of August, the Swiss National Day, or at Easter and Christmas. Every colony of some importance has its Swiss House with library, bar, assembly rooms, and rifle-range. But only the numerous and wealthy communities, such as the colonies of Alexandria and Cairo, can afford to have also their own Swiss schools and churches, all financed by voluntary contributions of the members. It certainly is not an easy task to run a Swiss school in a country like Egypt, where every pupil must know Arab and English besides two or three of the national languages of Switzerland. But they manage it, and in many cases admirably well.

### *Egypt.*

Here is a leaf from the history of the Swiss Society of Alexandria, the most numerous and one of the oldest in Africa, written by WALTER BOSSHARD, the well-known reporter of the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung"<sup>3</sup>:

"Among the many Swiss colonies abroad which I got to know Alexandria holds a place quite by itself. Nowhere else will you meet with more ardent Swiss patriotism and greater loyalty to-

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<sup>3</sup> Schweizer Echo, Januar 1943, p. 31.

wards the country they live in. And I don't know who could surpass them in generosity whenever there is an appeal for local or national charities or for the support of humanitarian institutions. In this the 700 members of the Society merely follow a tradition inspired by 85 years of friendship, habit, and patriotism. These three pillars of the Society are further strengthened by Swiss sports and social and other institutions. There is also the Swiss Club, with its stately home, the Swiss House. In addition to assembly rooms it offers tennis courts, restaurant rooms, skittles, rifle-range, etc. Next to it stands the Swiss School with Kindergarten, primary and secondary classes conducted by five principal and five assistant teachers. There are at present (1943) about 75 pupils of Swiss nationality. The school building, which was erected soon after the 1st World War, was fully paid off several years ago. The Swiss Benevolent Society, with about 150 paying members, is a focus of social service in the colony. The Ladies' Society Helvetia works more in the international field, running amongst others the International Home for Women. The Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Groupe d'Alexandrie, with some 50 members, is a centre of intellectual activity. For sports there are the Yachting Club, dating from 1911, and the recently founded Gymnastic Society. The school and the societies are greatly indebted to the munificence and devotion of members such as the late M. JANOT from Neuchâtel, L. C. ALLEMANN from Chur, ALFRED REINHART from Winterthur, and FRITZ ALLEMANN, who is happily still with us at Kusnacht on the Lake of Zurich.

"More than 75% of the Swiss in Alexandria speak German as their mother tongue. They are mostly engaged in the cotton trade and the textile industry. The rest are technicians, bankers and bank clerks, professors, doctors, and lawyers. JEAN LANDERT of Eglisau is the owner of a remarkable enterprise, the model farm of Mandara, with about 500 cows, horses, and sheep. The colony's own newspaper, 'Le Journal Suisse d'Égypte et du Proche Orient', has for 20 years been supplied free of charge to every Swiss in Egypt and the Middle East, thanks to the generosity of some of the wealthier members and their firms. Week by week Professor J. R. FIECHTER provides a voluminous fare of news from home. Special numbers are published on August 1st, at Christmas and Easter."

This colony has long been recognized as the richest and most prosperous Swiss community abroad. It is also one of the most generous whenever there is an appeal for help and funds by such deserving works as the Red Cross, both Swiss and international, charities at home and abroad. The colony has often arranged

Swiss theatricals (in 1942 Tell, by RENÉ MORAX), Swiss concerts, exhibitions of Swiss paintings, Swiss books, Swiss engineering, etc.

Dr. MARTIN RICKLI, the well-known Zurich geographer, who visited the colony about 20 years ago, writes <sup>4</sup>: "The Swiss have achieved a surprising success in Egypt. You will not find them now engaged in excavations or in politics. But you will, of course, expect to meet them in the hotel business. At Alexandria, Cairo, Helouan, Luxor, Assuan you will be received in Schwyzerdütsch and waited on by those sturdy, thickset porters and attentive waiters, many of them may be sons of alphorn blowers. But the managers, too, are Swiss, first and foremost their great chief Mr. ED. BAEHLER of the Valais, head of the Egyptian Hotels Ltd. Though this is no doubt a profitable business in Egypt, it is by no means the best. There are some first-class Swiss import firms dealing in Geneva watches, St. Gall embroideries, shoes, machines. And there are the Swiss again as chief representatives of leading foreign firms, Egyptian, English, or international. There is a good deal of Swiss capital invested, too, in Egypt, and the mightiest cotton export firms are managed and directed by Swiss, such as ALFRED REINHART, the great philanthropist, and Sulzer Bros., whose machines you see everywhere in Egypt. The White Cross is highly honoured under the Crescent and Star. The Swiss have colonies reminiscent of those of the ancient Greeks inasmuch as they are distributed over the whole world and yet closely united with the mother country. They have proved successful pioneers also in the field of engineering, medicine and law, both the President and the Vice-President of the International Court of Justice (Tribunal mixte), the highest tribunal of the land, being French speaking Swiss. Others have made brilliant careers in the Egyptian civil service."

"But it is pleasant to meet a good many compatriots in more modest positions, too, and to find them true to the old pattern of fidelity, zest, efficiency, and reliability. High up in the torrid South of Egypt, near the temple of Kôm Ombo, a group of Sulzer's men are attending to the mighty pumps they have installed there. These solitary representatives of science are doing a greater service to civilization than so many others who are bragging about culture and are honoured in its name."

"Though the number of Swiss is small compared with other foreign communities, they form a strong and solid body and have developed an active social life in their club houses, at some of the hotels managed by them, and at GROPPI'S Restaurant and Tea

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<sup>4</sup> *Martin Rickli: Von den Pyrenäen zum Nil, Bern 1926.*

House. Here men of the four tribes are all one, indeed, not only on the first of August. And even guests from home come under the irresistible spell of that mutual personal interest and kindness which seems to unite all the Confederates here.”

When Giuseppe Motta, President of the Confederation in 1937, paid a brief visit to the colonies of Alexandria and Cairo during a cruise in the Eastern Mediterranean, he thanked them warmly for their fidelity to and their untiring work for the old country, and congratulated them on the proud and honoured position they had been able to secure among so many tribes and nations.

Even before that, in connection with his visit to Switzerland in 1930, King Fuad I had complimented his Swiss protégés, and the present king has even visited them in their schools, club houses, on their sport grounds, and at their rifle-ranges. Of the latter they are particularly proud. Before the battle of El Alamein, when Egypt was full of troops, there were hotly contested rifle matches between these sons of the British Empire and the sons of William Tell.—We shall not say who won.

The colony is justly proud of its history and of the men who distinguished themselves in the service of Egypt. Swiss soldiers of the regiments DE ROLL and DE WATTEVILLE, in the British service, fought against the French and Turks in 1798, 1801, and 1807. FERDINAND PERRIER of Fribourg was A.D.C. to IBRAHIM PASHA, the conqueror of Syria. Better and more lasting fame was achieved by scientists and explorers, such as J. L. BURCKHARDT of Basle († 1817) “IBRAHIM PASHA”, the painters GLEYRE and GIRARDET, the doctors HESS Bey in Cairo, J. SCHIESS Bey in Alexandria—where he combined the functions of Chief Physician of the Municipal Hospital with that of a vice-president of the town council. About two dozen professors held appointments in Egypt’s leading colleges and in various departments of the University and the Polytechnical Institute, of which for about 10 years Professor CHARLES ANDREAE, former Rector of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, was Headmaster. At the present moment Dr. R. BURNAND directs the State Sanatorium of Helouan.

### *Algeria, Tunisia, Morocco.*

Farmers are the most desirable immigrants in every new country. But they will not emigrate as long as they can make a decent living in the old country. Pioneers, therefore, rarely came from the landed class. On the contrary, those farmers and peasants only would leave Switzerland who were unable to make a living here for themselves and their families. If they achieved success abroad

they had to pay for it with long years of hard work. So they became deeply rooted in the new soil they had dug up, and they would never think of going back, however much they continued to cherish the memory of the old country. But at all times they formed a small percentage of our emigration to Africa. The majority came from other classes, artisans, factory hands, young business men, mechanics, technicians, teachers, nurses, all desirous of enlarging their experience, of seeing a bit of the world, but also with a wish to return later, and to take up a post which was most likely being kept open for them. The idea of the "Wanderjahre", which was an age-long tradition with artisans and business men in many countries, was common in Switzerland, too, in many professions, including the clergy and schoolmasters.

The first and most important attempt at founding Swiss agricultural colonies in Africa was made in Algeria immediately after the conquest of that country by the French. Enthusiastic descriptions of the vast possibilities of the beautiful country, which had once been the granary of the Roman Empire, and only needed the touch of the European farmer to spring again into exuberance, had spread from the French press into Swiss papers and tempted a small number of farmers, chiefly from the cantons of Fribourg, Valais, and Berne (Jura) to go to Algeria in the wake of French, Spanish, Italian, and German colonists. From a report of the Swiss consulate at Le Havre in 1834 it appears that a number of families originally destined for emigration to America had been induced to go to Algeria instead. The report concludes, however, that "most of them no longer exist" <sup>5</sup>. The Swiss consulate at Marseilles registered an increasing number of passports for Algeria almost at the same time: 76 in 1838, 173 in 1840, and 392 in 1842. The emigrants are described as "chiefly married men, mostly Ticinesi, masons, builders, stucco workers". Since 1840 XAVIER STOCKMAR <sup>6</sup>, who was to play an important part in Bernese politics, had been in correspondence with Marshal SOULT <sup>6</sup> and Minister THIERS with a view to founding a Swiss colony in the province of Bône, near La Calle or Edough. The project seems to have come to nothing, though the French Government offered considerable financial facilities in various forms. STOCKMAR dreamt of a new province, which he called Hippone, and which should later be named Colonie Helvétique. He reckoned that 25 years later it would have a population of 100,000. The "Conseil colonial" should get the land free and in addition a loan of Fr. 3,000,000 for 25 years. The

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<sup>5</sup> *L. Karrer*: Das Schweiz. Auswanderungswesen, Bern 1886, p. 48.

<sup>6</sup> *Actes de la Société jurassienne d'émulation*, 2<sup>e</sup> série, vol. 7, p. 150 ff., 1899.



colonists were to pay a small purchase price and an annual rent for interest and amortisation. Even better terms were offered in 1842 in what Consul SCHALLER at Algiers described as "colonisation civile". Colonists were to get the land absolutely free, the journey from the old home in Switzerland to the new settlement was paid by the French government, who likewise supplied building material estimated at Fr. 600.— agricultural implements, trees, seeds, and the use of two oxen from the stables of the military administration for the first breaking of the land. Repeatedly we hear of gifts of cattle to the settlers,—cattle which had been captured by the French during their raids into the territory of unruly native tribes. But the civilian colonization proved no more successful than the even more expensive military colonization practised by General BUGEAUD. In 18 years less than 9,000 white settlers had come of the 100,000 STOCKMAR had reckoned with<sup>7</sup>. They were a motley crowd: French, Spanish, Italian, and only a few Swiss. They were little used to the hard work of farming under climatic conditions so different from what they had known in Europe. In a letter of January 25, 1845, the Swiss Consul in Algiers warns intending emigrants that "the first year will be very hard and progress very slow. What is most essential is strong character and perseverance". He mentions in particular 20 families from Argovia whom he found in a sad plight. Several other families had returned to Switzerland "more miserable than they had been before". In a report of the Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft for 1845 we find the following summing up of the situation: "On the whole the lot of Swiss farmers in Algeria has been unfavourable, the majority having fallen victims to illness and misery."

As late as 1849 the French chief medical officer, Dr. BOUDIN, calculated the mortality in some of the settlements at 50% for Europeans, and more than 50% for their children<sup>8</sup>. In spite of these discouraging figures the Swiss consul in Marseilles, who had repeatedly published warnings in 1850 and 1851, had to report the arrival of "numerous destitute families en route to Algiers"<sup>9</sup>. In the same year the Swiss Legation in Paris reported that several Swiss families had failed to meet their obligations towards the colonisation authorities, but had "in charity" been sent to Blidah. Unmarried emigrants would in future be admitted only if, after

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<sup>7</sup> *Schneider*: Vortrag an den Bern. Regierungsrat über Auswanderung, vom 6. November 1848.

<sup>8</sup> *Kolb*: Ueber Auswanderung nach Algier, Mittlgn. d. schweiz. Gemeinnützg. Gesellschaft, Jhg. 1854.

<sup>9</sup> Bundesblatt 1851, I, p. 319.

paying for their ticket, they could still produce Fr. 100.— at least. Married men were to have at least Fr. 400.—. Free government land was only given to those who could produce a capital of Fr. 2,000.—. In reality the practice of the French authorities in Algeria must have been much less severe. Once they were in the country the colonists got every possible help, including free treatment in hospitals for weeks, cures in healthier climates, free journeys home, state care for orphans, etc.

The most important collective Swiss settlement in Algeria was that of Sétif in Constantine province. It was founded with considerable capital outlay by a Genevese company in 1854, on a sheltered and generally fertile plateau behind the coastal range of mountains. 10 villages and 10 model farms were to be laid out and peopled mostly with French speaking Swiss. For a start only two villages were settled and one model farm was opened, with next to it a Protestant church, rectory, and school. Each of the spacious settlers' houses was provided with stable and barn and 20 hectares of arable land. 361 Swiss arrived within a year. The outlook seemed promising. Luxurious gardens promised to make the place a paradise. A number of fine Swiss cows grazed in the meadows between ruins of Roman origin. Here was indeed a new home. But already in the following year conditions were less good and in the third they grew decidedly bad. Several people returned to Switzerland<sup>10</sup>. The Genevese Colony never grew to its full extent, though some more villages and farms were built. They were peopled with natives. The remaining Swiss, and those who followed them in later years in the service of the company, devoted themselves more and more to administrative duties and left the work on the farms to the natives.

In 1859 the number of Swiss settlers was reported to have fallen from about 2,200 to 1,743. Only 3 out of 5 settlements, mostly Valaisian, near Koleah, were said to be relatively prosperous<sup>11</sup>. In 1865 the number of Swiss in the whole colony was reckoned at 3,000. Under Governor MAC MAHON a new system of government concessions was tried out, and progress was reported in the fight against infectious diseases. But the Swiss Consul never ceased to utter warnings, which soon proved only too well founded. No new immigrants arrived during that year, and there were several departures. Those who left Algeria went to Egypt. They had gone just in time to escape the calamities which in 1866 and 1867 nearly ruined Sétif: droughts, locusts, sandstorms, earthquakes.

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<sup>10</sup> Bundesblatt 1856, I, p. 490.

<sup>11</sup> Geschäftsbericht des Bundesrates 1859.

500,000 people were said to have perished in the whole country within a year<sup>12</sup>.

The success of the earlier years had been chiefly due to the cultivation of tobacco. Astonishing crops could be reaped where the right methods were followed. But the Algerian market being small and competition keen, prosperity could not last long. Progressive farmers changed over to viticulture, which proved prosperous for a long period, during which the phylloxera devastated the vineyards of France.

A group of Ticinesi, emigrating in 1870, were the last to try collective settlement in Algeria. They too had to give up, some returning, others going to America. In 1871 an Arab revolt broke out, during which many settlements in the South were destroyed. Sétif too suffered much. In Palestro 11 Ticinese colonists were killed. For their families the Federal Council obtained a compensation of Fr. 10,000 for each of the 11 victims, and another Fr. 10,200 to 10,700 for the loss of houses, furniture, and equipment.

Though for the last fifty years agricultural emigration to Algeria has been of trifling importance compared with the emigration to North or South America, or even to France, there are a few instances to prove that success is still possible in Algeria, that it is still a land with a great future and remunerative possibilities for men who are willing to rough it, and able to stand occasional setbacks.

The present-day Swiss colony in Algiers—it numbered over 2,000 during the War—is less imposing than those of Alexandria and Cairo, though much more numerous than either. Whilst Egypt holds the immigrant permanently, Algiers seems to be merely a jumping-off ground for many of the younger generation on the look-out for more favourable careers. Here is a typical “News from Algiers” from the “*Echo Suisse*” (April 1930): “More promotions! Mr. F. of Schaffhausen, who for many years was manager of the Grand Hôtel St. Georges at Mustapha, has gone to Paris as head of the Grand Hotel Wagram, besides which he will control two further hotels in Marseilles and one in Grasse. Mr. B. of Lucerne has gone to Mentone as manager of Barclay’s Bank. A. C. of Valais at Fort de l’Eau had the honour of grouping at his table at the Hôtel de la Plage four governors of French provinces in Africa. His friend G. has become co-proprietor of the Grand Hôtel Albert, etc. . . .”

Among the “obituary notices of the year” we find in the same

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<sup>12</sup> Bundesblatt 1868, III, p. 117.

number articles on a successful brewer from Basle, the representative of a Swiss insurance company, also from Basle, P. G. from Appenzell, chief of the North African Commercial Company at Oran, H. C. from Vaud, dairy farmer in Hussein Dey, and another Vaudois, aged 80, administrator of the Orphanage of Bouzareh and owner of large vineyards, etc. Even this list may serve as a hint of the manifold activities exercised by our people in Algeria.

The Ticinesi have always been a particularly active element. Certain families would go to Algiers as others went to California, or Peru, or the Argentine. The Scala, Solari, Martinelli, Oliva were among the pioneers, and several of them had a hand in the building of the "White City". GIUSEPPE SOLARI, who died in 1932 as Hon. President of the Société Helvétique de Bienfaisance, in addition to several public palaces built whole streets of residential houses. His father had landed in Algiers less than a year after the conquest by the French. Almost every firm has branches in the provinces. There the representatives get into close touch with the resident French population and gradually lose touch with their own countrymen. Whilst those of the first generation would all return at the end of their lives to spend a few years on the lakes of Lugano or Locarno, their children, especially if they were born in Algeria, grew up as Frenchmen. Even in Sétif the Swiss connection is now little more than a historic reminiscence. This readiness of the Swiss to adapt themselves and to prove loyal to the new homeland has always made them welcome settlers.

Swiss immigration followed the French flag also into Tunisia in the early eighties. The "Union Suisse" of Tunis was founded in 1887. In 1938 it numbered about 150 members, and it was not believed then that considerable immigration was likely to take place in the future.

Of even less importance was the Swiss emigration to the Italian colonies of Tripolitania, Cirenaica, and Eritrea.

But in Morocco quite a network of Swiss colonies and settlements has sprung up since the conquest by the French. Even before that time individual traders had found their way into the land. A Genevese of the name of RILLET was in the Sultan's service in the 18th century. In 1908 Colonel MÜLLER of Berne was made chief of the international police, with M. DE PURY of Neuchâtel as his ADC.

During the first World War Swiss truck drivers, called "Mazères" (after a firm of this name), established and worked a new transportation system. Their light motor cars, a sort of elder brother to the "Jeep", were running between the more important

centres of Morocco. But within 2 oder 3 years after the war most of our men were replaced by French chauffeurs, whilst the Swiss emigrated to South America. In the early twenties agricultural and commercial immigration began. Fine motoring roads made a rapid opening of the country possible. Plantations and agricultural settlements shot up and grew rapidly. In the new enterprises Swiss bank clerks, book-keepers, administrators, and all sorts of technicians and specialists found remunerative work. But then came the crisis of 1929/30 and with it the ruin of so many who during the period of prosperity had set up their own businesses on too ambitious a scale.

A recent report of Consul CRIBLEZ at Casablanca estimates the total number of Swiss in Morocco at 2000, of whom nearly 800 live in oder near Casablanca, 250 in or near Rabat, and the rest are dispersed over the countryside and urban centres. At Tangier they have no less than four societies and a Swiss Chamber of Commerce,—which is not bad for a colony of about 60 resident members! Though there are still restrictions on immigration, and though a good many returned to Switzerland during the 2nd World War, those who have stuck to their guns believe that there is a great future ahead of them, particularly in the building trade, the export trade, and farming, as soon as the natural resources in minerals and agricultural produce are tapped and efficiently exploited. Young Swiss farmers are much in request by the administration of French agricultural societies. They are appreciated for the solid schooling they get in our agricultural colleges, and for the qualities of reliability, punctuality, zeal, and capacity of work. A good many have had their efforts rewarded by partnerships in their firms, or in being able to buy their own farms or plantations. It would be in the interest of Switzerland if more could be done in this respect,—if only Swiss capital would follow the flag of the pioneers. Our attention is chiefly directed to the great possibilities of the grain growing districts of Mechrabel-Krin, Mazagan, Aagadir, and Tarudant. All these regions seem to be much less barren than had long been believed, and parts at least are of amazing fertility<sup>13</sup>.

#### *Central and South Africa.*

Coming to the tropical regions we must at once declare that there are no great prospects for Swiss agricultural settlements. The climate may no longer be forbidding, but there remains the

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<sup>13</sup> *Echo Suisse*, février 1939, p. 25.

isolation, the colour bar. In British controlled territories in West Africa the natives are protected in the possession of their land. The white planter therefore has no interest in leasing the ground at the risk of being driven out when he has worked it up. Possibilities are greater in French colonies, where land can be bought freehold. Here, indeed, a few Swiss planters have settled, and their prospects are considered good. A brilliant example of what can be achieved if the true pioneering spirit is backed up by the enlightened capitalist was given by the late Alwin Schmid of Zurich, the founder of a successful coffee plantation on the Narok River in British East Africa. Thousands of young business men in quest of adventure and desirous of seeing a bit of the world will go to Africa for "a contract" (of five to ten years). Unfortunately they can no longer reckon with the almost certain success which their elders would achieve before the first World War, when they were sure to make a fortune within two or three "contracts". There are fewer such chances nowadays, and there seems to be less "good money" about.

For some time before the second World War there was some talk of Swiss agricultural emigration to Abyssinia. All these prospects were soon destroyed by the Italian invasion. The Swiss colony, which was never really important or numerous, was dispersed by the War. Much of its prestige with the people and favour with the Emperor rested on the reputation of the Swiss name due to the merits of Menelick's great adviser ALFRED ILG († 1916).

The Swiss Colony in the Belgian Congo has grown remarkably strong. There is plenty of work, and there are good prospects for young men of various callings, engineers, geologists, traders, clerks, technicians, architects, hotel people. Small Swiss colonies now exist in Léopoldville, Stanleyville, Elisabethville, and Albertville.

### *Explorers and Travellers.*

What we have seen so far is proof conclusive that the Swiss are not, on the whole, good collective settlers, whether among their own folk or in collaboration with others. They are individualists and will do best when left alone with a tough job. In overcoming difficulties they are a match for any other nation. No wonder they were numerous among the early pioneers and explorers, too. Their share in the opening-up of Africa was far too much ignored hitherto. But we were ourselves to blame for the neglect. French and German writers would usually claim the Swiss of their respective

language as their own nationals, and we did not object in time <sup>14</sup>. The first attempt at dressing a list of Swiss who took part in the exploration of Africa was made by Ch. Faure in 1883 <sup>15</sup>. More comprehensive was a lecture given by Professor Hans Schinz in 1903 and published by the Zurich Society of Natural History in 1904 <sup>16</sup>. The subject has recently been treated and brought up to date by Dr. Eug. Paravicini in a chapter of Staub and Hinderberger's book "Die Schweiz und die Forschung" <sup>17</sup>.

In order of chronology Dr. SAMUEL BRUN of Basle (1590-1668), a surgeon in the Dutch service, comes first. He acquired a good knowledge of the West Coast of Africa from Sierra Leone to the mouth of the River Congo <sup>18</sup>. For some time he was stationed at Fort Nassau on the Gold Coast, where he made his observations and wrote down his notes with almost as much care and precision as a modern scientist. He was an excellent observer and an able writer on every aspect, material and intellectual, of the countries visited. His observations on the manner of living of the natives, their agriculture, trade, art, religious and social institutions, have been found most reliable and judicious, and have won him the title of "The First Scientific Ethnographer of Switzerland".

Among the first Swiss to sail round the Cape of Good Hope was another soldier in the Dutch service: ALBRECHT HERPORT from Berne, who on Christmas Day 1667 set his foot on South African ground at Capetown. The place must still have had a very rural character, if we are to believe his report, that one of his companions was attacked by a lion and carried off in broad daylight.

More than 120 years later Capetown was again visited on two occasions by another remarkable Bernese artist, the sculptor and painter JOHN WAEBER (1751-1793) who, in the service of the English Admiralty, accompanied Captain Cook on his third great voyage. He touched Capetown in 1776.

JOHANN LUDWIG BURCKHARDT of Basle (1784-1817), better known under the assumed name of Sheik Ibrahim, will for all times rank among the great explorers of Africa. His merits are

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<sup>14</sup> *Koner*: "Der Anteil der Deutschen an der Entdeckung und Erforschung Afrikas", Zeitschrift der Gesellschaft für Erdkunde, Berlin 1874.

<sup>15</sup> *Chs. Faure*: "Notice sur la part des Suisses dans l'exploration et la civilisation de l'Afrique", in the revue "L'Afrique explorée et civilisée", 1883.

<sup>16</sup> Neujahrsblatt, hrsg. von der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft Zürich, auf Jahr 1904.

<sup>17</sup> Verlag Hans Huber, Bern, 1944.

<sup>18</sup> *Samuel Brun*: "Schiffarten . . ." Basel 1624.

well remembered in England, as he did his best work in the service of the British African Association, to whom he left the precious collection of 350 volumes of Oriental manuscripts now kept at Cambridge University Library <sup>19</sup>.

On Burckhardt's traces in Egypt and in the Libyan Desert we find MENU DE MINUTOLI (1772-1846), a queer fish, who managed to combine three nationalities. Born at Geneva of Italian parents, he later became a German Freiherr and a Prussian general. He is the author of a voluminous account of his "Journey to the Temple of Jupiter Ammon in the Libyan Desert and into Egypt in the years 1820-1821".

Two more Genevese explored in Northern Africa in the first half of the nineteenth century. PAUL CHAIX <sup>20</sup> in his "Lettres" describes his voyages up the Nile as far as Assuan and Syene. He lingered on the ruins of Thebes, Luxor, Karnac and Ermonthis, making at the same time topographic and hydrographic studies.

CHARLES DIDIER (1805-1864) <sup>21</sup> after first visiting Tangier and Tetuan in Morocco, in 1854 landed at Suakin in the Red Sea, from where he travelled on a partly new route to Kassala and Khartum. Then he sailed for some distance up the White Nile, which he considered to be only a tributary of the main river, whose source he supposed to lie somewhere in the Western Sudan.

Professor ARNOLD ESCHER VON DER LINTH of Zurich (1807 to 1872) and EDOUARD DESOR (1811-1882) of Neuchâtel, both pupils of Agassiz and themselves pioneers of modern geology, in 1863 studied in Algeria the geological character of the Sahara Desert, getting as far south as Tugurt, and turning from there eastwards into Tunisia, and then back to Algiers.

Professor KARL MAYER-EYMAR of St. Gall (1826-1906), Escher's colleague at the Federal Institute of Technology, led no less than seven scientific expeditions into Egypt, on whose geology and palaeontology he was probably the greatest authority at the end of the 19th century <sup>22</sup>.

As a staff officer in Soliman Pasha's army FERDINAND PERRIER (1812-1883) of Estavayer travelled in Egypt before he followed his master into Syria.

LOUIS BOREL of Neuchâtel explored the coastal regions of Eastern Tunisia and described them in his "Notes d'un voyage en Tunisie" <sup>23</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> See biography and list of publications in Dict. of Nat. Biography.

<sup>20</sup> "Lettres écrites des bords du Nil, 1846-1847." Bibliothèque Universelle, vol. V et VI.

<sup>21</sup> See Bibl. Universelle, vol. 37, an article by Fréd. Frossard.

<sup>22</sup> "Zur Geologie Aegyptens", 1886.

<sup>23</sup> In "Jahresbericht der Geogr. Ges. Bern", 1882/83.



WERNER MUNZINGER Pasha, of Olten (1832-1875), after J. L. Burckhardt probably the best known Swiss explorer of Africa, was the son of a Federal Councillor and President of the Confederation. He went to Cairo in 1852. Then he roamed along the coast of the Red Sea, visited Mekka, and got into Eritrea, Abyssinia, and Somaliland. His book on "The Customs and Laws of the Begos"<sup>24</sup> is still considered a standard work. Joining a German expedition to find Dr. Vogel, who had been lost in the Wadai Region, Munzinger explored Bazen and Barea, visited Khartum and El Obeid in Kordofan. His reports were published in 1864 as "Ostafrikanische Reisestudien". Returning to the Red Sea in the service of a Swiss firm, he became French consul and later British vice-consul at Massawa. In this capacity he rendered excellent services to General Napier during his campaign against Abyssinia. Then the Khedive of Egypt made him Governor of Massawa and Duakim and later Pasha and Governor General of the Eastern Sudan. This enabled him to travel about the country to his heart's content. Munzinger was killed during a fight with some Galla raiders in Somaliland. His young countryman and friend KONRAD ADOLF HAGGENMACHER of Winterthur (1845-1876) escaped the massacre, but died a few days later of exhaustion in the desert.

Munzinger's intention had been to join the forces of the Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia, who afterwards declared that he had hoped to secure the pasha's advice in his efforts to reorganise the ancient monarchy of the "Lion of Juda". He found another Swiss adviser and an excellent servant in the person of the young engineer from Thurgovia ALFRED ILG (1854-1916), who first directed the Emperor's Ministry of Works and later on almost his whole government and his foreign policy.

Ilg's biography was written by his friend CONRAD KELLER of Felben, Thurgovia (1848-1930), professor of Zoology at the Federal Institute of Technology of Zurich, who led numerous scientific expeditions into Egypt, the Sudan, on the Isthmus of Suez, and along the Red Sea, on the Seychelles, Réunion, Madagascar, and Somaliland. On all these expeditions he wrote numerous books and articles.

A schoolmaster who dared to strike a blow at the slave-trade in Upper Egypt, and who was complimented on his brave deeds by Gladstone and the Anti-Slavery Society of Egypt, certainly deserves mention here. His name was GOTTFRIED ROTH of Wettingen. He had for some years been a teacher at Assiut, the capital

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<sup>24</sup> German edition Winterthur 1859.

of Upper Egypt, when General Slatin Pasha attached him to his staff and the Egyptian Government appointed him Anti-Slavery Inspector of Shakka and Dar Fur, where he died still a young man (about 1885) <sup>25</sup>.

JOHANN ZURBUCHEN of Habkern, Berne (1844-1882), left Inter-laken in 1869 as a veterinary doctor who had just finished his studies and went to Egypt. There he practised his art and science most successfully on human patients, became a ship's doctor, then Chief Medical Officer of the Sudan Railway Company in Wadi-Halfa. In 1879 General Gordon made him Chief Medical Officer in Kordofan and Dar Fur, then General Inspector of the Army Medical Service for the whole of the Sudan. He died of the typhoid fever at Khartum when preparing to accompany General Rauf-Pasha on an expedition into Abyssinia. An interesting report on his medical mission was published in "Petermann's Geographische Mitteilungen" in 1884.

The brothers Dr. JOHANNES JAKOB DAVID (1871-1908) and Dr. ADAM DAVID (\* 1872) of Basle carried out their first expeditions in the same regions of Upper Egypt. Later on they extended their field of activity into the Belgian Congo and to East Africa. Johann Jakob died there in 1908 after working for years on geological maps of the country and studying closely the pigmy tribes of the Ituri and Semliki regions. Dr. Adam David, for some time agricultural advisor to the Mixed Tribunal of Egypt, and big-game hunter extraordinary in East Africa, has for years been a very popular lecturer on Africa over the Swiss broadcasting stations.

In Professor HANS SCHINZ of Zurich University (1858-1941) a great botanist was doubled by an equally great anthropologist. He left to his native town an important collection of relics and weapons, instruments and works of art of the Ora-Hovera, the Ovambo, the Hottentots and Bushmen.

Neuchâtel was presented with similar collections bearing on the natural history of Africa by P. TRAUB (1839-1882), a widely travelled watchmaker and author of a paper on the Begos and Abyssinia, published in the Neuchâtel Bulletin de Géographie (vol. IV) 1888. In the same review (vols. IX and XI) VICTOR BUCHS gives an interesting account of his ethnographic studies in the Red Sea countries. Still greater treasures of African relics were collected at Neuchâtel at the villa which once was the home of James de Pury, who, before becoming the founder of Purrysburg in Georgia, had tried to plant vineyards at the Cape of Good Hope

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<sup>25</sup> Jahresbericht der Ostschweiz. geogr.-kommerz. Gesellschaft, St. Gallen 1880/81, "Aus der Oase Siva, Wüste Sahara".

early in the 18th century. And a good deal was added by General DE MEURON, proprietor and commander of a Swiss regiment in the service of the Dutch and later of the English, who had been stationed in South Africa in the 80ies of the 18th century. The whole museum is now under the direction of Professor THEODORE DELACHAUX, who, in 1933, enriched it with trophies brought home from his expedition into Angola.

Geneva, on the other hand, supplied quite a school of great Egyptologists. The most celebrated is, no doubt, HENRI EDOUARD NAVILLE (1864-1926), Professor of Archeology of Geneva University. For years he worked for the Egyptian Explorations Fund, first in the Delta Region, and later in Upper Egypt. During the first World War he directed another glorious Geneva work as Delegate of the International Red Cross Committee for Egypt and the Near East.

Naville's fellow citizen MAX VAN BERCHEM (1863-1921) directed his attention to the monuments of Islam in Egypt, noting and exploring inscriptions on tombs, mosques, towers, and collecting and editing legal, religious, political and literary manuscripts. In his "Corpus Scriptorum Arabicarum" he laid the solid foundations for the history of Mohammedan art and culture in the Nile Valley.

In the same spirit worked also VICTOR NOURISSON Bey of Geneva († 1916) and his successor ETIENNE COMBE of Neuchâtel as heads of the Municipal Library of Alexandria.

In Central and West Africa Swiss geologists and prospectors have been busy at various periods in the service of French, English, Belgian, and American mining companies.

Almost continually some of our young doctors and nurses have been working with Albert Schweitzer at Lambarene in French Equatorial Africa.

In the same spirit of sacrifice to Christianity and Science worked a good many medical men attached to the Protestant and Catholic mission stations between the Guinea Coast and Mozambique. The first was probably Dr. ERNST MÄHLY, of Basle (1856 to 1894), who from the Gold Coast travelled deep into Ashantee. His successor, Dr. RUDOLF FISCH, of Aarau (\* 1856), long before Albert Schweitzer, had a similar medical station, though on a more modest scale, on the Gold Coast. He was an authority on Negro languages. Both Mähly and Fisch made tropical diseases their special study and published a good many articles in German and Swiss medical papers.

In neighbouring Liberia JOHN BÜTIKOFER, of Ranflüh, Berne (1852-1927), was for years working for the Rijksmuseum at Amsterdam in the 1880ies. His reports were published in his

“Reisebilder aus Liberia”, 1886. A part of his private collection was acquired by the Berne Museum.

On one of his expeditions into Liberia Bütikofer was accompanied by FRANZ XAVER STAMPFLI, of Aeschi, Solothurn (1847 to 1903), who was a hunter, explorer, and collector and worked especially on the Farrington River.

In the same country another Bernese explorer met his untimely end—WALTER VOLZ of Winau (1875-1907). His diary, which contains many ethnographical observations of the highest value, was published by Professor R. ZELLER of Berne University (1869-1940), who had himself carried out a number of scientific expeditions into Northern Africa, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt.

From the coast of Sierra Leone JOSUA ZWEIFEL of St. Gall (1854-1895) led a French expedition to the sources of the River Niger, being accompanied by an old native who had been Livingstone's servant.

In the adjoining country of Senegambia GUERRARS-SAMUEL PERROTTET, of Fribourg (1790-1870), was working as a botanist and collector for the Paris Jardin des Plantes, for which institution he also visited Madagascar. Coming back to his erstwhile field of activity he was made general manager of the Senegalese Company, a semi-official institute for the exploration and development of the country. His “*Florae Senegambiae Tentamen*” (1830-1833) has long been recognized as a standard work. Perrottet's explorations were extended as far as the Cape Verde Islands by Dr. SAMUEL BRUNNER of Berne (1790-1841) <sup>26</sup>.

The old lure of the names of the Gold Coast and Guinea Coast may have drawn the first geologists and prospectors there. Among them we find ALEXIS DEMAFFEY, of Geneva, a mining engineer who about 1881 worked his way from the coast to the Niger and for some time prospected in the Western Sudan.

Nigeria saw the best part of the life-work of two of the greatest Anglo-Swiss in whose memory both countries justly take pride: Sir GORDON GUGGISBERG (1869-1930), of Berne, and Sir HANNS VISCHER, of Basle (1876-1945). Sir Gordon had risen to the rank of a brigadier general when, during the first World War, he was called upon to take up his old connections with West Africa and to become Governor of Nigeria, a trust which he most brilliantly accomplished. Sir Hanns, who had first set out as a missionary, soon became interested in the education of the natives. He passed

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<sup>26</sup> Dr. S. Brunner: “Reise nach Senegambien und den Inseln des Grünen Vorgebirges im Jahre 1838”, Bern 1840.

over into the service of the civil administration of the colony. After serving in the army during the first World War and winning several distinctions, he became Secretary General of the Education Committee for Tropical Africa, an office for which his wonderful command of several African languages admirably fitted him. His advice was often sought by French and Belgian colonial authorities, too, who like the British honoured his services by making him a member of several learned societies. Four of his sons fought for Britain in the second World War.

In Nigeria, too, lived Dr. FRITZ MÖRI, in a small way following the great example of Albert Schweitzer as an untiring helper to the suffering natives.

On the Ivory Coast lies Assinie-Maffia which through the fancy of JOSEPH MEIER, a trader, for some time during the French Revolution was placed under the protection of his high and mighty lords, the Canton of Fribourg<sup>27</sup>, and which might well have become the nucleus of a Swiss colonial empire—if our navy were not merely a good joke.

The widest field in Africa was worked by ALFRED KAISER of Arbon (1862-1919), who, like J. L. Burckhardt, became a Moslem. He roamed from Sinai and Egypt to Eritrea and Uganda and from Mozambique to the Transvaal and Natal. He had a large part in the organization of the expedition of the German explorers Schweinfurth and Schöller, as appears from the latter's "Aequatorial-Ost-Afrika und Uganda", 1896/97. Kaiser's own painstaking observations were published in various books and articles. For the last ten years of his life he acted as Swiss commercial agent at Cairo.

Professor Dr. L. RÜTIMEYER (1859-1932), who did so much for the pre-historic ethnography of Switzerland, had accompanied his friends PAUL and FRITZ SARASIN on expeditions into Egypt and Sinai. Later he worked for himself in the backwoods of Sierra Leone (Sherbro), where he was after the famous soap-stone idols of the natives of that region.

The "Ostschweizerische Geographisch-Kommerzielle Gesellschaft" of St. Gall, consisting of a number of traders dealing with East Africa, had right from the beginning made it a point of its programme to collect materials which might be of interest to the scientists. Their practical idealism has found a monument in the beautiful African Collection now housed at the Park Museum of St. Gall, and their example has been followed by a good many citizens of other towns.

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<sup>27</sup> "Echo Suisse", Nov. 1935, p. 16.

### *The Missions.*

The survey would not be complete, however, if we did not at least mention the remarkable addition to the Swiss record contributed by the devoted missionaries of both churches <sup>28</sup>.

The Swiss Catholic missions had far-reaching and ever increasing responsibilities thrown upon them since the outbreak of the first World War. Formerly they had been modest workers in the vineyard of the Lord. But suddenly they found themselves responsible for many of the stations formerly run by the Germans, and during the second World War some Italian stations were also added to their spiritual trust. Their field of activity stretches right across the Continent from Cameroon to the Seychelles, where they have dozens of schools and stations. They even supplied half a dozen missionary bishops. The missions are most devotedly aided by the nurses from the Menzingen convent for women.

Of the Protestant missions the Basle Society began its activities as early as 1828. It has three principal centres of activity, in Cameroon, on the Gold Coast, and in Togo. It is characteristic of the Basle Society that from the first it took as much care of the economic well-being of the converts as of their spiritual life. Schools, workshops, factories, farms, and plantations were founded, and experiments were made to find out the best methods of cultivation. About half of the funds required have long been produced by the Basle Mission's own factories, work centres, agricultural enterprises, and trading stations.

Seminaries for the formation of native priests were conducted by excellent linguists who were always numerous among the missionaries, such as J. G. CHRISTALLER, the Grammarian of the Tshi language, whose merits were honoured with the gold medal of the Institut de France. FRIEDRICH RAMSEYER (1840-1914), of Berne, who had been working at Kumasi among the bloodthirsty Ashantee even before the British occupation, left some reports on his travels in the north of the land. They were for a long time the best contribution to our knowledge of this region. He found a worthy successor in GEORGES EDMOND PERREGAUX of Neuchâtel (1868-1905) who, in the Bulletin of the Neuchâtel Geographic Society, wrote on the Lake of Obosomtwe fetishism, and the gold deposits of the Gold Coast region.

The Coastal region of Togo and the Ewe Valley were explored by ERNST BÜRGI of Attiswil (Bern) in the service of the North

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<sup>28</sup> *E. Wallroth*: "Was hat die gegenwärtige Mission für die Geographie geleistet?" — *Allgem. Missionszeitschrift* von Prof. Warneck, 1889.

German (Bremen) Mission. His letters and reports were published in "Petermann's Geographische Mitteilungen" in 1886 and 1881<sup>29</sup>.

The Basle Missions were likewise pioneers in tropical medicine. Dr. ERNST MÄHLY (1856-1894) and Dr. RUDOLF FISCH did excellent work on the Gold Coast, writing in their sparetime on the geography and ethnography of the countries they were working in.

South Africa has long been worked by the "Mission Suisse Romande", now "Mission Suisse"<sup>30</sup>, whose great pioneers were PAUL BERTHOUD, of Morges (1845-1930), and ERNEST CREUX of Lausanne (1847-1930). Setting out from Port Elizabeth in 1872, they worked their way through Basutoland into the Orange River Colony and later on into the Transvaal. Their publications prove them to have been excellent cartographers as well as missionaries, men of science as well as explorers. Their younger collaborator HENRI A. JUNOD (1863-1934) will, no doubt, rank among the great philologists<sup>31</sup>. He wrote grammars of the Tonga, the Ronga, and the Bantu languages and translated the Bible into Bantu. A similar pioneer service was rendered to the Basuto and their language by EDOUARD JACCOTET (1858-1920) of Neuchâtel, who worked mostly in the region of the upper Zambesi River. ARTHUR GRANDJEAN of Ponts-de-Martel drew some of the first maps of Mozambique and its hinterland, and Dr. G. LIENGME of Cormoret and EUGÈNE THOMAS of Bercher wrote on various African tribes, their languages and their customs. ALFRED BERTRAND of Geneva accompanied the British explorers A. Saint-Hill Gibbons and M. F. D. Pieri on expeditions which from Mafeking took them to the Zambesi and Bulawayo and back to Capetown, almost all by ox waggons.

In conclusion we must apologize for leaving out so many names of countrymen who surely deserve to be remembered for what they have done to enlarge our knowledge of Africa or to contribute to its opening up to European civilization. We shall come back on the subject in detail after having attempted here a first general survey and outline of the vast subject "for the use of the general reader".

### *Résumé.*

Un petit nombre d'émigrants suisses, seulement, a choisi l'Afrique comme terre de colonisation ; on s'effraie du climat et du changement des conditions de vie. Aujourd'hui c'est dans les ports

<sup>29</sup> "Reisen an der Togoküste und im Ewegebiet."

<sup>30</sup> *Valentin Nüesch*: "Die Geschichte der Schweizer Mission in Südafrika von ihren Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart", 1934.

<sup>31</sup> "The Life of a South African Tribe", 2nd ed., London 1927.

et les grands centres commerciaux qu'on rencontre le plus grand nombre de Suisses, établis comme commerçants, hôteliers, ingénieurs, techniciens. Les plus hautes autorités des Etas où ils se sont établis ont la meilleure opinion de leur travail, de leur action et de leur loyauté. En Algérie on trouvait, il y a un siècle, des colonies agricoles ; malgré l'aide la plus bienveillante des Autorités françaises, elles ont disparu après quelques années de prospérité. Au Maroc, par contre, on trouve aujourd'hui à côté de colonies urbaines en pleine prospérité, des entreprises agricoles importantes, exploitées par des Suisses propriétaires ou tenanciers. En Afrique du Sud il y a d'importantes colonies commerçantes au Cap et à Johannesburg. Les perspectives d'avenir ne sont pas défavorables. Un grand nombre de Suisses se sont distingués au service de la recherche, de la science et de la mission.

#### *Zusammenfassung.*

Nur eine kleine Zahl von Schweizern hat Afrika als Siedlungsgebiet gewählt. Das Klima und die großen Unterschiede in den Lebensbedingungen wirken abschreckend. Heute sind die Schweizer am zahlreichsten in den Hafenstädten und größeren Handelszentren anzutreffen als Kaufleute, Hoteliers, Ingenieure, Techniker. Höchste Vertreter der Gastländer stellen ihrem Fleiß, ihrem Können und ihrer Loyalität das beste Zeugnis aus. Bäuerliche Kolonien bestanden vor hundert Jahren in Algerien. Trotz wohlwollender Hilfe durch die französischen Behörden gingen sie nach kurzer Blüte ein. Dagegen gibt es heute in Marokko, neben blühenden städtischen Kolonien, eine Reihe von bedeutenden landwirtschaftlichen Betrieben, die von Schweizern als Eigentümer oder Verwalter geleitet werden. In Südafrika bestehen bedeutende Kaufmannskolonien in Kapstadt und Johannesburg. Die Aussichten für die Zukunft scheinen nicht ungünstig. Viele Schweizer zeichneten sich als Pioniere im Dienste der Forschung, der Wissenschaft und der Mission aus.

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