

The "Fidelio" Lodlers and Charity

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1924)**

Heft 174

PDF erstellt am: **13.09.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-692950>

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Der Verbrauch geistiger Getränke in der Schweiz im Jahrzehnt 1913-1922.

Ueber dieses Thema sprach am zweiten Tag der Jahresversammlung der Schweizerischen Statistischen Gesellschaft in Baden der berufene Kenner, Herr Prof. Dr. W. E. Milliet, der langjährige erste Direktor des Eidgen. Alkoholamtes, jetzt Professor an der Universität Bern.

Die Erfassung des Verbrauches geistiger Getränke ist mit ausserordentlichen Schwierigkeiten verbunden. Rein statistisch ist der Aufgabe schon gar nicht beizukommen, und man muss die Schätzungen zu Hilfe nehmen. Schätzungen liefern in diesen Dingen oft richtigere Resultate als sorgfältigste statistische Methode, weil diese oft unausfüllbaren Lücken gegenübersteht. Die Kunst des Statistikers besteht nun darin, sich der Statistik so weit zu bedienen, als sie noch in der Lage ist, zuverlässige Ergebnisse zu liefern, und dann mit möglichst zutreffenden oder wahrscheinlichen Schätzungen zu Hilfe zu kommen.

Der direkteste Weg zur Verbrauchsbestimmung für das Volksganze würde über den Haushalt der einzelnen Verbraucher führen. An eine vollständige Sammlung aller Haushaltsrechnungen ist aber nie zu denken.

Milliet sucht den Verbrauch an den Quellen zu erfassen, bei der Produktion und bei der Einfuhr unter Abzug einer allfälligen Ausfuhr. Um der Saldodifferenz von Anfang und Ende aus dem Wege zu gehen, oder um die allfälligen hieraus entstehenden Fehler möglichst klein zu halten, erstreckt er die Beobachtungsperiode auf ein ganzes Jahrzehnt. Aber auch so sind der Schwierigkeiten noch viel zu überwinden.

Die Verbrauchsmengen sind, da man Wein, Bier, Schnaps, Most nicht schlechthin zusammenzählen darf, auf absoluten Alkohol umgerechnet. Für Wein berechnet Prof. Milliet den Inlandsverbrauch pro Jahr auf 212,650 Hektoliter absoluten Alkohols. Beim Bier ergibt die entsprechende Berechnung ein Alkoholquantum von 66,400 Hektolitern. An Äpfel- und Birnenwein wurden 73,250 Hektoliter absoluten Alkohols verbraucht und an gebranntem Wassern 96,125 Hektoliter.

Die Zusammenstellung dieser Ergebnisse, verglichen mit dem vorangegangenen Jahrzehnt und immer auf den Kopf der mittleren Bevölkerung bezogen, lässt sich in folgende Zahlen zusammenfassen:

	Jahresdurchschnittl. Verbrauchsmengen absoluten Alkohols		Prozentual	
	Liter 1913-22	pro Kopf 1913-22	1913-22	1923-22
Traubenwein	7,27	5,48	49,56	47,14
Bier	3,31	1,71	22,56	14,79
Obstwein	1,52	1,89	10,36	16,35
Gegor. Getränke	12,10	9,08	82,48	78,55
Branntwein zu 40%	2,57	2,48	17,52	21,45
Geistige Getränke überhaupt ...	14,67	11,56	100,00	100,00

In der Abnahme des Alkoholkonsums um 3,11 L. pro Kopf könnte man ein recht erfreuliches Symptom erblicken, wenn nicht die Abnahme ausschliesslich bei den weniger schädlichen Getränken eingetreten, bei den schädlichen aber fast Null wäre. Milliet setzt nämlich auf Grund interessanter Erwägungen die Schadenswirkung des Weinalkohols = 1, des Bieralkohols auf 1/2, des Obstweinalkohols auf 2/3 und des Schnapsalkohols auf 4. Unter Berücksichtigung dieser Gewichte kommt dem Branntweingenus im Jahrzehnt 1913-22 eine grössere relative Bedeutung zu als im vorangegangenen Jahrzehnt. Der Referent schloss seine geistvollen Erörterungen u. a. mit den Worten: "Der Alkoholenuss bildet in der Bilanz der Volkskräfte nicht erst dann einen Verlustposten, wenn er zu Krankheit und Tod führt, sondern schon dann, wenn er durch sinnlose Vergewendung von Geld und Zeit, durch Hemmung von Energie, durch Zerrüttung des Familienlebens, durch Verderbnis guter Sitten vitale Potenzen lähmt. Das darf auch der sagen, der persönlich nicht enthaltsam und für unsere Verhältnisse gesetzlicher Prohibition abhold ist."

Was das Jahrzehnt 1913-22 unheimlich charakterisiert, ist die Höhe des Branntweinverbrauchs. Diese Erscheinung mahnt Volk und Regierung zum Aufsehen. (National-Zeitung.)

INTERNATIONAL WIRELESS EXHIBITION

A Swiss Wireless Exhibition, with restricted foreign participation, took place at Geneva from May 21st to June 1st, 1924, under the honorary chairmanship of the Federal Councillor Haab. It proved such a scientific and economic success that the exhibitors and the organizing committee unanimously decided to give some an annual and international character. Consequently, in the month of September, 1925, the first International Wireless Exhibition will take place at Geneva, in the spacious halls of the "Palais Electoral." The interested administrations of several important countries have already promised to lend their support to this exhibition.

The month of September has been chosen because at that time of the year the receivings at the various stations abroad are better than in spring time, and also because this new manifestation of the important wireless telegraph and telephone manufacturers will thus coincide with the meeting of the League of Nations.

THE 'FIDELIO' JODLERS AND CHARITY.

The Swiss Benevolent Society in London (Fonds de Secours) has received an amount of £8 6s. 10d. in connection with the concert which the Zurich Double Quartette "Fidelio" gave on October 7th at Steinway Hall. The arrangements in London were in the hands of four members of the Swiss Choral Society, and they are to be complimented on the successful way in which the details have been carried out. The official permit of the Home Office had to be obtained, the attitude of the latter being anything but encouraging to foreign singers and performers appearing before the English public.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY.

The last Monthly Meeting was held on the 22nd October at the Union Helvetia at 8.30 p.m.

The President, Mr. Cornu, presided, and in opening the meeting called upon the Secretary to read the minutes of the last meeting. Following this, the Secretary proceeded to read out the various applications and resignations, which were dealt with in the usual manner. The total number of members has increased by 15 since the September meeting.

By far the most time occupied the discussion with regard to suggestions concerning the living up of the Society's meetings, in order to stimulate the interest of the members and to secure a larger attendance.

The conditions under which the Committee is forced to work at present is so unsatisfactory as far as the attendance is concerned, that this question has become a matter of first importance. Although we are happy to notice signs of a more favourable tendency, yet the Committee feels that circumstances are far from being splendid, and issues a special appeal to all members to make it a point to be present. Only by coming forward and stating their complaints, if any, is it possible to meet the members' wishes, and the Committee hopes that this course may be adopted by a large number of members.

Mr. Chas. Strubin, President of the Entertainment Committee, called again the attention of the meeting to the first Cinderella Dance, which is taking place on the 1st November at the Midland Hotel, St. Pancras Station, from 6.30 to 11.45 p.m. He is looking forward to a large attendance.

Further dances will be held every first Saturday in the month, and members and friends are, therefore, asked to reserve the following dates:—December 6th, January 3rd, February 7th, and March 7th. No further circulars will be sent. Tickets will always be available at 24, Queen Victoria Street (Telephone: Bank 8156), or Mr. Chas. Strubin, Tower House, 40, Trinity Square, E.C.3.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

PERSONAL.

The marriage is announced of Mr. Oscar Jaeggi, who will be remembered as a vice-president of the Swiss Mercantile Society, to Miss A. D. Hales, equally well remembered from the social functions of this society. The ceremony took place at Basle on Tuesday, October 21st, and was followed by the usual family reception at the Hotel Euler. The happy couple are spending their honeymoon in the Sunny South.

SWISS INSTITUTE.

The Swiss Institute, under its active president, Mr. Beckmann, opened its winter session on the 24th October with a lecture by Mr. P. M. Short, B.Sc., on "Socialism: Is it a Menace to Civilization?" Mr. Short traced many attempts, from the earliest times, to ameliorate life's conditions. Man's nature is acquisitive; in the effort to develop natural resources, and to overcome industrial difficulties, freedom and competition are essential. He named Socrates, Plato, and Ricardo's theory of surplus values, Ford's theory of service, Hassell's opinion that it would take 200 years—and by other authorities 500 years—to overcome difficulties which arise mainly from the hearts of men.

Therefore a quicker way must be found, and Karl Marx, by his book "Capital" started his revolutionary theories, which, however, would be against any progress and economic betterment, instanced by the Russian example, of which the lecturer gave a full survey of its disastrous results. He instanced his war experiences under State management, and of ignorant control.

After some brief remarks by Mr. Joss and Mr. Despond, instancing some existing and necessary State managements, Mr. Geilinger fully endorsed Mr. Short's opinions, saying that only angels could be trusted with State control.

There are two pictures: first, to see the great object lesson at Wembley of men opening by capital the world's resources, by which all enjoy better life conditions, and by which art, science, literature, etc., can be developed; otherwise we should still be roaming in the wild woods in bear skins. The second is the object lesson of war control, with twenty times more officials, who paid twenty times more and ordered fifty times more than needed, in consequence of which we are

burdened for fifty years with extra debts, and payment of these could only be made by printing paper money night and day.

The Swiss Institute deserves the best support of all, as it supplies a long-felt want of more intellectual effort.

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MR. ROD. GAILLARD AND THE WEST LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

Sir,—At the last moment yesterday (Saturday) I received a ticket for the Grand Concert in aid of the German Hospital, given by the West London Choral Society. Not knowing if you have already received a report, may I, as a musician and friend of the Swiss Colony, venture to give you my criticism of the Concert—the more so as I understand that one of the principal artists of the evening is a compatriot of yours.

Wigmore Hall was packed to its utmost on Saturday last (Oct. 25) for the Concert given by the West London Choral Society in aid of the German Hospital. The applause and enthusiasm of the audience soon proved that the Concert was a great success from beginning to end.

The Choir, under the conductorship of Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard, gave very fine renderings, especially of the "Landerkenning," by Grieg, and the "Einzug der Gäste" ("Tannhäuser").

The ensemble and phrasing were perfect and proved the capabilities of the young conductor.

The violinist, Mr. Ernest Whitfield, deserved all the applause he received. Among the other items, Madame Teily Davies gave a fine rendering of Chanson Bohème, "Carmen," while Master Carl Waite showed great promise as a coming pianist.

The gem of the evening was undoubtedly the singing of Mr. Rodolphe Gaillard, who captivated his audience with his songs by Schubert and Brahms, the warmth of his fine baritone voice, and his perfect phrasing and rendering.

He was ably assisted at the piano by Miss Irene Meyrick, who proved herself a very sympathetic accompanist.

The unaccompanied encore of the Choir, "Grüsse an die Heimat," was delightfully sung and had to be repeated.

Many encores had to be given; although it was nearly eleven o'clock, many people were reluctant to leave the hall. "CRITICA."

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