

How the watch industry came to the Neuchâtel Jura

Autor(en): **J.J.S.**

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opfern mussten, bevor sie sich derart eingeschossen fühlten, dass sie mit Erfolg glaubten, die erste Passe in Angriff zu nehmen. Zulauf begann das gültige Schiessen in höchst hoffnungsvoller Weise, indem er in der ersten Passe 7 Neuner, 2 Zehner und einen Achter schoss, total also 91 Punkte. Wiederkehr fühlte sich von Anfang an nicht besonders disponiert, sodass sich bei ihm nur langsam steigend der Erfolg einstellen wollte: immerhin brachte er es in der ersten Passe auf 89 Punkte. Die Franzosen hatten gleich zu Anfang einer ihrer grossen "Kanonen," de Jamonnières ins Feuer geschickt; sein Anfang war indessen nicht sonderlich besorgniserregend, da er in den beiden ersten Passen nur 84, resp. 85 Punkte erzielte. Auch die Spanier hatten mit der Eröffnung des Matches ihren besten Mann, Roïnero, ins Treffen gestellt; er kam in der ersten Passe auf 85 Punkte und steigerte sein Resultat in den zweiten 10 Schüssen gar auf 90 Punkte. Inzwischen hatte Zulauf eine weitere Zehner-Serie mit 88 Punkten zu verzeichnen: Wiederkehr dagegen war auf 81 Punkte herabgegangen. Der Franzose de Jamonnières, der in ähnlicher Weise wie Dr. Schnyder eine auffallend rasche Schussabgabe hat, fügte seinen beiden ersten Passen zwei weitere respektable Serien von 92 und 87 Punkten bei. Bei den Italienern machten Gervasi und Pistolesi mit 88, resp. 80 Punkten den Anfang. Als ein ganz gefährlicher, vortrefflicher Schütze entpuppte sich der tschechoslowakische Matcheur Krech, der in 4 Passen 82, 86, 91 und nochmals 91 Punkte schoss; er ist noch jung und scheint als neuer Star unter den Pistolenschützen sich durchsetzen zu wollen. Bis zur Mittagspause hatte de Jamonnières seine 60 Schüsse absolviert und ein Gesamtergebnis von 527 Punkten erzielt, 4 Punkte mehr, als er, im dritten Rang, stehend, am letzten Maich in Rom zu verzeichnen gehabt hatte und nur 5 Punkte weniger als das von Dr. Schnyder in Rom geschossene Weltrekordergebnis. Das glänzende Resultat des Franzosen machte vorübergehend die Leute in unserem Lager etwas stutzig, doch atmete man wieder etwas auf, als auch Zulauf nach einem kurzen Unterbruch sein Schiessen mit einem Gesamtergebnis von 526 Punkten beendigte, dem Franzosen also dicht auf den Fersen folgte. Die 6 Passen Zulaufs ergeben folgende Punktzahlen: 91, 88, 87, 90, 86, 84. Noch vor dem Mittagessen war der dritte Mann unserer Gruppe, Fischer (Oberaach) ebenfalls in den Wettkampf eingetreten. Er stand erstmals im Vollgefühl der vollen Verantwortung als Matchschütze im Feuer; man hatte es ihm nicht angehen: mit Bewundernswürdiger Ruhe schoss er seine erste Passe mit 89 Punkten; dann verlor er für einen kleinen Moment Ruhe und Sicherheit und brachte es trotz eifrigsten Bemühens in den zweiten 10 Schüssen nur auf 83 Punkte, doch rasch war das Gleichgewicht wieder hergestellt und mit echt thurgauischem Gleichmut reichte er seine 4 weiteren Passen mit Punktzahlen von 87, 89, 85 und 88 Punkten an und totalisierte sich damit ein überaus ehrenvolles Resultat von 521 Punkten. Wiederkehr, der letztes Jahr in Rom und auch an den Trainingsschiessen regelmässig um die 530 Punkte herum zusammenbrachte, blieb bei anhaltender körperlicher Indisposition erheblich unter seiner Durchschnittsleistung; er erzielte ein Gesamtergebnis von 509 Punkten; seine Passenergebnisse lauten: 89, 81, 84, 87 und 84, gleich total 509 Punkte. Ganz erheblich ausser Form schien der Genfer Blum; seine Schüsse entsprachen ihm einfach nicht, sodass er als einziger der Schweizer Matchgruppe mit einem Resultat unter 500 Punkten abschloss: nämlich mit 494 Punkten. Seine Passenergebnisse erzeugten 87, 78, 87, 81, 77 und 84 Punkte.

Nachmittags 2 Uhr trat Dr. Schnyder in den Stand. Auch er brauchte längere Zeit und die grössere Hälfte der zur Verfügung stehenden Probeschüsse, bis er schliesslich nach fortgesetztem Schrauben am Visier einen passenden Haltepunkt herausgefunden hatte und zum gültigen Matchschüssen übergehen konnte. Dass der sonst so schussichere Dr. Schnyder den die Treffsicherheit arg beeinflussenden Beleuchtungsverhältnissen weitgehend Rechnung trug, zeigte sich deutlich darin, dass er, der sonst geradezu Schnellfeuer schießt, heute sehr behutsam seine Schüsse abgab. Es stand vom Erfolg seines Schiessens zu viel auf dem Spiele; nicht nur sein bisheriger Weltmeistertitel, sondern auch der Sieg unserer Landesgruppe. Es galt nicht nur, die Jamonnières mit seinen 527 Punkten zu überschreiten. Dr. Schnyder musste lange Zeit damit rechnen, dass unter Umständen der Tschechoslowake Krech, der nurmehr zwei Passen zu schiessen hatte, schliesslich sich als lachender Dritter im Streite der beiden Rivalen an die Spitze setzen könnte. Die erste Passe Dr. Schnyders begann viel verheissend mit 9, 9, 9, 9, 10, 9, 7, 10, 9, total 90 Punkte. Dann schoss Dr. Schnyder ohne Unterbruch das ganze Programm ab, indem er folgende weitere Passen-Resultate erzielte: 85, 92, 88, 87 und 88 Punkte. Mit dem Gesamtergebnis von 530 Punkten wurde Dr. Schnyder neuerdings Weltmeister.

Er ist damit allerdings um zwei Punkte hinter seinem eigenen Rekordresultat von Rom zurückgeblieben.

1. Schweiz 2581 Punkte (bisheriger Rekord Rom 1927: 2574 Punkte). 2. Spanien 2509 P. 3. Frankreich 2495 P. 4. Tschechoslowakei 2485 P. 5. Italien 2449 P. 6. Belgien 2431 P. 7. Holland 2333 P.

—National Zeitung.

HOW THE WATCH INDUSTRY CAME TO THE NEUCHÂTEL JURA.

(We are much indebted to a correspondent who has sent us the following translation of an article under this heading which is contained in the recently published volume "Deine Heimat.")

In 1679 the horsedealer Peter brought a watch from England into the valley of La Sagne, his nome. It was a round, large onion; cutgut was the spring, with only one hand moving over the dial made of tin; but the thing was going, and what is more, going, so to say, by itself. This magic was looked upon with surprise, and the people from the mountainsides came for miles to see and admire it. The watch was passed from hand to hand; curiosity could not master itself, but had to look at the inside, to open it, to touch it, to prod it, until the works, to the great sorrow of the owner—but the greatest blessing of the country—stopped dead. No pushing, no shaking put the wheels going again. Who was there who could put it right again?

At Bressel, near La Sagne, lived a young blacksmith named Daniel Jean Richard. "If there is anyone who can help it's he," was the unanimous verdict. The young man made all sorts of little wheelworks from wood and had no better tools than his old pocket-knife—a bad one at that.

The Horsedealer went to the smithy, where the young Richard was working with his father. He showed him the watch that stopped and asked him if he could repair it. With the reflecting and investigating looks of a connoisseur, the young locksmith scrutinised the watch and at once grasped the method of the working and also found the cause of its stopping. He replied without hesitation that he would risk trying to put the watch going again. His father reprimanded him, and warned him not to spoil the watch completely so that at the end he would even have to pay for it. However, the young mechanic would not be intimidated and he was successful in getting the mechanism going again. The father and the horsedealer were astounded.

Jean Richard, however, was not satisfied; he tried to make another such watch. But from where should he get such fine tools? "I will make them myself," he thought, and experimented and tried in his spare time for a whole year. Now he could start with the making of a watch, and lo! after six months' hard work and much patience his watch was completed and laid on his bench. It went better and more accurately than the English pattern. The blacksmith had become a watchmaker. The first Neuchâtel watch was made in 1681.

D. J. Richard invented a dividing machine to make little cogwheels. Only then was successful watchmaking possible. Soon he was no longer working by himself; he taught his brothers and took other young men into his workshop. He instructed them unselfishly in all the secrets of his art, told them of all his inventions and perfections, and so became the father of the watch industry in the Jura. Orders came in, with them profits, and he became the greatest benefactor of the poor hill country.

In 1705 he went to Le Locle; all his five sons became watchmakers and worked together with their father.

They started to divide the work (System Taylor)—the one made only the cases, the other the dials, the third hands, springs and cogwheels, etc.; the last one assembled the different pieces into the complete watch. Year after year the works were thus more and more perfected, and the Swiss Watch Industry created real wonders, gained world fame and high merits.

In 1741 father Richard died at the age of 75 years, generally respected and esteemed. His home place erected a statue in his honour. To-day the Watch Industry is the principal industry of the inhabitants of the Jura, from Geneva to Basle. Whoever undertakes a tour, on foot or by rail, through the beautiful valleys of the Jura, is surprised at the prosperity of the villages, the comfortable homesteads, the monumental churches and the palatial schools. This prosperity is due to the Watch Industry. To-day over 50,000 people are employed in it. Swiss watches are world-famous. In 1913 the export of silver and gold watches amounted to 180 million francs, in 1923 to 216, in 1924 to 273 million. At the Swiss National Exhibition in Berne, the Pavilion of the Watch Industry was the most beautiful and the grandest thing to be seen there. J.J.S.

SWISS TRADE & INDUSTRY.

(Our Consul in Manchester, Dr. A. Schedler, has granted the representative of the "Manchester City News" an interview which is reported in the following article and appeared in its issue of July 14th):—

The small country situated right in the centre of Europe on the slopes of the Alps is probably the best known in England of all the Continental countries, and there are plenty of English visitors and business men to whom it would be impossible to say anything new about it. There are, however, many whose knowledge of Switzerland consists of

a vague idea of its beauty and still vaguer idea of its political, commercial and economic conditions. They think that almost every Swiss is an hotel proprietor, that cheese-making is the only industry, yodelling the only sport, and that Swiss literature is made up of hotel tariffs and time-tables.

"It is mainly to these people," says Dr. Arnold Schedler, the Swiss Consul in Manchester, "that I should like to address the following remarks, to show them that Switzerland is not only the beautiful playground of Europe, but also a hard-working and remarkably successful industrial country. I shall say nothing about the history, the politics, the constitution, the educational and military systems, and so many other democratic model institutions, nor of the great mission that Switzerland has to fulfil as peacemaker and arbitrator between other countries, but wish to confine myself to commercial and economic conditions.

"A great part of the land is non-productive and incapable of feeding and supporting the population. The country has no raw materials except salt, no outlet to the sea, and is surrounded by the tariff walls of its neighbours. It is, therefore, remarkable that in spite of these handicaps, trade and industry are so intense that the amount of foreign trade per head of the population is larger than that of any industrial country in the world.

This is due to the high skill and proficiency of Swiss labour, to industrial organisation, and to technical and scientific education, which make it possible to produce articles of high quality and workmanship. These manufactured goods are obtainable only by means of highly specialised industry, and represent four-fifths of the exports of Switzerland.

Among the industries must be mentioned, in the first instance, textiles, of which silk and embroideries are the best known. The metal and machine industry is next in importance, and there is no better proof of the efficiency of this branch than the fact that over thirty per cent. of the world's motor-ship tonnage at present under construction is equipped with Swiss (Sulzer Diesel) engines, and that the largest steam turbines in the world, although hardly used in the country, are at present made in Switzerland. Watchmaking, a speciality for over twelve generations, needs hardly any comment; the perfection of Swiss chronometers has not yet been equalled. The chemical industry, particularly the manufacture of dyestuffs, may also be taken as equal in efficiency to the German.

Switzerland is favoured in one respect, namely the enormous waterpower available; consequently it goes without saying that the electrical industry has reached a high state of perfection. Fully 97 per cent. of the inhabitants are supplied with current and sixty per cent. of the mileage of the Federal railways are already electrified, and it will probably surprise many to know that the recent successful flights over the Atlantic and Pacific have been achieved with engines equipped with Swiss (Scintilla) Magnetos.

England has been Switzerland's best customer for years, Dr. Schedler adds, and Switzerland is a good buyer of English (particularly Manchester) goods, being England's biggest customer for grey piece goods after India. The importance of Lancashire itself has been fully realised in Switzerland by the fact that the only two consulates the latter country holds in England are situated in this district.

The present Consul is a technical man, a chemist by profession, who gained his experience by nearly twenty years' service with the Swiss chemical industry. When the exportation of the Swiss industry became necessary he took over the management of the Clayton Aniline Co. He is a director of this company, which now employs over 1,000 people, and he has contributed a great deal to the establishment of the dyestuffs industry in England.

SWISS GYMNASIAC SOCIETY.

FETE FEDERALE de GYMNASIQUE
at LUCERNE, 21st-24th JULY, 1928.

A happy party of some 70 people, including the team, left Victoria Station at 8 p.m. on Friday, 20th July. After a 'billiard table crossing' the train was soon speeding through northern and eastern France and punctually to time reached Basle at 11.25 a.m. on Saturday morning. Here the party disbanded and about 35 of them continued the journey by a special Turnerzug to Lucerne, where a great surprise awaited the trippers. The Generaldirektion of the Union Helvetica with their flag and the Jodelklub Edelweiss, who only a short time ago had thrilled all Swiss hearts in London by their wonderful rendering of Swiss jodel songs, had congregated at the station to greet, with their customary lovely tunes, the somewhat tired but high-spirited wanderers from across the channel.

They conducted the team and friends to the station buffet, where a lovely glass of Dézalet and Fondant at once reminded gymnasts of the special vintages of our dear little homeland. The gymnasts were then conducted to their quarters at the Kaserné, where the team was billeted and fed—and right well, too!

"Tagwacht" at 5.30 a.m. and training till 8 p.m. were followed by the "Festzug," which lasted