

La politique suisse

Autor(en): **Mahert, Rodo**

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LA POLITIQUE SUISSE.

Deux Fronts.

A l'annonce d'une tentative de front commun en Suisse, un certain et bien compréhensible désarroi se manifesta parmi les bourgeois.

Qu'allaient faire, hors les communistes dont l'assentiment était acquis, les partis sollicités et, singulièrement, le parti radical? La combinaison qui triomphe en France, où elle fait même d'assez jolis dégâts, allait-elle éclore dans notre pays aussi? Tel était le problème tout à fait inédit qui se posait et qui ne laissait pas d'inquiéter l'opinion, telle était la grave question qui ne fut point trop longtemps sans réponse.

A Bâle et à Zurich, où ils étaient priés d'entrer dans la ronde, les radicaux eurent le refus assez prompt et catégorique, et même les petits partis bourgeois plus à gauche se déroberent à l'invite socialiste.

De l'ample front esquissé dans un rêve témeraire, il ne subsiste plus en réalité qu'une alliance socialiste-communiste et c'est très bien ainsi.

C'est très bien parce que les radicaux, qui sont tout de même des bourgeois, eussent fait dans ce mariage de la carpe et du lapin tous les frais de l'aventure.

C'est très bien encore parce que la doctrine des socialistes et celle des communistes s'inspirent à la même source, qui est celle de Marx, et parce qu'il est logique et naturel dès lors que ces deux partis s'associent dans la réalité ainsi que dans la doctrine.

C'est très bien enfin parce que la situation y gagne en netteté et parce qu'il importe chaque jour davantage, dans les temps confus que nous vivons, de se décider et de trancher sans la moindre équivoque.

Réputant, instinctivement dirait-on, au front commun, les radicaux se sont rapprochés d'autant plus des autres partis bourgeois, et deux blocs se forment et s'opposent dans presque tout le pays.

L'électeur y verra plus clair et prendra enfin le mieux possible la responsabilité de son choix, ce qui est essentiel dans un moment où le scrutin posera en quelque sorte la question du régime et où il faudra, en tout cas, découvrir de nouvelles directions politiques et économiques, procéder à un renouvellement du système.

Cependant, s'il est heureux que la situation des partis se précise ainsi qu'on vient de le voir, il est moins sûr, du point de vue tactique, que les socialistes gagneront à s'associer les communistes et la preuve en est que généralement ils renoncent à l'alliance en Suisse romande où Moscou n'a guère d'électeurs. C'est qu'en effet la combinaison du front commun n'eût été véritablement fructueuse, pour l'extrême-gauche, qu'à condition de pouvoir absorber l'élément radical et, alliés aux seuls communistes, par eux inévitablement marqués, les socialistes courent grand risque de perdre dans l'entreprise de leurs adhérents modérés. Ce déchet peut être compensé dans les centres où les moscovitaires sont suffisamment nombreux pour constituer une force électorale, et c'est pourquoi la tactique veut que le front socialiste-communiste se réalise dans les grandes villes de la Suisse allemande et qu'il soit évité apparemment dans toute la Suisse romande.

Le principe, au delà de la tactique, n'en demeure pas moins partout, et les deux fronts, le bourgeois et le marxiste, se constituent assez nettement.

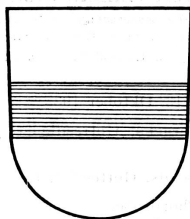
On ne saurait conclure pourtant sans remarquer une fois encore que la vaste tentative de front commun nous venait tout droit de France et que c'est en France donc que le socialisme suisse paraît chercher une ligne de conduite qu'il trouvait jusqu'ici et tout naturellement en Allemagne, où la doctrine avait été véritablement fixée pour tout l'univers.

La politique a de ces cruautés!

Rodo Mahert.

(Tribune de Genève).

ARMS OF ZUG.



Argent, a fess azure.

As we have already seen for Zurich and Lucerne whose arms bear great similarity, the colours of Zug are believed to allude to its Lake.

The arrangement of these colours derive most probably from the arms of the former suzerain lord of Zug, the duke of Austria, which were red and transversely with a horizontal band of white in the middle of the field. The same figure appears on the arms of several neighbouring towns, the bailiwicks of Baar, Cham, and Men-

zingen, and the ancient and free community of Egeri. The arms of this last named, in the same canton and also lying near a lake, being charged with a boat, support the assertion that the blue band represents water.

The very ancient and honourable arms of Zug represent both the rich and beautiful canton, and Zug, its picturesque mediæval capital.

P.S.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.
CITY SWISS CLUB.

Thirty Members attended the October Meeting, the President, Mr. Billeter, being in the Chair.

The Meetings after the Summer holidays are always interesting and members refreshed by their vacations, have numerous stories to tell of their adventures in the home-land and in foreign parts. I listened to an account of Scandinavia, and heard of the delights of Scandinavian hors d'oeuvres which would appear to provide a repast by themselves. Other members had been in Switzerland and brought back bits of news which are always interesting.

Another member showed us the latest gadget, a pencil with a minute and cute little watch contained in its upper end. Minute as it was, this watch appeared to be efficient. I suppose we shall soon be presented with a pencil or fountain pen containing a wireless set. Ck. will be delighted. When discussions begin to drag and members one after another repeat the same arguments, he will be able to turn on the set and listen to the propaganda with which we are now spoonfed, until such time as the President sees fit to change the subject.

After the usual toasts had been drunk the President declared the meeting open.

He referred to the death of our old member, Mr. Roost and expressed the Club's deep sympathy with his family.

He also announced the death of another old member, Mr. Carmine, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Carmine to express our sorrow on hearing the sad news.

At the President's request the members rose as a mark of sympathy and respect.

The minutes of the September meeting, at which 20 members were present, were read, approved and signed as correct.

May I suggest that our new Secretary should not read the minutes quite so fast, as several members were unable to follow what had taken place and although the reading of minutes may be considered to be more or less a formality, it is interesting for those who have been prevented from attending, to know what has been said and done.

There were no resignations and no admissions. One visitor was present.

A discussion then arose concerning the Summer meetings.

Apparently only two or three members were present at the August meeting. This is not to be wondered at, as most of us were away on holidays, but what an opportunity was lost.

I think of all the marvellous things which might have been proposed and adopted unanimously. An increase in the honorarium of the Press Reporter, Old Age Pensions for the Committee, free drinks at the monthly meetings for all.

I can hear some member whispering something about a quorum, but one never knows what might have happened.

It was finally decided that a decision about the Summer meetings should be made in May.

The President announced that the Annual Banquet will take place on Friday, November 22nd.

The Members were so filled with energy that the discussions were long and varied and the meeting was not closed until long after 10 o'clock.

I cannot remember all that was said but I am sure that it was very interesting and very subtle, because on one or two occasions the President had to consult with his faithful Committee, a sure sign that our masters of debate were in form.

A most interesting evening.

ck.

PERSONAL.

We extend our deepest sympathy to Mr. F. W. Lichtensteiger, Deputy Manager of the Swiss Bank Corporation, on the occasion of the death of his father, M. F. A. Lichtensteiger, late "Kreispostdirektor" in Basle.

CONWAY HALL, October 25th.

The annual concert of the Swiss Orchestral Society, combined with an illustrated lecture by the "Soldatenmutter" of Switzerland:—
"Erinnerungen aus der Grenzbesetzungszeit"

Sharp at 8.30 at Conway Hall,

Red Lion Square.

Admission 2/- to all parts of the hall.

25th JUBILEE.



Mr. J. Pfaendler.

There have appeared in the *Swiss Observer*, during the last 16 years of its existence, many biographies; and alas, still more obituary notices, many of the "old guard," pillars of our Colony have gone to the Elysian fields from whence there is no return. It is, therefore, a great pleasure to write about a friend, who is happily still amongst us, and who, judging from his portrait has not the slightest intention to change his "abode," for many years to come.

His "Mona Lisa" smile denotes that something is amusing him, and that something, which he has kept so strictly secret, even to an old friend like the writer, is now going to be divulged; "made public" with all the ruthlessness of a Journalist, who has been "done out" of copy.

A few weeks ago, Mr. J. Pfaendler, Manager of the Employment Dept. of the Swiss Mercantile Society, celebrated his 25th Service Jubilee, and we extend to him our heartiest and most sincere congratulations.

It is said that a man only twice in his life has nice things said about him; the first occasion is, when he gets married and the second, when he is leaving this valley of sorrow for a better world. Well, we are breaking this rule and will say something "nice" already now, because he fully deserves it.

Mr. Pfaendler came to these hospitable shores 31 years ago, and after having spent altogether 6 years in a Stockbroker's Office, and a Commercial firm, took over the Management of the London Employment Agency of the "Société Suisse des Commerçants."

To his new occupation, he devoted all his energy, and very soon the Agency became known, not only amongst the Swiss in this country, but also in British business circles. Our friend, never shrunk from hard work, and although difficulties and disappointments, — especially during the last few years, when labour restrictions became more and more severe, — never succeeded in putting a damper on his enthusiasm. There are thousands who have to thank him for the start of a successful career; many a heavy heart was carried up those stairs at 24, Queen Victoria Street, and came down lighter, because even if he could not actually find a position for the applicant, he had a word of advice or of encouragement to give.

It was perhaps an obvious conclusion that Mr. Pfaendler should take an interest in the London Section of the S.K.V., which is known as the Swiss Mercantile Society. The writer has been able to watch his work rendered to the Society for over 20 years. He never pushed himself forward, but when his advice or help was required he gave his services unstintingly. The writer had the pleasure to sit with him on many a committee, and meetings, and what astonished him was the alertness with which he grasped matters and how, after a heavy days work, he was prepared to study documents and give his opinion.

For many years Mr. Pfaendler rendered great services to the Society as Secretary to the Education Dept., and especially was he untiringly busy in finding the necessary funds which enabled the Society to start the Day School at Henrietta Street which later on proved such a great success at Fitzroy Square.

But not only the business side of the Institution was within the sphere of his activity; for many years Mr. Pfaendler was the life and soul of the Entertainment side, at Dances he acted as M.C. making things "hum," at dinners, smoking concerts, etc., he charged himself with the arrangements, and wherever friend Pfaendler had a finger in the pie he fit for consumption.

It was only right, that such services should be acknowledged, and the writer prides himself on having in 1918, as President of the Society, proposed Mr. Pfaendler as an Honorary member, a proposal which was accepted with unanimous acclamation.

Twenty-five years of hard and incessant work have aged many a man prematurely, but not so