

Educational life in Switzerland

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C'est aller en besogne avec la lenteur de gens qui ne paraissent guère pressés d'arriver, comme La Fontaine lorsqu'il se rendait à l'Académie. Mais ce fut un bonheur pour les lettres que le fabuliste musât le long des sentiers; tandis qu'on ne voit pas le profit que la Suisse retire d'avoir des législateurs qui prennent modèle sur l'escargot.

Nous avons critiqué d'emblée, quand il fut connu, le projet du Conseil fédéral, alourdi de plusieurs articles inutiles et peu clairs, dont l'un faisait planer une vague menace sur la presse, et dont un autre, selon l'interprétation qu'on lui eût donnée, aurait permis de fourrer tout le monde en prison. Et cela par frousse d'appeler un chat un chat; évidemment, en visant n'importe qui, on n'a plus l'air de viser seulement les communistes. Et c'est ce que l'on veut, par-dessus tout, au Palais fédéral!

La commission des Etats a bien fait de supprimer ces hors-d'œuvre. C'est notre impression, en tout cas, d'après ce qui a été dit du projet qui va être soumis aux délibérations sénatoriales. En revanche, on doit déplorer que le mot de "communistes" ait été supprimé et remplacé par une périphrase. Ceux qui ont peur des mots ont aussi peur des idées et de l'action. Notre confrère Perrin écrit à ce propos, dans la "Revue": "Les communistes et leurs amis ne se rallieront pas pour autant au texte ainsi amendé, car ils savent très bien qu'ils sont visés et visés les tout premiers, pour la bonne raison qu'ils sont aujourd'hui les plus dangereux, les seuls dangereux adversaires de la démocratie."

C'est l'évidence même. Nous souhaitons vivement qu'un député aux Etats prenne l'initiative de proposer que le terme de "communiste" soit rétabli.

Léon Savary,
(Tribune de Genève).

ICE HOCKEY MATCHES.

The matches for the World's Ice Hockey Championship came to an end on Saturday last.

Whilst we should have liked to report fully on the events in which the Swiss team were concerned, we were unable to do so, owing to the ridiculous conditions which were imposed on us to obtain Press tickets; and tickets from other sources were unfortunately not available.

As, however, the Daily Press commented fully on the various matches, we take it that our readers are *au courant* with the splendid efforts our Swiss team has made and the creditable result they have achieved.

Since reporting last, the Swiss team have beaten Germany by 6 goals to nil, and lost against Canada, the "lions" of the competition, by 2 goals to one, after extra time having been played.

Our compatriots have every reason to be proud of their achievements, they have proved themselves not only a fine team but fine sportsmen, and we tender to them, on behalf of the Swiss Colony, our heartiest congratulations.

They have shown once again that Switzerland is amongst the leading nations in International sports events.

Here are the results of the Swiss team, during the competition:

- Switzerland beat Norway 13:2.
- Great Britain beat Switzerland 3:2.
- Czecho-slovakia v. Switzerland 2:2.
- Switzerland beat Poland 1:0.
- Great Britain beat Switzerland 2:0.
- Switzerland beat Germany 6:0.
- Canada beat Switzerland 2:1.

The final classification is as follows:

1. Canada, World Champions.
2. Great Britain, European Champions.
3. Switzerland.
4. Germany.
5. Hungary.
6. Czecho-Slovakia.
7. France.
8. Poland.
9. Rumania.
10. Norway.
11. Sweden.

Switzerland was the holder of the European Championship in 1926 and 1935.

EDUCATIONAL LIFE IN SWITZERLAND.

Aims and Methods of Swiss Private Schools.

By DR. K. E. LUSSEK, President of the Board of the "ROSENBERG COLLEGE," ST. GALL (Switzerland.)

(Continued).

Thousands of boys and girls are educated every year in the well-known boarding schools of German and French Switzerland. Some time ago an English professor coined the expression that Switzerland was the country of fresh air and capable pedagogues.

What is the educational ideal of the *Swiss Private Schools*?

Systematic and harmonious training of mind and body, brain and muscle, heart and intellect — all tending in one and the same direction, towards the shaping of balanced personalities and capable characters who will be able to enter upon their future careers with a vital reserve of energy, joy and strength.

What is the way to the attainment of this goal? Extensive individualization in the lessons by the application of the system of moveable and homogeneous classes. An education based on daily and friendly contacts, observation and guidance; the cultivation of a spirit of kindly and positive co-operation between teacher and pupil, between adults and young people. The peculiar character of Swiss private schools makes an exceptionally extensive system of individualization possible. The numerous boarding schools in particular are in a position to provide a many-sided and harmonious intellectual, moral and physical education, undisturbed by the unfavourable influences of city life. At the same time they offer to pupils living away from their parents a comfortable and happy home-life, and a guiding body alive to its responsibilities.

The non-boarding private schools lay the main stress on the giving of methodically and carefully thought-out lessons, and, like the boarding schools, prepare pupils for State examinations.

General accomplishment on the social side is amply provided for by the school festival, by musical evenings and lectures, as also by visits to museums and industrial concerns.

To *Sport* and the *Training* of the body the schools devote that high degree of time and attention which is in keeping with the demands of the time. *Gymnastics, Tennis, Sailing, Swimming, Snow and Ice Sports*, all this makes for physical fitness, and takes its natural place in the routine of school life and in the scheme of education as a whole. The close contact between the different nationalities facilitates the growth of sound and cosmopolitan comradeship and establishes lasting ties of friendship and goodwill extending beyond frontier-posts and seas.

Anglo-Swiss Commercial and Financial Review.

THE END.

EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

The Editor,

"Swiss Observer,"

23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

1st March, 1937.

Dear Editor,

The English Press informs its readers of the "Special Missions" which have been appointed by the various foreign countries to represent them at the forthcoming Coronation of His Majesty King George VI.

Is it too early, or is it too late to express a strong hope that on this occasion our Swiss Government may see fit to do likewise?

If we have no Crown-Prince available, we have eminent men like Minister Stucki whose appointment on such a mission would signify to England that our Government really do wish to do signal honour to the occasion.

Alternatively, instead of asking our Swiss Minister in London to attend, some two or three Members of our Swiss Legation in London might be asked to form an "especial Mission" together with the Minister at its head, to represent Switzerland on this auspicious occasion. That again would signify that our Country wishes to do something special in honour of the event.

In short, I hope that our Authorities at Berne will realise the importance of doing something *especial* this time. I trust they are not heeding those members of our Parliament who are more "Swiss" than parliamentary in their outlook when they explain that "simplicity befits the Swiss." There is such a thing as too much simplicity and we who are Switzerland's "pioneers abroad" — vide speeches made on festive occasions in Switzerland, very often by those "simplicity-advocates" — know that "doing in Rome as the Romans do" goes a long way towards facilitating happy relations between the respective countries.

I trust that my letter is totally inopportune and "tilting a lance against a windmill" and that our Authorities at Berne have long ago decided upon just those steps which alone will avoid us Swiss in England feeling uncomfortable, as we did twelve months ago.

Yours sincerely,

Kyburg.

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