

City Swiss Club

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1958)**

Heft 1332

PDF erstellt am: **15.08.2024**

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international schemes in very varied fields of activity: economic, financial, monetary, technical, social and cultural. At the same time, even if she has remained faithful to the principle of economic liberalism, the action taken by the State in the evolution and development of our material exchanges has become very important. If Swiss industries intend to continue to export their products it is necessary that we should have a large number of Embassies, Legations and Consulates abroad, and that these should be administered by men who are well versed in the practical questions we have just mentioned, and seconded in their efforts by a staff comprising experts also. The number of countries in which Switzerland is represented has been increased considerably during the last few years.

The necessity for being more efficient — as the Anglo-Saxons put it — has had for its consequence that the recruitment of diplomats is no longer effected in the same way as formerly. The fact of belonging to a certain social class no longer plays as important a role as in the past. For some years now the Federal Political Department has proceeded to recruit its diplomats by means of examinations. In order to become a diplomat it is necessary to possess a University degree. Then there is an admission test. After that the candidates are required to undergo a probationary term of two years in private business, in industry, in trade, in banking or the Press. After that the budding diplomatists are on probation, doing practical work in the offices of the central administration in Berne. At the end of this second probationary stage they have to pass their final examination. It is only then that they can claim to be career diplomats.

This method of recruiting our diplomatic staff constitutes an adjustment to the new tasks which have to be carried out by our national representatives abroad. From all this it will be seen that the prejudices which persist in regard to the possibilities of admission to the Diplomatic Service are absolutely without any foundation, in view of the fact that one of the principal qualifications for admission is the knowledge possessed by the candidate — not his social status.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

The Annual Banquet and Ball of the City Swiss Club, which was held at the Dorchester Hotel on 14th November, will be fully reported in our issue of 19th December.

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