

Topics

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TOPICS

PLACES WITH SWISS NAMES

In 1655 seven families from Fribourg received a land grant near Quebec on the St. Lawrence River. This grant bestowed upon them perpetual hunting, fishing and grazing rights. The area is now known as the "canton suisse". Descendants from these first Swiss settlers to Canada reportedly still live there.

Many regions and localities throughout the world are known today by the name of "Switzerland" or "Swiss". These names are generally due to Swiss immigrants. "Swissconsin", the Southern part of the State of Wisconsin, is a case in point. Immigrants from the Canton of Glarus established New Glarus in 1845. The area soon became famous as a centre for cattle raising and cheese making. It is now also known for its performances of "Wilhelm Tell" and "Heidi".

In years past there were quite a number of settlements throughout the United States of America called "Switzerland" or "Swiss". Most of these names are no longer used and have disappeared as a result of the policy pursued by the US postal authorities to close down small post offices. However, some twelve names such as "Switz City" and "Swiss home" still remain. A county in Indiana bordering the Ohio River is called "Switzerland County". Vevay, its county seat, was founded in the early nineteenth century by immigrants from the Canton of Vaud.

Most settlements abroad bearing Swiss names are located in North America. There are also a few throughout South America. Regions referred to as Switzerland, generally due to a striking likeness to Swiss scenery and landscape, may be found around the world.

The largest number of "Switzerland" regions are located in Germany. There were ten before the Second World War. "Saxon Switzerland" in the Eastern range of the "Erzgebirge", South of Dresden, was the most widely known. Around the turn of the century, cowhands in Germany, and particularly in the eastern parts, were called "Swiss", since this was the profession of many Swiss immigrants.

In other European countries, some beautiful, hilly or mountainous areas are also called Switzerland, such as "La Suisse Normande" in France, "La Piccola Svizzera" in Calabria, Italy; "Petite Suisse" in Belgium and in Luxemburg; "Kleen Zwislerland", an area of dunes between The Hague and the North Sea in The Netherlands; "Svica" on the Adriatic Sea in Yugoslavia; "Bohemian Switzerland" in Czechoslovakia; "Transylvanian Switzerland" in Rumania, etc. In Africa

and Asia some countries or regions also carry the name "Switzerland" to describe the beauty of the scenery. Uganda's Kigezi district is known as the "Switzerland of Uganda" or "Switzerland of Africa"; the mountain city of Mbeya is in "Tanzanian Switzerland" and in the South African province of Transvaal the tired world traveller can relax among tall pines in the chalets of "Little Switzerland".

The inhabitants of the Kirghiz Soviet Socialist Republic in the USSR, adjoining China's Sinkiang province, call their land of eternal snow, glaciers, forests and mountain lakes "Soviet Switzerland". Lebanon is often called the "Switzerland of the Middle East" and Kashmir the "Switzerland of Asia".

In North America many holiday resorts, and particularly those located in mountain areas, use the by-line "Switzerland" to attract tourists, such as in California, Colorado, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Vermont and the Canadian Province of Ontario.

In South America, Argentina, Brazil and Chile each have a "Switzerland". Suiza Brasileira, in the Northern part of the State of Sao Paulo, is a favourite holiday resort for wealthy Brazilians. The "Chilean Switzerland" is located in the Osorno area.

The "Swiss" names of most localities and areas mentioned originated either from the fact that the inhabitants came from Switzerland or that the landscape resembles Swiss scenery. There is a locality in Argentina which combines both: Bariloche, located on the shores of Lake Navel Huapi, is known as "Switzerland of Argentina". In many years of hard work descendants of Swiss immigrants have created a vacation centre in that unique mountain area. It has since been declared a "national park" and is now a tourist paradise.

In South America Switzerland is not only known for its beautiful landscape. The term "suizo" is used as a synonym for quality, a reputation which must be safeguarded as much as the natural beauty of our country.

("Fragments" — Swiss Volksbank).

WITH ROD AND LINE IN SWITZERLAND

No other country of comparable size is as rich as Switzerland in fishing waters at widely varying altitudes. In this small land there are no less than 20,000 miles of rivers and streams, while the lakes occupy an area of 521 square miles. These waters are situated at heights of 700 to 6,650 ft. above sea level, and they vary in their configuration and fauna as much as in their altitude. Such a wide choice of conditions puts the angler on his mettle, for he is presented with a fascinating range of problems the solution of which can be a source of unending joy. For those who know how to adapt themselves

there is indeed excellent sport in store.

Controlling the fishing waters, in view of the steadily growing numbers of anglers who come every year to fish them, is not an easy task. One reason for the increasing popularity of fishing is the greater amount of spare time made available by modern working conditions, and the desire to utilise these extra hours in as healthy and useful a manner as possible. In addition, holidaymakers, both Swiss and foreign, are also eager to make the most of the many angling facilities that the country offers. The effect of such intensive fishing, however, is to endanger the fish population, and calls for large-scale restocking as well as adequate.

Protection and conservation measures designed to prevent depopulation of the lakes and streams. When considering the practical effects of these measures, it should be remembered not only that the number of anglers is increasing but also that fishing techniques and equipment are being constantly improved. Fixed spool reels and nylon monofilament lines are examples of the numerous modern aids which in the hands of a practised angler land considerably larger catches than are possible with the more traditional type of gear.

Many cantons have as a result found it necessary to introduce restrictive regulations to counteract the threat of depopulation posed by the modern angler's increased fishing "capacity". Even those cantons which have not so far imposed limitations are bound to do so in the long run, especially for the more heavily fished waters. The forms taken by these restrictions vary widely from water to water: the seasons laid down by the law may be curtailed, the minimum permissible sizes may be increased, special days may be set aside each week when fishing is prohibited, the daily catch of game fish may be restricted to a given number, or regulations may be issued concerning the type of equipment allowed. All the important points are summarised in the Regulations handed to the angler with his licence. Visitors are therefore advised to study these Regulations carefully and to observe them strictly, since any infringement will result in immediate withdrawal of the licence.

Angling techniques and bait must be suited to the particular water one happens to be fishing. With few exceptions fly-fishing, spinning and ground-fishing, with natural or artificial bait, are permitted in most waters. In the short space of this article we cannot describe all the methods and tackle that might be used, for details of which the beginner is referred to any good angling textbook.

Most of the lakes in the central plain are becoming increasingly prone to pollution. As a result their plankton content is rapidly multiplying, and this abundance of food naturally has a depressing effect on anglers' catches. Des-

pite this, however, these lakes can still provide good sport. In many of the larger waters float-fishing from the shore with simple hooks and natural baits (but not live bait-fish) is free of charge. Catches are rarely impressive, usually consisting of small to medium-size perch and dace. The angler's prospects are rather better if he takes out a fishing licence, for he can then angle from a boat, and hook pike, perch and lake trout. Spinning is suitable for the smaller lakes, but where larger expanses or depths of water are concerned other methods and special tackle are necessary. The most satisfactory method for the larger lakes is trolling with paravane floats and up to four well-spaced baits. Deep trolling, giving the fish a choice of five baits at different depths, is the best method for the deeper lakes. Since, however, gear of this kind tends to be expensive and also demands considerable knowledge of local conditions and a great deal of experience, the visitor is not recommended to make the necessary outlay unless he intends staying at the lake of his choice for some time.

In the rivers and streams in the central plain the stock of Salmonidae varies widely. Besides game fish, they also contain barbel, chub, beaked carp, roach and pike, and, to a lesser extent, also pike-perch, perch, burbot and carp. With such mixed stocks, ground-fishing can be practised as well as fly-fishing and spinning. Depending on the type and depth of water and the species of fish one is after, float-fishing with natural bait or live bait-fish, ledgering or paternostering can all produce good results. It is always worth while to discuss one's problems with the local anglers, since they can frequently offer useful advice on the choice of bait and the best sites, and thus save one a lot of wasted patience.

Alpine streams and rivers. As well as brown trout, rainbow trout and brook-char are also to be found. In the uppermost reaches, where the waters

are turbulent, the sites where trout can be caught are generally limited in extent, and dapping with natural bait (grasshoppers, woodworms, maggots, etc.) is often the only way of obtaining good catches. When a mountain brook begins to level out and has been widened by tributaries it tends to form larger backwaters and deep pools, and spinning and fly-fishing are practicable. Small spinners and wet flies and nymphs give the best results.

Alpine lakes are the most delightful of all Swiss fishing waters, and lie at altitudes of up to 9,200 ft. above sea level, framed by imposing mountain ranges. They can be fished only for a short period during the height of summer, for only then are they entirely free of ice. Fish species vary widely at these altitudes: one lake will be dominated by brown trout, which frequently attain impressive sizes, and another will be mainly populated by char. Great lake trout have been introduced into certain lakes, and have multiplied in a most satisfactory manner: although these lakes are covered by ice for anything up to nine months in the year, these cold-loving fish are often in surprisingly good form at the start of the season (usually in July). Attempts to stock with rainbow trout and native lake trout have been less uniformly successful: in some lakes these species have flourished, in others the experiment has been a failure. The best results are generally obtained by spinning with light tackle, preferably with a nylon line of 8/1000 to 9/1000 in. in diameter and small spoons 8/10 to 12/10 in. long and weighing up to 2/10 oz. Fly-fishing can also provide good catches in certain lakes. It should be mentioned at this point that the use of the "boule d'eau" for casting flies is not permitted in most cantons.

Fishing regulations and issue of licences. These vary from canton to canton. A Federal law on shooting and fishing provides the legal basis for these regulations, but the control and use of fishing waters is the concern of the individual cantons. Regulations are simplest in those cantons that are themselves responsible for controlling the waters or for part of them, and issue their own licences. Matters are more complicated when the canton leases the waters or where the local authorities are responsible. In certain cases there are private rights over which the cantons have no authority. Even in such cases, however, it is possible to obtain licences if the leaseholder is willing to issue them, as is normally the case when the waters are leased by fishing clubs or hotels. If the waters are leased by a hotel, catches must in many cases be delivered to the hotel kitchen, though this is offset by the fact that the fishing licence in such cases is very cheap or even free.

GRAUBÜNDEN MEAT

Anyone who wants to buy "Bindenfleisch" (hardened meat) — the Graubünden meat speciality — and asks in the shop for "Bündnerfleisch" gives away the fact that he is not a "Bündner" i.e. a native of Graubünden, because the latter calls it "Charn crüjas" or "Puolp" which in German is "Bindenfleisch". This is a speciality; air-dried meat.

It is not really known since when air-dried meat has been heard of in our mountain province. It can be assumed, however, that the first dwellers in the Graubünden valleys started its production. The first natives of Graubünden were hunters and mountain farmers — how could they not have? There are no written records from which it can be ascertained when "Bindenfleisch" was first enjoyed; but it is certain that one did know of it as long ago as the 17th century. In his "Jürg Jenatsch", Father Maurus Carnot wrote that during the years he spent studying in Zurich the future Graubünden hero missed his native ryebread and particularly the air-dried meat, the "Bindenfleisch". Father Maurus also wrote that Jenatsch, on one of his numerous flights on the Splügen Pass partook of a gallant meal consisting of air-dried meat, rye bread and a jug of Veltliner wine.

Dr. J. M. Naj relates that the best and rarest speciality of Graubünden was air-dried, hardened bear meat. Christian Casanova only recently told of his grandfather, who was the last bear hunter in the Upper Graubünden and who killed a bear in the Zavraiga territory in the 80's of last century. The side of this bear is said to have been made into fine hardened meat and then sold in Chur.

"Bindenfleisch" is processed beef cut from the hind quarters of the ox. Actually, cuts are still taken by our hunters from their kills of stag and even from chamois, and dried.

The first stage is to cut out the bone and then cut the pieces, which are salted and flavoured with numerous spices, almost like a ritual, in accordance with old recipes; these are then placed in large oak tubs and left there for a period of up to three weeks, according to the size of the pieces. The meat is then subjected to control and afterwards dried in the open air, each piece according to its size receiving individual treatment and control. The pieces keep in good shape by being pressed often.

Formerly, every farmer undertook his own drying, but even before the turn of the last century, "Bindenfleisch" was processed by professionals. In the course of time the demand for this product grew more and more and the speciality became generally appreciated beyond our province too, so that at last the pieces were no longer dried in the open air but in air-conditioned drying rooms. The latest innovation is

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We shall, we hope, for a long time to come see the pieces of meat hanging on covered terraces and at the windows of Graubünden farmhouses and small-traders.

("St. Moritz Courier")

THE SWISS NATIONAL PARK

The Swiss National Park was created over half a century ago. At that time, bear, lynx and lammergeyer were already exterminated on the whole of Swiss territory. The last bear of Switzerland was killed on 1st September 1904. It is a strange coincidence that it died on the very ground of today's National Park.

The words "National Park" have a resonance all their own; in the mind of every child they immediately call up beautiful memories of hiking and holidays, or suggest forests and wild animals. There is practically no country in the world by now that does not possess one or more national parks, and nearly everyone has visited such a park at one time or another. A national park, then, embodies a concept that is honoured everywhere; the idea of a national park is one of the finest achievements of our civilisation.

Switzerland too is proud of its National Park, now already more than 50 years old and almost 65 square miles in area. It lies in the easternmost tip of the country, in the Canton of the Grisons, in a magnificent Alpine region, next to the Engadine, the renowned high valley. We are proud not only of the unspoiled beauty of this protected mountain landscape but also of the natural conservation ideal behind the park, an ideal formulated by the founders and cherished to this day. The National Park is, in the first instance, dedicated to the practical conservation of a stretch of untouched nature. All lovers of wild plants and animals can rest assured that when they enter this park, the largest nature preserve in Switzerland, they are associates in the work of guarding this precious mountain region. Here the observation of wild life assumes a constructive meaning, and our splendid Alpine game is not degraded to the level of a mere tourist attraction.

In the new National Park House at Zernez the visitor is oriented systematically on what he is about to see, and so his tour of the Park is not just a

casual outing. Permanent exhibitions, films and other types of information along with all kinds of literature help to put the visitor in the right frame of mind and invest his observations in the Park itself with an added significance. The Swiss National Park is ideal above all for hiking. One can, of course, simply drive through, on the Ofen Pass road, but the rest of the Park is accessible only on foot. Only the quiet and attentive mountain enthusiast, furnished if possible with a pair of good binoculars, can really get into the spirit of this primeval landscape and all its flora and fauna. The visitor is fascinated at every step by the beauty of the Alpine vegetation, the still mountain forests and the agile wild animals. Ordinarily unnoticed things gain significance when experienced in the setting of such an interesting nature preserve by a well prepared and observant visitor. A troop of frisky young chamois tumbles playfully down a small lingering snowfield, the dark yellow flowers of the Rhaetian Alpine poppy sway in the slope wind blowing down over the steep scree, a pair of golden eagles soar endlessly over the distant heights, the modest corn marigold presents its head to the radiant mountain sun at an altitude of nearly 9,000 ft.—a jay pecks at a bluish cembra-pine cone, and plump marmots can be heard shrilly crying.

Nearly 50 miles of hiking trails run through the territory of the Swiss National Park. Signboards and markers of all kinds keep the visitor perfectly oriented on the Park and its environs. In a National Park neatness and cleanliness are expected as a matter of course—as nowhere else. Thus Park rules and regulations are actually welcomed and respected by the understanding visitor. To keep the region unspoiled, it is, for example, forbidden to stray off the marked trails in the Park and to wander about freely. Friendly park rangers will remind one of this necessary regulation, and they are ready at all times to render assistance of any kind.

(R. Sloeth,
"Switzerland", SNTU Review)

LENIN'S "STAMMLOKAL" IN ZURICH TO BE DEMOLISHED

The house at Spiegelgasse 14 in Zurich is to be taken down, and with it the old home of Vladimir Ilych Ulyanov, better known as Lenin, will disappear. Or rather its inside, for the facade is to be preserved. In September 1963, Prof. Grigory Alexandrov and Constantin Kusakov visited the house. They were tracing the life of Lenin in Switzerland, and the Swiss TV Service gave them technical assistance in their filming. Prof. Alexandrov had already filmed in Switzerland in 1928, together with the famous Russian film producer Sergej Eisenstein. It was one

of the first films made in Switzerland "Frauennot—Frauenglück".

Lenin not only used the restaurant as a *Stammlokal*, but he also lived there. Not much was left of his little flat, and as we read in the "Tagesanzeiger", the last few souvenirs, two butter knives, a tea strainer and a tea glass left Zurich for East Berlin just after the second world war.

The house called "Beau Séjour" where the famous anti-war conference of Zimmerwald was organised in 1915, is also to disappear this year, 101 years after Lenin's birthday. The plaque at Spiegelgasse 14 is to be replaced on the newly erected building. It says "*Lenin, leader of the Russian Revolution, lived here from 21st February, 1916 to 2nd April, 1917.*" Five days later, the Russian *émigré* left Switzerland for home, and the course of world history was changed.

Since Switzerland represented the bourgeois type of society that Lenin detested, it is perhaps rather odd that he should have chosen it as a place of exile. But as it was he had not much choice and was all too glad to go there, for after the outbreak of war between Britain, France and Russia and the Central Powers he stood in danger of being arrested, and Switzerland offered asylum after a long and strenuous journey together with his wife Krupskaya. Offering asylum is perhaps not the right term; they were allowed entry into Switzerland until the leading Swiss Social Democrat, Robert Grimm, had stood surety for them. Strangely enough, these two men had not much in common, as Lenin was far too extreme for the Swiss.

Although Lenin knew Geneva from a previous spell of exile, he and his wife preferred Berne in 1914. They also stayed at a little hotel at Soerenberg for a while, after his wife's health had forced a rest on them. For their activities were manyfold, especially in connection with meeting other Bolsheviks in exile and with forging new links with the revolutionary movement in Russia. As his wife wrote later, they did everything they could to make propaganda for the fight against the imperialistic war. They wanted to turn it into a civil war which was to put down the foundations of a new society.

In February 1916, they moved to Zurich to the house at the Spiegelgasse where they had two rooms. Lenin and his wife lived modestly until their fortunes changed suddenly in 1917, after the Russian Revolution had broken out and the Czar abdicated. Lenin and a few other revolutionaries returned to St. Petersburg, and he became the first leader of the world's first Communist country, he Vladimir Ilych Ulyanov, who had once lived as a poor journalist at Spiegelgasse 14 in Zurich.

Now the "Jakobsbrunnen" as the

restaurant was called, is to disappear, and with it the stained beams, the natural tiles, the little stove in the centre and its long black connecting stovepipe and the round table in the corner at which the great Lenin used to drink his beer. *Tempi passati!*

SWISS ABROAD ITEMS

SWITZERLAND CALLING

Swiss Broadcasting Corporation's European and Overseas Services

The Swiss Broadcasting Corporation's summer 1971 broadcast schedule will include another language programme for listeners overseas. For the first time, a programme in Romansh, Switzerland's fourth national language, will be added to transmissions in English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Arabic and Esperanto.

Once a month, the German transmission will be replaced by a 30-minute programme of music and information from Switzerland's Romansh region. In providing a link between Switzerland and Romansh-speaking Swiss abroad, S.B.C. hope to contribute to the strengthening of a language spoken by only one per cent of Switzerland's population. The programme will be called *La trais-cha rumantscha*.

Among the changes for summer 1971 in S.B.C.'s English programme, there will be a round-table discussion entitled *To be quite frank*, a feature on different aspects of life in Switzerland. It will be broadcast every first Sunday of the month.

French-speaking listeners will have the opportunity of studying Switzerland's political, economic and social scene in the feature called *Au centre du débat*.

The Italian programme will place more emphasis on culture and tourism in Switzerland's Italian-speaking region. Instead of one 15-minute programme on Swiss-Italian dialects and folk music, there will be two features twice a month with the titles *Pagine di scrittori nostri* and *Ticino in musica*.

Anyone interested in receiving free copies of the S.B.C.'s programme guide should apply to *Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, European and Overseas Services, 3000 Berne 16, Switzerland*.

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE SWISS ABROAD MEETS IN BERNE

The Commission of the Swiss Abroad met in Berne on 6th March

under the chairmanship of its President, Councillor of States, Louis Guisan. He welcomed delegates from all parts of the world, from places as far apart as Argentine and Thailand. There were a number of personalities from amongst the inland members and others, such as the President of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique, Mr. J.-C. Nicole. Great Britain was represented by the regular delegate for the South, Mrs. Mariann Meier, and the deputy delegate for the North, Mr. O. Hartmann from Edinburgh.

The main business was the acceptance of the annual report and the accounts for 1970. Both were passed after some discussion on the budget. A deficit is again inevitable for 1971; but as the result of the *Bundesfeierspende* (Collection on Swiss National Day) 1972 will again be donated to the work of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad, the burden will be eased. On the other hand, the whole organisation is also growing and with it the tasks of the Secretariat in Berne. One of them is looking after communities abroad, and journeys overseas are a costly matter. Yet it was felt that such personal contacts were necessary. The Director of the Secretariat, Mr. M. Ney, informed the meeting of his planned visit to South Africa.

The meeting was told about the position of the Swiss abroad in the forthcoming eighth revision of the Old Age Insurance (AHV). The Commission is well represented on the body studying the revision, by the former member of the Secretariat, Dr. Sylvia Arnold. With regard to legislation under the Special Article for the Swiss Abroad in the Federal Constitution, a draft has been made dealing with the Confederation's responsibilities as to welfare assistance. Such legislation will take time, but progress has been made. Concerning political rights and military duties, a new position has arisen with the introduction of women's suffrage. The problem concerns foreign women married to Swiss living abroad, and it needs careful study.

Assembly of the Swiss Abroad at Brunnen

The delegates were given details of the programme of this summer's Assembly of the Swiss Abroad at Brunnen on the Lake of Lucerne. It will take place from 27th to 29th August. On the first day, there will be a meeting of the Commission with a different agenda. Less time will be spent on administrative matters and more time allocated to the discussion of problems. There will be a meeting of the Council of the Solidarity Fund of the Swiss Abroad in the afternoon of the first day. Other participants at the Assembly will have a choice of various visits (cement factory, Kirsch distillery, powerworks, Federal Archives and Museum at Schwyz, etc.) In the evening, there will

be the official opening, followed by the Annual General Meeting of the Solidarity Fund and a question time on general problems.

On Saturday morning will be the first plenary session. The second will take place in the afternoon, when a member of the Government will address the Assembly. A tour of the lake and entertainment will fill the evening.

On Sunday it is hoped to have an ecumenical church service, possibly on the Ruetli, followed by an excursion to the Buergenstock.

The theme of the Assembly will be "The Swiss abroad under the influence of two worlds—that of his homeland and that of his country of adoption". In the next issue of the "Swiss Observer", the theme will be gone into more fully and the questionnaire explained which had been issued by the Secretariat. This document gave rise to detailed discussion at the meeting in Berne, and the final version as accepted by the delegates, has just been sent out.

The next item on the agenda concerned the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad of 1972. It will be the 50th, and special arrangements are already being made to make the jubilee in Berne an outstanding event. Swiss firms and individuals abroad who have something worthwhile to show in connection with their work or occupation should apply immediately to the Secretariat in Berne (Alpenstrasse 26) for detailed information.

Information—Two-Way Traffic

A report on the activities of the special commission on information was given to the meeting. This commission has been working for a few years, ever since the Assembly in Lugano discussed the problem in general. The commission consists of prominent journalists from within Switzerland, representatives of the radio services and of the Federal Political Department, especially Mr. M. Jaccard who is in charge of the Section dealing with questions affecting the Swiss abroad. Three Swiss from abroad are members *ad personam*, one from Paris, one from Milan and one from London (Mrs. M. Meier). The question of information has two main aspects, firstly of how to keep the Swiss abroad informed of what happens at home, and secondly of how to give the Swiss at home the right information about the communities all over the world and about the conditions in which they exist. After much deliberation and study, a pilot scheme has been started in France, and a first special issue of the "Messager Suisse de France" was published in December, which, with the co-operation of the Federal Political Department, was sent to all registered Swiss in France. The result was evaluated, not least of the questionnaire which readers had been asked to send back, and the scheme may be called a success. It will be continued in France four times a year, and