

Notes and gleanings

Objektyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1929)**

Heft 423

PDF erstellt am: **27.04.2024**

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Notes and Gleanings—(Continued)

it, there is always the possibility that an abstract artist might.

Fishing.

If anybody asked you, dear Reader, why so and so has chosen *Maloja* for a holiday, you could advance several reasons, I think. But, I doubt very much whether you would include *Fishing* as one of such reasons. And yet I read the following in the *Fishing Gazette* of November 9th.

Dear Sirs,—I should be greatly obliged to any of your readers who could give me their personal experiences of the trout fishing in the lake at Maloja, Engadine, Switzerland. Apart from the fact that a permit to fish that lake from the "sides" only can be obtained from the local police, who are the actual owners of the fishing rights?—Yours faithfully,

Truly, Switzerland caters for all sorts of people. The above remarks of mine might, perhaps, also apply to places like Stansstad or Lugano, and I will, therefore, bow my head and say no more!

For Philatelists:

From *The Times*, 12th Nov.

The Swiss child-welfare stamps, "Pro Juventute," will present this year an attractive series of views in the Alps, off-set printed at Haarlem after the designs of eminent artists. Lake Lugano is the subject of the 5c. rose and violet by the Genevan painter Gos, while M. Ed. Boss, of Bern, is responsible for the pictures of Engstlensee, at the foot of the Tiltis, and Lyskamm, as seen from Riffelberg, appearing on the 10c. olive-green and brown on bluish and 20c. red and blue respectively. The fourth value, 30c. blue on azure, bears the head of the sainted Nicholas de Flue, who pacified the Swiss Confederacy in the 15th century. In accordance with precedent, these charity-cum-postage stamps will remain in circulation for one month only.

Owing to the dissatisfaction of the Prince of Liechtenstein with the proofs submitted by the Federal Mint at Bern in September and the consequent postponement of the issue of stamps bearing the Prince's likeness, it is understood that the new issue for that country is to be produced by the Austrian State Printing Works at Vienna.

TOM.

Tom, üse Kater, alte Herr,
Chlagt öfters, er wüss nid, woher
Es chöm, dass üsi donnens Müs,
Wo neste frech im Ussegghüs,
So liecht sich nümme löje fo;
's sig Oeppis lätz gwüss irgendwo.
Uf dieser Welt git's mänge Ma,
Den me mit Tom verglyche cha.
Zum Byspiel i d'r Büroaukratie
Het's, wo nüm uf d'r Höchi si,
Und, statt sich selbst by'r Nase z'näh,
Gäng Oepper anger Schuld wei gä. Mutz.

Literature on Winter Sports.

Quite a crop of books on Winter Sports in Switzerland and other centres have lately appeared in England. Following is a short list with extracts of notices:

The Winter Sports Annual. By J. B. Wroughton. (Cecil Palmer, 1/-.)

A wonderful shillingsworth, replete with maps and photographic illustrations. This is the fourteenth edition of the Annual with its yearly record of achievements in skiing, skating, curling, ice hockey, and tobogganning. Full details are given as to what to wear for winter sports, the choice of a winter sport resort, and winter sport clubs. Sports centres of the British Isles, Austria, France, Italy, Switzerland and Scandinavia, are well described in directory section. This book should be on every winter traveller's bookshelf.

"Winter Sport in Europe." By Becket Williams. (Bell, 7s. 6d.)

By ARNOLD LUNN.

A readable and comprehensive survey of the winter sport countries of Europe meets an obvious demand.

In spite of irritating inaccuracies, the book does contain a great deal of valuable information. There can be very few ski-runners with a more varied knowledge of winter sport centres than Mr. Williams. He is a man of strong prejudices, but he writes agreeably, and is never dull.

SWITZERLAND AND AUSTRIA.

Mr. Williams begins his survey with Switzerland, which he considers to be comparatively dear, though he admits "that one generally gets value for one's money. Many could manage with less dances and palatial rooms, and a corresponding cheapness of tariff." Those, however, who do not want dances and palace hotels can find in Switzerland good ski-ing and comfortable accommodation at a reasonable price.

The best part of the book is that which deals with Austria. The author loves the country and its people, and writes charmingly about both. Austria is certainly a first-class ski-ing country, with a wide choice of magnificent ski-ing centres. But in comparing prices it should be remembered that the journey to Austria is longer and more expensive than to Switzerland. And surely the Swiss Alps are the more beautiful. The stupendous north wall of the Oberland and the Matterhorn from Zermatt have only one rival outside Switzerland, the south face of Mont Blanc.

SCANDINAVIA.

The author writes with great affection and real knowledge of Scandinavia. Every ski-runner should visit Norway and Sweden, partly because they will find in those countries the greatest experts at jumping and long distance races, partly because Scandinavia ski-ing is more adventurous than ski-ing in the Alps, and partly because every ski-runner ought to visit the homeland of our sport.

"Climbs and Ski Runs." By F. S. Smythe (Blackwood, 21s.)

Modern mountaineering is of many types and is active in many different continents; and it is a virtue of Mr. Smythe's book that he expresses this modern broadening of the sport. As a distinguished member of the younger school of British climbers, and a man who has had a wide experience of different types of mountaineering, he is able to speak with authority. He gives us adventures of many sorts and he carries on the old tradition in the modern spirit. Even some of the classical jokes re-appear in a modern garb. He takes us, as is right and proper, to the hills of our own country and thence to the Alps. Winter sport—ski-ing—and winter climbing have their place. But, as is again right and proper, the classical summer climbing remains the backbone of the book. His adventures rise in progressive interest. The Tödi, the Dolomites, a fine description of a thunderstorm on the Schreckhorn, the Petret ridge—and they culminate in the two new ascents of the east face of Mont Blanc in 1927 and 1928. The adventures are well told by a writer who has a vivid memory for dramatic incidents and who maintains the scientific tradition—a somewhat mysterious connection is traced between the colour of a stormy morning and that of the discharge in the Crookes tube. Mr. Smythe is, however, more reliable in his excellent note on "avalanches." His illustrations are good and portray the mountains in unusual aspects. He ends his book, which may be heartily recommended to all mountain lovers, with a confession of faith.

ECONOMIC SWITZERLAND.

THE BUILDING INDUSTRY.

During the first term of 1929 5,300 lodgings were built in Switzerland. During the same period 128 designs for the construction of factories were approved of. An unabated activity

characterises the building industry, especially in the larger Swiss towns.

RAILWAYS.

A large shunting-yard was opened recently at Muttentz (near Basle) which is considered to be the most up-to-date of the kind in Europe. Being situated at a junction of French, German and Swiss railways systems it is of international importance. The total costs amount to 22 million francs.

AUTOMOBILE TRANSPORT.

From 1920 to 1928 the network of regularly organized automobile transport increased from 800 to 1,200 km., the number of travellers from 880,000 to 2 millions and the quantity of goods conveyed from 16,000 to 49,000 tons.

ARTIFICIAL SILK.

The Fascist organ "La seta artificiale" publishes the following statistics concerning the production and consumption of artificial silk in the principal countries, reckoned in kilogrammes per capita of the inhabitants:

	Consumption	Production
Switzerland	0.70	1.26
Belgium	0.55	1.01
England	0.43	0.51
United States	0.41	0.37
Germany	0.38	0.34
France	0.30	0.41
Italy	0.29	0.65
Czechoslovakia	0.27	0.09
Canada	0.26	0.17
Austria	0.19	0.27
Holland	0.17	0.05
Japan	0.11	0.11

It is of interest to note that the smaller industrial countries, such as Switzerland, Belgium and Holland occupy, proportionately, a very important position.

RESPECT THE POLICE.

Fritz was on his way to school when he met a policeman and touched his cap to him.

Teacher: "I am glad to see you respect the police."

Fritz: "Yes, that is the policeman who brings dad home every Saturday night."

—Nebelspalter, Zurich.

The Paradise of the Week-End.

The following article does not deal with Switzerland, writes "Kyburg," but for many of us it has a joyous message or rather a faint, but sweet memory of other days. Something akin to the effect we feel when we hear "Erzählungen aus dem Wienerwald."

"Sunday excursions are an easy matter for the Viennese, as the magnificent Wienerwald (Vienna Forest) begins at the very outskirts of the city, extending about fifty miles west and south.

The Sunday excursion of the old Imperial days had its own peculiar Viennese character. Wine and music played no small part in it. The respectable Viennese citizen of twenty years ago, with his wife and family, took a tram-ride to one of the outer termini, and after about an hour's walk in the fine forest he sought refreshment in one of the inns, especially where he could get "Heurige," new wine of the seasons, vintage, fresh from some vineyard near by of the innkeeper's own. A hundred and fifty years ago the Emperor Joseph II. decreed that owners of vineyards should be permitted to sell their own wine on their premises without a licence, and this custom has survived right down to our day.

In these wineshops the family would take a seat at one of the long wooden tables under the lime trees and order a litre (little short of a quart) of wine. They would have their own food in a parcel. The contents would be very different from what an Englishman would take. Sandwiches, in the English sense, were unknown before the war, and the chief contents of the parcel would be innumerable "Natur oder Wiener Schnitzeln"—thin fried Vienna steaks, cold—a huge loaf of rye bread, some cheese, butter, and many and multifarious cakes, some filled with rich cream, others plain, others made with chocolate, and so forth. Knife and fork were neither supplied with the Heurige nor brought by the excursionists. Father's penknife was used to cut the Schnitzel and the cakes were taken between the fingers. The menfolk liked to eat dry and stale cakes because this gave a good excuse to order another, and again another, litre of the good Heurige wine.

In the corner of the garden the Schrammel-Quartet would be playing—a strangely combined small orchestra—violin, bass-viol, melodeon, and piano. The orchestra would play sentimental and generally obsolescent Vienna tunes: "Wien, Wien, nur du allein, Du sollst die Stadt meiner Träume sein..." ("Vienna, Vienna, thou alone shalt be the city of my dreams"), or "Ich möcht' wieder a mal in Grinzing sein, Beim Wein, beim Wein, beim Wein" ("I want to be in Grin-