

Notes and gleanings

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Une presse à filer munie d'un piston déployant une force de trois millions de kilos fait passer un gros lingot cylindrique à travers une matrice qui, telle une machine à faire les macaronis, livre des barres, des câbles ou des rubans de diverses formes. Le piston est actionné par une presse hydraulique commandée par des pompes électriques absorbant 250 CV. La presse peut tréfiler jusqu'à cinq tonnes de métal par heure. Cette machine est la plus puissante existant aujourd'hui en Europe. Les barres, rubans, etc., sortant de la matrice de la presse passent sur d'autres machines qui les aplanissent, redressent et régularisent.

Dans une halle voisine se trouve le laminoir, une merveille de la technique moderne. Entre ses trois cylindres, en quelques minutes, un lingot aux surfaces rectangulaires et qu'on pourrait tenir dans ses bras si l'on en avait la force, est transformé en une tôle de quelques millimètres d'épaisseur et mesurant plusieurs mètres carrés. Encore toute trépidante et courbaturée par les cylindres implacables, la tôle, transportée par un pont roulant, passe sur plusieurs machines qui l'aplanissent, lui donnent une forme régulière ou la détaillent en morceaux plus petits.

Avant de pénétrer dans la presse à filer ou dans le laminoir, les lingots sont chauffés dans des fours à la température d'environ 400 degrés.

Une autre halle, voisine du vestiaire et du réfectoire, renferme une intéressante collection de machines-outils d'une grande précision où l'on prépare, usine et perfore les matrices à filer et où l'on répare diverses pièces.

Le "laminoir valaisain" a été inauguré mardi 28 mai. La cérémonie débuta, dans la cour de la fabrique, par un discours de Mgr. Bieler, évêque de Sion, qui montra les avantages découlant de l'industrie pour les populations valaisannes, et qui mit en garde les ouvriers contre les sophismes des meneurs prenant leur mot d'ordre à Moscou et cherchant à ruiner nos institutions démocratiques, nos croyances religieuses et à appauvrir le pays. Le prélat parla aussi de la collaboration et de la bonne harmonie existant ici entre le capital et le travail, deux puissances qui ne peuvent vivre l'une sans l'autre. Mgr. Bieler procéda ensuite à la bénédiction de l'usine et de son personnel.

Un banquet d'une cinquantaine de couverts réunit les invités au Foyer de l'aluminium. On y entendit des discours de MM. Naville, président du conseil d'administration; Loretan, conseiller d'Etat; Bonvin, président de Sierre; colonel J. Couchepin; Dr. Détraz, et Dallèves, avocat.

Une journée comme celle-ci laisse une excellente impression. On sait en particulier que l'industrie a gagné sa cause en Valais où l'on n'eût pas toujours la compréhension de sa valeur économique et où l'on s'ingénia à élever des obstacles de tous genres à la construction et au développement des fabriques. Aujourd'hui, une localité est fière de posséder une usine et on voit Sion faire enfin des démarches pour attirer sur son territoire quelques nouvelles industries. Avec les remarquables installations de la Société de l'aluminium, la région de Sierre et de Chippis est maintenant largement favorisée et fait même beaucoup d'envieux.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

What about Swiss Roll.

I mean, why not give that Swiss bee Swiss Roll?

Says the *Daily Mail*:

Yesterday a friend of mine received some flowers from Switzerland. They arrived in a very sorry condition after their long journey. But on removing the flowers from the moss at the bottom of the box she was surprised to hear an angry buzz. A large bee thereupon flew out.

The owner is now considering the possibilities of hanging it out of the window in the hope that it may attract a swarm, or, after careful training, keeping it as a pet.

As it is, she is now wondering what will appeal to its Swiss appetite.

Or, alternatively, that bee might make its return journey to the newly opened

Air Port at Berne.

concerning which the *Hull Daily Mail* writes on 3rd June:

To-day (Monday), the new airport was opened at Berne, linking the Swiss capital direct with the now widely-branched system of international air traffic.

A feature of the Berné aerodrome will be the development of tourist sight-seeing flights over some of the finest Alpine scenery. Hitherto most of Switzerland's air traffic has been centred in Bale and Geneva both of which cities are on the outer edge of the country and some distance from the great snow-capped hinterland of the Alps of the frontier.

From Berne it will now be possible to reach the famous Oberland area within half an hour and enjoy the unforgettable sight of the Jungfrau, Monch and Eiger from above the glaciers there.

and from Berne, that bee—what a traveller she is by now!—might do worse than pay a visit to that re-opened

Britannia Alpine Hut.

The *Morning Post* on 12th June published the following:

The Britannia Hut, one of the most famous of Swiss mountain refuges, is to be reopened early in August in its new and enlarged form in stone. The Hut, the gift of British members to the Swiss Alpine Club in 1912, is situated at a height of over 10,000ft. on the Klein Allalin, between Saas and Zermatt. Originally built of timber in chalet style, it recently succumbed to the long buffetings of Alpine winters. Its re-opening is a result of further British subscriptions.

and, finally our bee might attend some meeting at which Disarmament is being discussed and there, as a token of good-will shed its sting! Disarmament, which is being discussed just now over here, also formed the subject of a discussion in the National Council the other day. Says the *Manchester Guardian* of 7th June:

Switzerland and Disarmament.

The Swiss Second Chamber, having approved of Swiss adhesion to the Kellogg Pact yesterday, conducted long discussions to-day on disarmament. The Socialist group moved that Parliament should invite the Swiss Government to report as to whether and how Swiss disarmament may be realised. They proposed that this resolution should be adopted as a sign of Swiss sincerity and confidence in the sincerity of all the other adhering States, especially those States bordering on Switzerland.

The Foreign Minister, M. Motta, who to judge by his remarks yesterday was full of confidence regarding the progressive improvement of international relations, to-day appeared to be quite content with the results of the last session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, and particularly with the decision that trained reserves should not be limited. This decision, he said, means that the Swiss military system may remain unchanged even after the Disarmament Conference.

The Socialist disarmament resolution was finally rejected by 103 votes to 48. Although in December about 20 members of the bourgeois parties voted in favour of reductions of the military estimates to-day only two Radicals allied themselves with the Socialists.

Diplomatic Privilege.

The *Observer*, 16th June.

In consequence of some motor-car accidents caused by foreign diplomatists accredited in Switzerland, a question was asked in the Nationalrat if it would not be opportune to limit the privileges of their exterritoriality as far as safety in traffic is concerned. So far they have not had to pass any test of driving capacity, nor have they been under the law which determines the liabilities for damages and injuries caused by accidents.

The Federal Councillor Motta replied that it was not right that a person suffering injury from a foreign diplomatist should not be able to take legal steps against him. "The diplomatic immunities," he said, "are indeed ripe for re-consideration, but this is a matter of international tradition, and Switzerland cannot bring about any change by herself."

With all due respect to Federal Councillor Motta, I suggest that Switzerland could easily take the initiative required by informing the respective Governments that Switzerland did not insist any longer on exterritoriality for their Ministers and Legations.—I fear, however, that this move would be too much of a shock for our bureaucracy! It is comforting anyhow to know that one of our Federal Councillors, and I am sure he is voicing the opinion of the other six as well, has publicly admitted that this diplomatic immunity is ripe for the dustheap.

Still Obsessed by War

A very refreshing and timely view is expressed in *The Christian World*, 13th June:

"I'm excited. I'm watching intelligent men doing a stupid—dangerously stupid—thing and can do nothing to stop them. I should like to jump up on this chair and shout a warning—but I can't. I can only boil over on paper."

"And so it goes. What excites me is this: The thirty nations here represented all definitely and solemnly renounced and outlawed war when they signed and ratified the peace pact, and here they are talking about how to make the next war more humane! Every now and then a voice is raised reminding the other delegates of the peace pact, and asking, why go on preparing for war? But such voices cry in the wilderness. Silence and perplexed looks greet them—and the conference drones on."

From my seat here in the press gallery I look out past the delegates gathered round the great U-shaped table in this famous glass room



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Fête Nationale Suisse
Festa Nazionale Svizzera

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of the League of Nations building, out past the blossoming gardens on the shore of Lake Geneva, out to a strange little projection in the midst of the waters—a remnant of some prehistoric village which once thrived here under the shadows of the snow-crowned Alps. And I wonder if that old civilisation perished because it could not learn to adjust its thinking to its changing environment.

"Somehow our generation must grow a new crop of statesmen—men who can invent ways of maintaining peace rather than 'conventions' for making war more 'humane.' Who will tackle the job?"

Exactly! We don't want "more humane" wars, we want Peace.

The Liechtenstein Experiment.

The Zurich Correspondent of the Observer writes:

An article which I wrote last summer about the Volunteer Work in the Principality of Liechtenstein, aroused a certain interest among some of the readers of *The Observer*. These readers may be interested in what Colonel Cérésolo, the organiser of that work, said about it in a paper read here last week and illustrated by lantern slides.

As will be remembered, the task was to clear a tract of arable land covered with sand and pebbles by an inundation of the Rhine, in October, 1927. The work started in April, 1928, and came to an end in October. 710 volunteers, among them 78 women, were engaged in it. They represented twenty different nations. The number of working days was 19,371, the average for every volunteer running to 27. They worked 9½ hours a day. The result was the reclamation of 4,000 acres of land. Where there was a barren desert last June haymaking is going on now. The total cost of this fine achievement—tools and beddings were furnished by the Swiss Government free of charge—ran up to the very small sum of 30,000 Swiss francs, or somewhat more than one thousand pounds.

The volunteers were a motley company, ranging from the serious-minded student and social worker to the lazy vagabond in quest of free board and lodging. There were a number of English students. But the German Communists were more prominent, and it was they who tried to dominate the discussions going on after curfew. As regards the average efficiency of the volunteers the engineers estimate it at about 60 per cent of that of ordinary workmen.

The lesson taught by the Liechtenstein experiment has been utilised in other undertakings of a similar character, since organised by Col. Cérésolo. The most important change is that only students are now engaged. Thus a homogeneous milieu of a most interesting and happy composition has been created, and all those who have taken part in it are greatly satisfied by their experience.

Last autumn the villages of Misox, Vicosoprano, Bosco and Casaccia, all situated on the southern slope of the Alps and devastated by wild mountain torrents, enjoyed the help of the students. This summer they will assist the village of Bagnes in the Canton of Wallis, where 60,000 square yards of pasture land have been covered in by inundations. Work will start on June 21 and last till September 22. The volunteers will be given free board and lodging and a free return ticket after three weeks' work. The organisation is in the hands of the Technical High School at Zurich.

I trust the Rt. Hon. J. H. Thomas will get to hear of the above.

International Silk Association.

The last assembly of delegates of this important organisation has decided that the Third International Silk Congress should be held at Zurich the centre of that industry in Switzerland, from 12th–14th September 1929. The Zurich Association of Silk Industry has been charged with the organisation of this meeting.

The Importance of Swiss Purchases.

It is a well-known fact that the smallness of Swiss territory, the almost entire want of home-grown raw materials etc., are all factors which have led Switzerland to specialise in the so-called transforming industries which necessitate work of the highest order and for which exportation is a vital necessity. On the other hand, many hundred thousand natives of Switzerland have had to leave their own country and settle down elsewhere in order to find suitable occupation. It is also well-known that vast numbers of tourists visit Switzerland every year and contribute to its prosperity. These facts might give rise to the supposition that Switzerland and its citizens live on other countries without supplying them with any compensation. This is not the case. Swiss citizens living in other countries contribute to the economic development of the countries which offer them hospitality, by means of the work there exe-

cuted by them. Owing to the prosperous state of its industries and the facilities for travel which it presents, Switzerland itself forms an import market, the importance of which is often underrated. Switzerland's annual purchases in other countries are very considerable. This is due not only to the power of absorption of the market on account of the advanced stage of national economy, but also to the fact that Switzerland offers very liberal treatment, from the point of view of customs duties, to the various foreign goods imported by her. This fact has been recognised by authorities on the subject. Quite lately, on Feb. 19th, 1929, the Foreign Trade Minister in the British House of Commons declared that the general level of Swiss customs duties was much lower than that of most European countries. It is interesting to complete what we have here said by quoting some very suggestive figures taken from the international statistic annuary published by the League of Nations. The total area of the globe measures 133,440 thousand square kilometers, of which Switzerland only occupies 41,000 sq. km. a most insignificant area, from a numerical standpoint. The total population of the world amounts to 1926 millions only 4 millions of which inhabit Switzerland. Swiss imports on the contrary amount to 1.46% of the total imports of the world! For the sake of comparison we here quote the proportions for a few other countries: Belgium 2.40%, Australia 2.32%, Czechoslovakia 1.45%, Spain 1.33%, Sweden 1.28%, Brazil 1.24%, Poland 0.56%, Roumania 0.51%, etc. All these countries, both which immediately precede Switzerland and those which follow it, have a much larger population than has our country.

The existing ignorance concerning Swiss purchases in other countries often arises from the fact that in the statistics of the foreign commerce of these countries, the classification of goods is often made according to the ports of destination, and not according to the countries of consumption. As Switzerland possesses no sea-coast, and therefore no ports, it often happens that goods destined for Switzerland are entered in the lists of countries in whose ports the goods are unshipped.

B.I.S.

More Motor-cars in Switzerland.

At the end of the year 1928, the total number of motor vehicles circulating in Switzerland had surpassed the figure of 100,000, an increase of almost 16,000 on 1927. During the last six years the total number of motor vehicles of the Swiss Confederation has trebled, that of motor vans doubled, and that of motor-cycles almost quadrupled. At present in Switzerland there is one motor vehicle per 39 inhabitants. The density varies considerably according to the districts. There is one vehicle per 18 inhabitants at Geneva—30 in the Canton de Vaud—32 in the Canton de Neuchâtel—34 in the Canton de Zurich, while quite naturally the mountainous cantons, the Crisous, Valais, etc. present a less accentuated "automobile density".

If one examines the makes of motor-cars and motor-vans actually circulating in Switzerland one observes that out of every hundred more than 31 are of American make (a point to be emphasised at a moment when the Americans are considerably increasing their customs tariff), more than 26 of French origin, more than 20 of Italian make and about 11 of Swiss construction. France who held the first place until 1927 was surpassed in 1928 by the United States. Nevertheless an Italian make heads the list, followed by a French make. As to motor-cycles numbered at more than 38,000, about 45 per cent. are of Swiss and about 30 of English make.

In the Swiss Shoe Industry.

The Swiss shoe, solid, smart and comparatively cheap, has enjoyed for many years a great popularity abroad. In consequence of the great war, however, numerous exporting relations were cut off and later the high exchange of our money, raising the cost of production, proved to be an obstacle to renewing normal export conditions. In spite of this, the Swiss shoe industry, thanks to its world-wide renown, succeeded in attaining an important export index particularly in high-class footwear. Now, ten years after the war, things have been changed; although there are still numerous people who seem to think that the Swiss shoe must be more expensive than other makes, on account of the Swiss exchange and that our goods are too dear for the middle classes. Our prices have, however, been adapted to foreign markets on account of the stabilization of currency in many foreign countries. Many of our firms have modernised their factories, adapting themselves to present circumstances and are thus enabled to-day to export to any parts of the world.

England and her colonies for example are again steady buyers of Swiss footwear. The fact is that Switzerland to-day is again able to export shoes to most foreign countries.

S.I.T.

American Protectionism and Swiss Export.

The growing protectionism of the United States of America, is a great source of anxiety for the Swiss exporters and more especially for those of watches.

Since the war, American protectionism has considerably reduced Swiss importation as the following figures show:

Swiss export to the U. S. A. in million francs.

1913.....	136.4	1924.....	205.9
1920.....	283.3	1925.....	191.5
1921.....	585.7	1926.....	201.0
1922.....	215.4	1926.....	209.6
1923.....	209.5	1928.....	195.3

In order to appreciate these figures, we must not forget to mention that since the war the price of goods in gold francs went up from 50 to 60% on an average.

S.I.T.

Swiss Industrial Development.

Switzerland numbers at the present time 8,331 industrial establishments employing about 400,000 workmen, i.e., about 10 per cent. of the total population of the country. The cantons having the most workmen employed in industry are, in order of importance: Zurich, Berne, Argovie, St. Gall, Soleure, Basle, Vaud, Neuchâtel and Geneva.

The textile industry employs more than 30 per cent. of the workmen, that of machinery and apparatus more than 14 per cent., the watchmaking industry more than 10 per cent., that of alimentary almost 8 per cent.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

In connection with the scholastic programme the following lectures were given by the students during last week:—

Mr. E. Schuetz, Péry-Bienne: "Gold." Mr. P. Hofer, Grenchen: "Watch Industry." Mr. O. Meyer, Zug: "Militarism and Patriotism." Mr. A. Bernhardt, Baeretswil-Zeh: "Our Parents' Birthdays." Miss M. Hoehener, St. Gall: "Ireland." Mr. G. Lehmann, Worb: "Billingsgate." Miss C. Fischer, Winterthur: "What is Happiness." Mr. W. Katz, Basle: "Capitalism." Mr. J. Scheuermeier, Zurich: "Botany." Mr. M. Schwob, Hochdorf: "The Doll's Paradise." Mr. W. Baur, Beinwil a/See: "Summer Holidays."

The debating classes dealt with the following subjects:—

"Has the Cinema a Demoralising Influence?" Proposer, Mr. M. Schwob; Opposer, Mr. H. Kempin.

"Is Death the End of Everything?" Proposer, Mr. M. Bruggisser; Opposer, Mr. H. Roggmann.

Friday: A deeply philosophical and problematic speech was made by Thos. G. Harper, Esq., M. A. (Oxon.), on: "The Moral Basis of Labour." A lively discussion followed. Mr. J. W. Klein presided and offered the thanks of the meeting to the Lecturer.

Saturday: The Students under the leadership of Mr. Klein and Mr. Davis made an excursion to Dorking and ascended Box Hill. The Students delightedly exclaimed that the scenery was quite Swiss and returned home in high spirits.

THE FOYER SUISSE.

The annual meeting of the Foyer Suisse was held on Friday, the 21st June, at 15, Upper Bedford Place, W.C.1. The Swiss Minister, M. C. R. Paravicini, Hon. President of the Trust, had communicated his regrets for being absent, and the chair was taken by the president, the Rev. R. Hoffmann de Visme.

The agenda consisted of the ordinary statutory business: Hon. Secretary's report, Financial Report, Election of three new members, Council, and auditors.

The accounts were presented by Mr. R. J. Dixon, F.C.J.S., F.L.A.A., F.C.W.A., and all questions and details being answered to the full satisfaction of the members were passed unanimously.

The following gentlemen were re-elected to constitute the Council of Management for the new year 1929-30: Rev. R. Hoffmann de Visme, president; Mr. G. Hafner, vice-president; H. Barth, treasurer; C. Bertschinger, secretary; H. Joss, F. G. Sommer and J. Weber. Mr. R. J. Dixon was also re-elected as auditor for the coming year.

The following new members of the Trust were proposed and unanimously elected: Mr. Aug. Muller, Mr. Fred. Kueng, Dr. C. Devegney.

The Hon. Secretary's report (printed below) was read and also approved.

The meeting terminated with a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. W. Meyer, manager; Mr. and Mrs. Koelliker and the staff at the Foyer Suisse.

XI. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE FOYER SUISSE.

Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, It is my duty and it gives me at the same time