

"Die Englaender am Zuericher Sechselaeuten" [continued]

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BERNE AND ITS COMING EXHIBITION.

Of all the many charming Swiss cities there is none more fascinating than the Federal capital. Beautiful Berne is a perfect example of the mediaeval combined with the modern. The closely built houses standing in massive rows, like a great fortress on the elevated peninsula formed by the winding waters of the Aare, the delightful irregular streets with quaint arcades sheltering the pavements, the allegorical and historical fountains, with their Gothic figures of warriors and mercenaries and local heroes of the fifteenth century, that ornament many of the thoroughfares—how pleasant is the memory to those who have seen them!

Many of us, no doubt, will be going again to Switzerland this summer, and of those who are going a great many will be re-visiting Berne. They will want to gather again beneath the famous old clock to watch the play of the mechanical figures when the armoured giant up in the belfry has struck the noontide hour with his sledgehammer. They will want again to gaze on the glorious view of the Bernese Oberland from the terrace of the Parliament House, and to saunter up and down the fascinating streets, charmed by a brightly-coloured coat-of-arms over a doorway, by an artistic window grille or a round bay-window, quaintly carved and painted. And

of course, to see the Cathedral which rears its noble silhouette above the picturesque houses and intriguing shops.

From July 24th until September 20th, Berne will have a very special attraction in the shape of an Exhibition of Hygiene and Sport (officially nick-named "Hyspa"), the first of its kind to be held in the country. The success of this undertaking is already largely assured through the active part taken in it by the chief transport undertakings and renowned climatic stations, whose great collective groups will afford an imposing tableau of the Swiss health resorts and of the facilities for travel and communication. Davos, St. Moritz and Arosa promise a particularly brilliant show, while the Syndicate of Swiss Hydros will illustrate the famous mineral springs and baths of Baden, Ragaz, Rheinfelden, Schinznach, Schuls-Taraspe and the other balneologic resources of Switzerland.

The various Swiss sports centres will be represented in a special section, as well as all branches of gymnastics, including health culture at schools and orthopaedic exercise. The Swiss Association for Physical Exercise will here give proof of its many-sided activity. The interests of football, hockey, base-ball, and athletics generally, will all be represented and their actual attainments manifested.

It goes without saying that in such a demonstration of the national sporting movement,

Alpinism must take worthy prominence, wherefore the Swiss Alpine Club is preparing an important display embracing the entire organization of Alpine refuges and life-saving measures. A section of juvenile Alpinism will give account of what has been achieved in Switzerland in this direction.

Winter sports and aquatic sports of every kind will be duly demonstrated, as also fencing, boxing and other "handy" crafts.

The opening of the exhibition is to coincide with the Federal Music Festival which will be held in Berne from July 24th to 27th, with a participation of some eight thousand performers, while an ample programme of sporting events has been arranged, including the tournament of the Swiss Tennis Association, a motor rally of the Swiss Touring Club, the national tournaments of wrestling and of the *hornuss* game (a sort of rustic equivalent to tennis).

The exhibition will also furnish the occasion for an international boating regatta on the Lake of Thun, fencing tournaments, contests for international championships in motor-cycle "foot ball," etc.

It will be obvious from the foregoing brief summary that the forthcoming "Hyspa" Exhibition, besides affording a comprehensive review of all the results of the modern exigencies of hygiene, will constitute an important event in the development of sports.

Traveller's Gazette.

"Die Engländer am Zuericher Sechseläuten."

(Continued)

The Manager, after seeing from the papers we had to fill in on arrival that we were citizens of Zurich, informed us that on Monday next would be the famous Sechseläuten which to a Zurich means as much as the Lord Mayor's show of London to a cockney.

Our daddy was very pleased indeed, we dropped all other items on our programme and devoted ourselves entirely to the participation at the Sechseläuten.

Father wanted us to follow in his footsteps not only figuratively but literally, and we succeeded to move all the power that be to get enrolled. As it happened one of Dad's school-friends was the President of the whole show and therefore it was relatively easy.

Everyone we approached gave us a helping hand; we soon secured our card of participation, and were just in time to find all those interested in the show at the Zunft Waag, secured some costumes as English "Milords" and therefore we took part as "Die Zwei Engländer am Züricher Sechseläuten."

Of course, the costumes required some adjustments, but our Mammy, together with some kind Züricher lady friends and the whole Hotel staff overcame all difficulties and finally we stood in the full glory of our costumes in the Hall of the Hotel, ready to face whatever came our way. Unfortunately we could not secure any Monocles, and had perforce to make them out of cardboard, but this was perhaps just as well, they were less likely to cut our eyes.

Daddy took a photo of us outside the Hotel, and whilst doing so, an American gentleman stopped his auto, came out of it in order also to take a photo of us. He took us in our costumes to represent "Uncle Sam" which after all could be just as well, if we had put a few stars and stripes on our grey top hats.

The photo finished we had a friendly chat with the American gentleman and his charming lady, who were both delighted to have a chat in American with the two "Uncle Sams." Shortly after they re-entered their car and left Zurich for Lindau and Wien. They came from Milan through the Gotthard that very morning. They showed us many snapshots taken on their wonderful tour through Italy, amongst them being those of their auto on the railway at Airole before being taken through the Gotthard tunnel. All they did in Zurich was to take our photo, and extend a very kind invitation to us to visit them in Philadelphia in the U.S.A.

Since writing the above they have sent us the photo they made in Zurich—they are now in Paris. What a trip.

We are now saving our pennies to go there as soon as possible hoping that this will be our next voyage.

At 2.30 we had to be at the Utoquai where the whole of the "Kinderumzug" was going to be formed. This was rather a lengthy process and very tiresome waiting. It was difficult to find out where one really belonged to and where that particular section was formed; however, we finally managed it and all was well.

Unfortunately at that time some drops of rain, nearly spoilt the whole performance, but

the weather was promised fair until about 5 o'clock and kept its promise remarkably well.

The whole of the procession was hurried on a little so as to complete the programme by 4.30 and get the children all into the Tonhalle.

All went off very well, there were, of course, a good many stoppages but finally we got through it all. The various brass bands helped us considerably to walk the very long way. We walked in all about two hours. There were some carts which collected some of the smaller children when they were tired of walking but my brother and I would, of course, walk to the very end. There was a "contra march" at one spot which enabled us all to see the whole of the procession. We passed each other and admired each other. We thought that when two brass bands passed each other one of them would stop playing for a bit, but nothing of the kind happened, as a matter of fact *I believe they all blew harder* and thereby made an infernal noise whilst crossing each other and for some distance before and after.

There were also some very nice "Handharmonica bands" some of them girls only, all played very well indeed and had lovely costumes, mostly white and blue, the Zurich colours. This reminded me of the time I carried the Zurich flag from the Embankment to Hyde Park together with Mr. Barbezat and Mr. Dimier in the League of Nations procession, dear old Mr. Dimier was kind enough at the end of the trip to make me a present of the flag, which I have still got, as I would not part with it. This must have been in 1922-1923.

At the end of the procession about 4.30, we all went to the Tonhalle. How they got us all in there I do not know, but still more marvellous it is that they had sufficient "wurst and brot" for all of us. The whole thing was very well arranged. We all got Bratwurst and Brot in a paper bag. They both tasted very good, but the tea they gave us was shockingly bad and a libel to call it tea. Here we learnt the trick of the saying "Alles hat ein Ende, nur die Wurst hat zwei!"

We found out that in Switzerland they make good coffee but they do not know how to make tea. In one place we actually saw them boiling the tea leaves with the water. When I go to Lausanne this summer, I shall show them how to make tea, my Mammy has already taught me how to do it long ago.

We had hardly been home after the Tonhalle, and many were still there, when it started raining and snowing, really snowing! a disgraceful performance of the weather clerk after such a nice afternoon, but we must be grateful that the weather lasted whilst the performance was on, and that the next day the weather was really nice again. Weather and peoples laughter are very changeable indeed!

On Monday morning all the children who took part in the procession on Sunday afternoon met at the Tonhalle once more for a dance and Punch and Judy show, and many other entertainments all especially arranged for us young people.

The Tonhalle which is a very large and lovely building was crowded to its utmost capacity and we all had a royal time. Of course, my brother and I, were somewhat handicapped on account of our ignorance of "Züridütsch," but we managed to enjoy ourselves all the same, and when anyone insisted on talking to us like some did the day before we simply replied Ja! Ja! and got through it all safe and sound.

The Stadt Zunft was at the Hotel Habis where we stayed, therefore we had the whole performance such as the Mitagessen der Zunft with brass band, etc., etc., all at first hand, everywhere great activity, gentlemen with funny black hats, blue coats, white riding breeches, spurs, etc., etc. The whole most interesting and most strange to us all.

We had lunch with some of Daddy's friends who specially came from Winterthur to see us at the Sechseläuten. After lunch all those children belonging to the Stadtzunft were collected, received some cake and this time really good tea at the Hotel.

Meanwhile outside all the members of the Zunft on horseback had formed a cavalcade, the others followed on foot together with the children in fancy-dress, similar to the day before.

All the various Zunfts or Guilds as they call them here in England (there are 22 of them) formed a new procession and the whole performance of the day before started once more. We walked for another 2½ hours through the various streets of Old Zurich from the Bahnhof to the Lake and vice versa, and finally at about 6 o'clock we landed at the Utoquai once more where we witnessed the burning of the "Bögg" or Snowman filled with fireworks. The scene signifies the burning of the Winter and the coming of Spring, rather quickly after the snow the previous evening.

It was a really memorable performance and although we had walked a good deal more than usual, we were not too tired to watch the evening performance in the Hotel where the Stadtzunft had their Headquarters, here they had their dinner at which our Daddy took part and where various other Zunfts came visiting during the evening with their Brass bands, lanterns, strange signs carried on sticks, people in all sorts of costumes, speechifying, singing, drinking. A really old jolly and glorious time they had.

We finally gave it up and went to bed about midnight, but we understand it all went on until 4 o'clock in the morning and in our sleep or dreams, *we do not know which*, we heard the sounds of the brass bands, the singing of male voices, by that time somewhat out of tune and see the various banners, lanterns, etc., carried about by the visiting Zunfts and their members.

No doubt you, Mr. Editor, and many of your readers have seen and heard all about the Zurich's Sechseläuten. It has a great reputation we know, but fully deserves it, and we would recommend to all those who have not seen it, to go to Switzerland and to Zurich especially for that performance; it is really worth the trip, especially if you can manage to join one of the Zunfts.

As you have already published an account of the Sechseläuten in your No. 496, of April 25th inst. by the correspondent of the Morning Post, you confirmed the high opinion we formed about the famous Sechseläuten by publishing such an able article of this prominent English newspaper. This makes us especially proud of the fact that we have actually, by our presence, contributed to the great success of the festivities.

Besides the foregoing we have seen a good deal more in Switzerland which will keep our memory fresh until we shall have a further occasion to visit the Country of which we as citizen have every reason to be proud of.

TO BE CONTINUED.