

Notes and gleanings

Objekttyp: **Group**

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

Band (Jahr): - **(1932)**

Heft 536

PDF erstellt am: **27.04.2024**

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Wise Words:

It is refreshing to come across wise words in these times of troubled thoughts and chaotic reasoning and when such wise words fall from the lips of so eminent a man as Lieut.-Col. G. S. Hutchison, D.S.O., they are all the more worth listening to.

I may be permitted to ask my Readers not only to read and digest the following article which contains the "wise words" I have referred to, but also to pass their copy of the "Swiss Observer" on to some of their English friends, so that the latter may read them to and get their thoughts re-vitalised and refreshed.

Business as Usual: The British Place in Swiss Alpine Sports:

by Graham Seton (Lieut.-Col. G. S. Hutchison, D.S.O.). *Lancaster Guardian*, 16th Jan., 1932.

Switzerland remains the playground of the world. To Switzerland come each year, for health, good exercise and hard-earned holidays, tens of thousands of visitors.

They come from Germany and from France, from Italy, from the Americas, and from every part of the world. Many of them are the leaders of their professions, captains of industry, men freed from State responsibilities and harassing business. They come from cities wherein, engaged for unlimited hours upon anxious problems, they toil for many months of the year.

There are hosts of students from the Universities, young men and women who had saved up their pocket money for the one holiday in the year, two weeks in the Alps, winter sports.

Introduced by Englishmen.

It was characteristic of the spirit of adventure of Englishmen that the winter sports of Switzerland were introduced by ourselves. The clubs are of our foundation and have been guided by our example.

In 1818 Colonel Napier brought a pair of skis from Norway to Davos. "Colonel Napier," writes Dame Katherine Furze, "had a Norwegian manservant whose use of the ski gave rise to many myths. It was even said that he skied down from the chalet to the hotel carrying a tea-tray on his shoulder."

About the same time Mr. Gerald Fox introduced skis to Grindelwald; and Canon Doyle in an English magazine described his fine ski tours round Davos. The Prager was the first Alpine pass crossed on skis, a feat accomplished by an Englishman, the late Colonel Iselin.

The first Ski Club was founded by the Brothers Richardson in 1901, and most of the ski centres in Switzerland were "opened" by the Public Schools Alpine Sports Club, namely Abelloden, Morgins, Villars, Mürren, Wengen and other centres.

The Ski Club of Great Britain, the foremost in the world, now numbers over 4,000 members. Ski-ing has now become a democratic sport throughout Switzerland, Austria and the French and Italian Alps.

Curling, so popular on the Swiss ice rinks, of course, was introduced from Scotland: while the initiative in the organisation of bob-sleigh races was again taken by Britons.

The Cresta Run.

Colonel Badrutt and Mayor Bulpett nearly 50 years ago introduced the skeleton of what is now the famous Cresta Run, at St. Moritz, the record for which is still held by an Englishman, J. R. Heaton, who completed this most thrilling race in the almost inconceivable time of 58 seconds in February, 1929.

One other sport dominates winter interest — namely, that of skating. Though we cannot claim, through lack of good ice conditions in this country, to have founded the ice rink tournaments, it was certainly the British race again which introduced ice hockey, making each year for strenuous international competition. In this Great Britain leads.

It is with some pride that we may contemplate the fact that as we have given football and tennis to the world, not least as a means to the end of international co-operation and friendly rivalry, almost it might be said as the hand maid to diplomacy. We have also exported to the playground of Europe the winter sports which we have mastered in other lands, carried them therefrom, and then led among the nations of the world.

What Lord Snowden Said.

It is true that second thoughts are often best. No doubt when the Chancellor of the Exchequer faced an unbalanced Budget and the flight from the pound he was right when he insisted that British nationals would be well advised to spend their surplus within these islands as an influence, slight though it might be, upon the dispersal of British currency abroad.

But it seems to me that a factor of tremendous significance must be taken into

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consideration before we elect as a nation to depart from traditional habit and custom, especially from leadership, in a field of our own creation.

I remember well the slogan of early 1914, "Business as usual." The effect of this war cry of business was to prevent panic, and to re-ensure confidence through the commercial world.

Again we have faced a crisis, in a manner characteristic of our race. The result, without question, has been a restored world confidence in British sanity and capacity.

But, as one much travelled and who moves about the world, I am sure that if we forsake our travelling habits, and no longer are seen in those places which know us well and have built their institutions to our pattern, there will be voices which will say, "Is it true, after all, that there is something seriously the matter with Great Britain?" "Are they so unsure of those of our race. "Business as usual." "Is the crisis still at hand?"

The essential need of the moment is world confidence in the character, capacity, quality of those of our race. "Business as usual." We must be seen and heard abroad, as aforesaid.

Britain, with its Empire, remains the surest Bulwark against all which is implied by Bolshevism. If British influence and leadership is felt on the Continent of Europe, especially among those whose voices are heard and who are accustomed to leadership in European affairs, then I think such a departure will occasion loss to our national prestige.

It may seem a small thing that those comparative few among our millions who go abroad shall refrain from so doing. But national psychology, and not least influence of the Press, is such that change of habit gives rise to speculation and inquiry, to lack of faith, if not good will, with consequent reverberations beyond calculation.

Telling the World.

It is quite un-English to be stampeded. This is a plea for sanity. All the conditions which governed that first call of the Chancellor of the Exchequer have been changed.

I would like to say to our young men and women, "Go out and preach the gospel of British trade and British character in the playgrounds of the world, those places where busy men pause and have time to listen."

Sing the praise of Tyneside ships, and Scottish tweeds of Welsh tinplates, and Sheffield steel, of Nottingham lace, and Northampton boots, of Manchester cotton goods, and of Elstree films.

Tell the world that its loveliest villages are in Britain, tell it of our explorers, of the men who made and maintained the Empire, of our chemical industry, and our Rolls-Royce engines. Then let the Continent of Europe see that our messengers abroad are true to type, the same who have fought the battles of the world and have stood with their backs to the wall, the same who have sailed the seas and carried British culture to its uttermost end, the same who are the fibre of the nation, and have carried it through one of the greatest crises in our national history.

The foundation of good business is confidence, and this last is the first essential to financial stability. "Business as usual." Let us show, through our national habits, undisturbed, that we continue in the world leadership.

World Leadership:

The time was, not so very long ago, when most of us who, by force of lengthy sojourn in these smiling Lands and by force of keen study of our English friends, their characters, their foibles, their strength and their weaknesses, were content to think that as long as John Bull held the leadership of the World, may increased

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Buffet Dance

on

Friday, February 19th 1932

at

First Avenue Hotel, High Holborn, W.C.1.
from 8 to 2 a.m.

This Dance will take the place of the Annual Banquet and will be the only official function of the Season.
All Members and friends are cordially invited.

Tickets at 5/6 (Refreshments included) can be obtained from Mr. John Gerber, 99, Gresham Street, E.C.2., or Mr. A. Stauffer, 23, Leonard Street, E.C.2. (Phone: Clerkenwell 9595 or any member of the Choir.

SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY LTD.

The members and friends of the Society are reminded that our

Cinderella Dance

will take place on

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6th, 1932,

at the

Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Stn., N.W.
from 7.0 to 10 a.m.

As this Cinderella Dance will take the place of the Annual Dinner and Ball a large number of Members and Visitors are expected to avail themselves of this last function of the Season.

TICKETS at 8s. 6d. (incl. Supper during the interval) may be obtained at Swiss House, 34-35, Fitzroy Square, W.1 (Tel. Museum 9895) and from Employment Department, 24, Queen Victoria St., E.C.4 (Tel. City 719).

SWISS CULINARY SOCIETY

DINNER & BALL

at the

UNION HELVETIA CLUB
1, Gerrard Place, Shaftesbury Avenue, W.1.

on Monday, 1st February, 1932.

Dinner will be served at 8.30 Swiss time.

Dancing 10.30 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Tickets 7/6 each

LITERARY & MUSICAL EVENING.

MONSIEUR JEAN BARD,

Professor of Elocution at the Conservatoire of Geneva.

and the

SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRA

at
Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1

on

Wednesday, February 17th 1932, at 8.15

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his power of leading the world, steadily and steadfastly, the world itself could not go quite mad, at any rate not for long. Are we still so sure of that? Doubt is raised by those "head-lines" again, ament which I wrote some weeks ago, but we still find that the finer elements of the English Nation, and by English I naturally mean the British, have it in their power to keep that moral leadership of the world which, as I said, a short while ago, seemed to be the undisputed, nay undisputable prerogative of the British race. But, the immediate future will be watched anxiously by us who love England and the English and who wish them well, not for their sake only, but for the sake of the whole, sorely tried human family.

The *Lausanne Reparations Conference* has been hamstrung, pour le moment. It is not our privilege, nor duty, to blame one side or the other for the vexatious delays that crop up and, like sand thrown into machinery, produce friction. Let us hope that Lausanne will yet be able to have its proud name associated with a successful Reparations Conference and meanwhile, also with a view to showing the article to some of your English friends, let us see what the Dundee Courier & Advertiser write about

If You Went to Lausanne:

When travellers learned that it had been arranged to hold the Reparations Conference at Lausanne they smiled a knowing smile.

"Lausanne, why Lausanne?" said the uninitiated. To them it was only a town in Switzerland with a wireless station that transmitted some excellent programmes.

But those who had made the pilgrimage to Switzerland knew why the diplomats had decided on Lausanne, and congratulated them on their good sense.

The Reparations Conference, whether it takes place on January 25th or whether it is postponed, will be fraught with issues that affect the whole world.

History and Modern Luxury.

What better place, then, than Lausanne? It is easily accessible; it has the conference tradition; it has the necessary qualification of being in Switzerland; and it has unrivalled scenic attractions.

If diplomats cannot arrive at a wise decision in this town of many charms they certainly will not do it anywhere else on this earth.

Lausanne, beautifully situated on the southern slopes of the Jura Mountains, close to the northern shore of Lake Geneva, is a delightful mixture of the old and the new.

History jostles side by side with the comfort and luxury of 1932.

It has a beautiful Gothic cathedral, which was begun in the 10th century and was not completed till three centuries later, and some of the finest hotels in Europe.

Gardens and Golf.

You would revel in its numerous gardens, some of which command magnificent views, and if you are a golfer you would be playing on a course higher than Mount Battenock and nearly as high as Mount Keen. You would get electric cars to take you up to its 3,000 feet level.

Famous Scholars.

The Cathedral of Notre Dame is the crowning glory of Lausanne and the finest example of medieval ecclesiastical architecture in the country. This church was the scene of the dispute between Calvin, Farel, and Viret in 1536, a dispute that was to have important repercussions, leading, as it did, to the introduction of the Reformation into the city.

Lausanne has for centuries been renowned for its educational facilities. The university, as such, dates only from 1890, but as an academy it dates from 1537.

Many famous scholars have been attracted by the antiquity of the city and the charm of the surrounding district.

Notable among these was Gibbon, the English historian. The house in which he wrote the greater part of his "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" is still shown.

A Famous Dish.

But Lausanne has much more to offer the tourist than historical associations, fascinating though the study of its old buildings may be.

Perhaps even more famous than its cathedral and castle — though one says it at the risk of sacrilege — is the dish "fondue au fromage," of which Lausanne is the natural home.

There is a real art in making and a greater art in eating this dish. To make it you require just a suspicion of garlic, chopped Gruyeres cheese, salt, pepper, and white wine, in which the other ingredients are boiled.

It is served in a semi-liquid state, bubbling with goodness, in an earthen pan. Into this appetising mess one plunges a fork on which is speared a piece of bread. When the bread is well saturated it is withdrawn and cooled by the simple process of waving it in the air.

This is by no means easy, for Lausanne law casts dark looks on those who spill their cheese. Even if you manage to avoid spilling it yours croubles are not ended, for you have an excellent chance of burning your lips with the molten cheese. But when you have mastered the art you will understand why people go to Lausanne. The cheese fondue season begins in autumn.

A Town Crier.

Another very old custom that intrigues visitors is the hourly announcing of the time from the cathedral tower. There is something curiously reminiscent of the East in this almost seven-centuries-old practice, which is carried on day in day out amid the comfort and modernity of present-day Lausanne.

During the day one can scarcely distinguish the voice of the crier, but in the evening it floats over Lausanne clear and musical from the tower of the cathedral.

Importance of a Tunnel.

To-day Lausanne has over 67,000 inhabitants, whereas in 1803 it had less than 10,000, and less than half a century ago little more than 33,000.

The opening of the Simplon tunnel in 1906 gave a big fillip to the prosperity of Lausanne, and greatly increased the commercial importance of the town, which is now on the international highway from Paris to Milan.

Lausanne manufactures tobacco and machinery and the chocolate which one always associates with Switzerland.

At least two important treaties have been signed at Lausanne, so that there is justification for saying that the town has the conference tradition.

NEWS FROM THE COLONY.

NOUVELLE SOCIETE HELVETIQUE SWISS INSTITUTE ORCHESTRA.

We are in luck's way! A no less pleasing than extraordinary coincidence will probably produce for us one of the finest entertainments that could possibly be presented to the Swiss Colony in London.

Subject only to his accepting our invitation, we hope to grace the forthcoming literary and musical evening on the 17th February at Conway Hall, by not one but actually two of the greatest of our literary men of Switzerland. The evening will be of such a national character as we cannot hope to see frequently. While Mr. Jean Bard will give us a recital in French during the first half of the evening, we shall actually be able also to enjoy a similar recital but in schwyzerdütsch by no less a person than Mr. Alfred Huguenberger.

Next week's article in this column will give those who do not know Mr. Huguenberger's work, an idea of his life and literary activities. We shall also then be in a position to definitely confirm the arrangements which are now "en train."

In any case a celebrity like Monsieur Jean Bard appearing in the first half of the evening, will already be a great attraction, but the combined appearance of two celebrities on the same evening will be a red letter day for the Swiss Colony in London.

It is very greatly to the credit of Mr. Dick and the Swiss Orchestra to agree to such an unexpected change of the programme, but as a matter of fact we shall not be deprived of the pleasure of the main features of their programme. Miss Bindschedler will still give us the Mozart Concerto separating the two literary portions and we shall hear the Orchestra at the beginning and at the end of the evening in their usual fine fervour.

We believe that this function will attract the Colony to a degree that few entertainments could, and we also believe that the memory and joy of the evening will last for a long, long time in our minds.

CITY SWISS CLUB BRIDGE COMPETITION.

Entries for this competition are now closed. There are 14 competitors who have to play thirteen rubbers each. So far Weil is the only player who has completed his games; his total score of 84 looks promising though Chapuis with an average of 7.8 and seven more rubbers to play has a good chance of beating him. Billetter's chances for the boobie prize are waning as his friend Smith seems to aspire to these honours.

The following are the comparative scores, the figure in brackets indicating the number of rubbers played so far: Chapuis (6) 7.8, Weil (13) 7.2, Meili (9) 7, Schorno (11) 6.5, Kaiser (12) 6.4, Boehringer (12) 5.3, Bernheim (8) 5.2, Newman (5) 5, Jobin (11) 4.7, Frei (10) 4.5, Senn (6) 3.2, Maeder (10) 2.6, Billetter (9) 2.1 and Smith (2) 0.

SWITZERLAND IN LONDON.

In one of the recent numbers of the *Swiss Observer* I saw an advertisement which was headed "Come to see Switzerland in Soho." I felt rather a wee bit sceptic, was, — I reasoned to myself, — somebody trying to pull the legs of the readers of this famous paper, or was it a "bona fida" invitation to all those, who, by reason of currency inflation and increased fares, will have to follow Mr. Snowden's advice to be patriotic and to stay at home.

A reporter's job is to find out, and so it happened that I wended my way to the Swiss Hotel, 53, Old Compton Street, W., in order to get a glimpse of my native country, "Right down in Soho."

Was there going to be a "yoddlings" landlord to greet me, would sweet buxom maidens present me with Alpenrosen and Edelweiss, would there be a "Buremusig" to render musical honours? All these questions, and many more I asked myself when entering the precincts of Soho.

Now I do not wish to mislead any of my readers, and I therefore state right away, that the landlord did not "yoddlings" when he saw me, (I do not blame him for that) nor did the buxom ladies throw Alpine flowers at me. Instead of a peasant band, playing the tune "Gott zum Gruss," a barrel organ outside played: "You are my heart's delight," a very appropriate melody indeed, and a grateful glance was sent to those quarters, where handsome ladies, not in Swiss costume, were awaiting my orders. Now I call this very good stage management, and I could not expect a heartier welcome even in real Switzerland.

Having overcome the emotion of this unexpected reception, the sight-seeing began. I saw before me a large picture depicting the "Matterhorn," in its entire splendour and glory, at the foot of which was nestling a little mountain village. The church and some of the dwelling-houses were lit up, giving the whole an atmosphere of grandeur and peace. I am not, and never was an alpinist, but in spite of my ignorance, I have rather some misgivings as to what is going to happen to that effigy of "Jonnie Walker" which is placed in front of the painting walking with sprightly steps towards the sun-kissed heights. His white tights and top hat will be hardly a suitable equipment in which to conquer the King of the Alps. —

But there are other pictures in that "Alpine Parlour," not all typically Swiss, there is, *f.i.*, on one side of the wall a portrait of that famous warrior General Kitchener, and its presence rather puzzled me, but when, I noticed opposite a photograph of a Swiss Landsturm (or was it Landwehr) soldier, which strikingly resembled "myne Host," I jumped to the conclusion that this was an allegorical illustration with some deep meaning, but known only to my host. The picture of a sweet Lady, *now also Swiss*, was a welcome relief from the one depicting the Devils Bridge, with its horrors, which hung above.

But that it not all of "Switzerland in Soho," in the Bar Parlour hangs a reproduction of a picture, which I have often admired in Switzerland; it shows a chain of mountains at sunset, and in front lies the lovely lake of Lucerne. I was greatly interested to learn that the original is from the brush of the proprietor's brother.

There are also various copper plate engravings depicting the heroic deeds of William Tell, which proves that the owner of the Swiss Hotel is not only an excellent Hotelier, but also a good patriot. Then one's eyes meets a lovely little Chalet, surrounded by a rockery, quite a masterpiece, and this little mountain dwelling place has brought back to me a host of sweet memories of wanderings amongst the beautiful surroundings of my native land.

And then the numerous bottles with their precious contents, there was..... no, on second thoughts, I have decided not to divulge the goodness of it all, I want my readers to go there and find out for themselves. They will not regret their visit to "Switzerland in Soho," it is, of course, not quite the real thing, (but can we ever find an adequate substitute?) but it is a place where we can feel for a few minutes, at least, at home, and amongst our own folk; also we do not risk getting sea sick, (at least I hope not), nor do we get worried by porters and customs officials, therefore I recommend to all those who are for one reason or another unable to visit Switzerland this year to go to Soho, "its cheaper and it is patriotic," and it answers our slogan

"BUY FROM SWISS"

ST.