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HELVETIA

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Helvetia is in its 74th year

October 2008

The canton of Glarus

The Canton of Glarus is the land of the Linth and its tributary, the Sernf. It reaches down to the Walensee and what used to be the swamps of the Linth plain.

Fessis mountain lake with Tödi in the background

Netstal

The rivers and streams have created deeply carved valleys. Mountains rear up steeply; a number of passes- all but one, the Klausenpass, paths rather than roads - link the people of Glarus with their compatriots in Schwyz, Graubünden and St.Gallen. Walkers, mountain climbers, cyclists and amateur geologists will discover a varied holiday region with plenty of interesting excursions. The main traffic, however, is down the valley, to the Linth plain.

The Freuler Palace in Näfels, dating from the 17th century, is one of the most beautiful secular buildings in Switzerland - evidence of the wealth accumulated by reigning families who allowed foreign powers to recruit mercenaries in Glarus. The Freuler Palace now houses the Cantonal Museum of History, Culture and the Textile Industry; in the 19th century Glarus earned a world-wide reputation for its printed fabrics. Not far from the capital is the hiking region of the Klöntal with the picturesque Klöntalersee. The route through this valley leads via the Pragelpass to the Muota valley in the Canton of Schwyz. This is the route along which General Suworow's army fled to Glarus in 1799. Rumours have it that the Russians lost their war chest in the waters of the Klöntalersee but, despite many dives to search for it, it has never (yet) been found.Glarus boasts an extraordinarily rich geological and mining history including, for example, the quarry at Engi; the slate factory in Elm; fossilised sea creatures on the Kerenzerberg, and dinosaur tracks on the Tödi.

And who would not be grateful, after a long hike in the mountains or over a sunny pass, for a bottle of sparkling Elmer mineral water?

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Secretaries: Please send in your club notices for the November edition of Helvetia by October 15, 2008