

Forthcoming events

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the Secretariat that the presence of M. Bourgeois, who is familiar with all that has so far been done in these fields, was indispensable. I understand that the British representative, Mr. Balfour, was also anxious to meet at some centre within telephone call of London, so that he could communicate rapidly with his Government if need arose. Senhor da Cunha, who is to preside at the Council meeting, and Viscount Ishii, the Japanese representative, are in Paris in any case. The Marquis Imperiali, till lately Ambassador in London, will represent Italy; Senor Quinones da Leon, Spain; M. Paul Hymans, Belgium; and Mr. Wellington Koo, now Minister in London, China. China, it may be pointed out, now sits on the Council for the first time, having been appointed in place of Greece at the Assembly at Geneva. The Council may conclude its business in a week, but is more likely to sit for ten days."

The *Times* report that Switzerland, in accepting the invitation to send representatives to discuss the question of allowing troops for Vilna to pass through Switzerland at the next session of the Council of the League, has nominated Dr. Dunant, Swiss Minister in Paris, and Prof. Max Huber. The invitation was sent at the instance of the Sub-Committee of the League dealing with Polish-Lithuanian relations, which consists of Senhor da Cunha, Brazilian Ambassador in Paris and President of the Council of the League, M. Leon Bourgeois, and the Japanese Ambassador in Paris.

The topic concerning the abnormally warm winter experienced this year in Switzerland continues to occupy space in the Press, some of the writers seemingly finding pleasure in gloating over the misfortune which has befallen some well-known *Swiss Wintersports Resorts*, where English enthusiasts have mustered in almost as large numbers as in pre-war days.

It may prove small comfort to those who have travelled to the Engadine or the Bernese Oberland, in quest of healthy and exhilarating pastimes, to learn that this has been the warmest winter season since 1834, but it is to be hoped that it will again be 87 years before similar disappointment has to be faced.

That there must be far more in Winter Sports than the eye of some people, for one reason or another, care to see, will be obvious from the following article which appeared in *Truth*:—

"There are many things no man can explain, and the fascination of the snow is one of them. Many people will deny that there can be any quality in the cold mantle of winter which can rightly be described as fascinating, but there are always the children and the winter sportsmen to give them the lie. Those who take train for the Riviera to escape the indeterminate climate of the average British winter shrink with appropriate shudders from the prospect of existence in the snow and ice-bound villages of the Swiss Alps. The very thought awakens rheumatism in their bones. Yet those who have once found their way there have only amused contempt for their fellows who are content with the softer pleasures of the Mediterranean seaboard. Existence there is to them like a luke-warm cocktail with the gin left out. There is no bite in it. On the other hand, set them in an hotel high up on the mountain-side, with snow all around and about them, not inches but feet deep, and there is not a worry or a trouble left for them in the whole wide world. Politics then become of absurdly trivial importance compared with the height of the mercury in the thermometer, economics are counted the occupation of dull persons who grope in the

twilight of the lower levels; the only unemployment problem worth a moment's consideration is what to do in the vacant hours between tea and dinner.

"But there must be snow and plenty of it to produce the exhilaration which makes each day sufficient unto itself, and all Switzerland has not been favoured equally this year in this respect. Even Mürren had at Christmas-time an unfortunate interlude; and on one day in January rain—real rain—actually fell. It was as if the war had included Alpine weather in the universal European upheaval. But that threat passed. There has now been snow everywhere since mid-January, enough to make the hearts of the ski-runners rejoice. The winter-sportsmen are wise who, profiting by experience in pre-war days, have chosen mid-January and February for their annual visits to the ski-ing slopes, for then the prospects of settled weather with hot sun shining in a cloudless sky while the frost holds strongly in the shade are the best. There have been many such days at Mürren this year, where the hotels have been overflowing, to the envy of St. Moritz, which wonders why the English should prefer the Bernese Oberland to the Engadine.

"Mürren, indeed, is itself again. The sick British prisoners who were interned there have done nothing to alter it, even though, disliking everything that savoured of the Boche, they rechristened the Jungfrau 'Flossie.' The Jungfrau is not too well pleased, and she mutters to herself about it. She has complained a good deal this winter, though the natives will tell you that her mutterings are only falling avalanches. But she does not alter the even tenor of her way. Every evening she changes her white robe for a mantle of pink and assumes her crown of gold, and the Mönch and the Eiger try to outvie her. Then the ski-runners make for the hotels like homing birds. There is not so much fascination in the snow at night, unless it be the fascination of fear, though the expert ski-runner will assert that there is no thrill sweeter than afforded by a run on a still night when the moon is at the full. But most winter-sportsmen and sportswomen are satisfied with the dance or the ice carnival for the evening's amusement. Something they must have. They take life strenuously, for the Mürren crowd is youthful. The war has not changed the complexion of the crowd any more than that of 'Flossie.' The individuals are different, but the newcomers are very like the old. But it seems that the fascination of the snow for the youth of 1921 is just as great as it was for the youth of 1912, 1913 and 1914. Mürren this winter was an all-British playground full of the laughter and cheery voices of sun-burnt youths and maidens. They were just as keen on running the ski-slopes straight and on acquiring the telemarks and Christiania swings, and stemming turns, as those whose places they have taken. Life is sweet to them, and it is a pity that for a week or a fortnight the whole workaday world could not be transformed into one great Mürren. The transformation might settle many problems."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- March 1.—CITY SWISS CLUB.—Monthly Meeting and Supper, 6.30 p.m.
- March 4.—SWISS INSTITUTE.—Lecture: "La Reconstruction en Belgique," par M. Emile Cammaerts. 8.30 p.m.
- March 5.—CITY SWISS CLUB.—Cinderella Dance at Gatti's, 6.30—11.45 p.m.
- March 9.—Lecture by Lieut. Henri Pillichody, of Geneva, "BY AEROPLANE OVER THE SWISS ALPS." King George's Hall, Tottenham Court Road, W., at 8 p.m. sharp.
- March 11.—SWISS INSTITUTE.—Lantern Lecture on Southern Italy, by Walter Sanderson, Esq. 8 p.m.

Miss OLGA CARMINE.

Miss Olga Carmine's Pianoforte Recital of French Music will take place on Monday, March 7th, at 8.30 p.m., at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W.

Our readers will be delighted to learn that Miss Carmine is the daughter of Mr. P. A. Carmine, a distinguished member of the Swiss Colony, and it would doubtless afford the lady special gratification to find amongst her audience a fair number of compatriots.

To lovers of good music her selections from compositions of such masters as Saint-Saëns, Ravel and Debussy will offer exquisite pleasure, Miss Carmine being an artiste of exceptional accomplishments, which is fully endorsed by the following Press opinions:—

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"She is a delightful pianist, and should be heard again and again."

Morning Post.

"Her playing has a quality all its own, an individuality and a character that shows that personality has been carefully preserved in the process of training."

Musical Standard.

"One must express gratitude and indebtedness to Signorina Olga Carmine. It can be truly said that she collaborated with the orchestra, exactly the manner of treatment that the work demands."

Sunday Times.

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The following Free Lectures will be held at the above address, to which all Swiss are cordially invited:—

March 4th, 8.30 p.m.—"La Reconstruction en Belgique." A lecture in French by the well-known Belgian poet, Monsieur Emile Cammaerts.

March 11th 8 p.m.—A Lantern Lecture on Southern Italy and Sicily, by Walter Sanderson, Esq.

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