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HOME NEWS

It seems strange to follow up the above with

the following from the *Evening News* (9th Jan.):

While excavating on the shores of the Lake of Zurich, workmen unearthed the remains of a lake dwelling dating to the Stone Age. Among the objects found were stone axes, stones for sharpening axes, and implements for fishing, says a Vevey, Switzerland, message.

The excavations will be continued under direction of the authorities of the National Museum.

It is believed that the Swiss lake dwellings, which were revealed to the world in 1854 by a great drought, were built as long as 7,000 years ago. From about 5,000 B.C. people lived in them down almost to historic times.

The structure which supported the wooden platforms on which the dwellings were built was made of piles, driven into the bottom of the lake. The platforms were fastened by wooden pins, and the huts were made of wood and clay, with hearths of flat slabs of stone.

And yet, what are 7,000 or even 700,000 years? A mere span of time measured by man, but hardly noticed by Infinity. If only we could always remember this, how much more tolerant we would be, and how small would our daily worries, our political quarrels, our national feuds appear when viewed through the lens of Eternity. That a goodly spark of that tolerance happily exists in many, and, I am glad to say, in many Swiss, is clear from the following.

Swiss Protestants Restore Church to Catholics.

Catholic Herald (10th Jan.):—

A fine gesture of tolerance as between Catholics and Protestants was recently witnessed at Ardon, in the Canton of Thurgovie, in Switzerland.

The Protestants having built a new church, restored to the Catholics the ancient church of Saint Martin, which had formerly belonged to them. Catholics and Protestants met at a banquet, where promises of peace and co-operation were exchanged.

Is not such action more Christian than the attacks one hears so often made by believers of one creed against those of another? Have you ever looked at the placards which disfigure a shop near St. Paul's Cathedral, and have you not felt hot shame rising into your face, if you are a Protestant, when reading those placards, published by a so-called religious bookseller? I have, and each time I pass that shop I wonder what sort of religious satisfaction people who attack other creeds can feel. And I wonder whether these good people think that they are perhaps following the Teachings of Jesus when he said that he brought not Peace, but a Sword? Perhaps they do, but mistakenly, of that I am sure. Would they not be better advised to follow Jesus in his ways by looking up the sinners and the miserable, and by trying to feed and clothe them and their children? And observe: The same people who are always out to attack other creeds—and this applies naturally not to Protestants or Catholics alone, but to all whom it may concern—are at the same time those who have always some begging stung going on for some of the Heathen in foreign lands, but never in their own. And some wonder why people do not go and listen to the Parson, the Priest, etc. They wonder! Would the soldiers go "over the top" if they found their officers oblivious of their duty and undiscoverable in the danger zone? I should say not. Well?

Soviet Paradise.

Daily Telegraph (13th Jan.):—

The sad plight of the Swiss Socialists who emigrated last spring with their families to Russia has just been made known in Switzerland. Herr Platten, a Communist member of the Swiss Parliament, arranged for Swiss trade unionists, mechanics, and peasants to emigrate to Novolawa, where they established an agricultural colony. The Swiss working classes were told that the colonists would be free and independent of capitalists and capitalist governments. Now a pathetic appeal is being circulated amongst the trade unions and other workers' organisations in Switzerland for assistance for the starving Swiss Socialists in Russia, and I hear on good authority that if sufficient funds could be raised to pay the cost of bringing these people back from Russia they would all be glad to return. At any rate, the leader of the colonists, Herr Platten, is returning to Switzerland immediately.

Of course, I should like to hear Mr. Platten's views on the matter. Platten, unfortunately, was, if he is not now, one of those who were so taken with the ideals and ideas adopted by the Russian Revolutionaries that they thought the same sort of revolution would do Switzerland a great deal of good, too. Which was a mistake, no doubt, although some of our institutions probably benefited by the mere fear of a possible revolution, and a number of Augean Stables were, no doubt, cleansed somewhat. However, *pour revenir à notre mouton*.—I hope Platten won't see this, as I could ill afford libel damages just now—Platten finally did the proper thing by going himself into the Russian Paradise. That he has induced others to follow is unfortunate, if his experience is such as described in the above paragraph; but, as I say, I should like to hear the other side before I make any comments.

Winter Sports.

The British Press continues to be full of Winter Sport news and pictures, mainly, of course, dealing with the more popular places, Davos, St. Moritz, Mürren, Wengen, and Grindelwald. *The Times* (12th Jan.) reports:—

At Château d'Oex on Thursday a Swiss team won the annual rifle shooting match against an English team by 711 points to 625. The best individual result was obtained by an Englishman, Col. R. Beauchamp, who made 94 points out of a total of 190.

While the *Daily Telegraph* (13th Jan.) gives the result of the Ski Race between the Swiss University team and an official British team, the Swiss team, as you see, winning:—

The first ski race this season between an official British ski team and a foreign ski team took place on Saturday and Sunday, against the Swiss Universities. The match was decided on the combined result of a straight race between the Scheidegg to Grindelwald and a slalom race at Mürren. The race was held on Saturday, the snow conditions being excellent. The total descent was of 2,800. C. E. W. Mackintosh, of the University College, Oxford, and Viscount Knebworth led for the first 1,000 feet. Mackintosh had a severe fall, and Walter Amstutz (Swiss Universities) took the lead and finished first in the excellent time of 10 min. 5.6 sec. Lord Knebworth ran with great pluck and skill and finished second. Mackintosh was third, Werner Salvisberg fourth, Jordi fifth, Richardet sixth, H. Salvisberg seventh, Joannides eighth, Morland ninth, Escher tenth, Ford eleventh, and Lloyd twelfth.

The Swiss Universities won by 17 points to 8. To-day a slalom race was held at Mürren, the snow and weather being perfect. The race was won by Mackintosh, who ran with great judgment and speed. Amstutz was second, Richardet third, Viscount Knebworth fourth, Escher fifth, W. Salvisberg sixth, Morland seventh, H. Salvisberg eighth, Jordi ninth, Joannides tenth, Ford eleventh, and Lloyd twelfth.

On the combined result the Swiss won by 33 to 17 points, and the individual winner was Walter Amstutz with 17 marks. Mackintosh, 16 marks, was second; Lord Knebworth, 14 marks, third; and Richardet, 11 marks, fourth.

And, to close this week's "Gleanings," I will mention the following from the *Daily Mail* (8th Jan.):—

"Ships That Pass."

Countless thousands have read "Ships that Pass in the Night," Miss Beatrice Harraden's novel, which was first published in 1893.

Thousands of these readers will remember with kindly feelings the little hunchback postman, Wärlü, one of the minor characters. But few perhaps know that Petershof, the scene of the story, is Davos, and that Wärlü is a living postman.

He is still going his daily rounds with the letters, as he was in 1893, when Miss Harraden first saw him. On New Year's Day last week he celebrated the completion of forty years in the postal service, and was presented by the postal authorities with a gold watch.

His real name is Johann Friedrich Wehrli. He is not quite a hunchback, but is a little, rather crooked, bent-shouldered man.

Because some of my friends from the Grisons may know Mr. Wehrli, who seems a worthy and doughty Swiss, and who, I hope, will long enjoy carrying the mail round in Davos, and whose mailbag, I also hope, will contain more glad tidings than sad news. I always think that for a postman who takes an interest in the people he visits almost daily, it must be wonderful to be the bearer of good news, just as it must be sad for him to bring bad news. I am sure I would feel it by simply holding the letters between my fingers and to letting my fancy take flight; if I were postman and had to deliver a sweetly scented mauve envelope to a young lady—well, I think I should be almost as glad as she.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by Correspondents and cannot publish anonymous articles, unless accompanied by the writer's name and address, on evidence of good faith.

[We have received from members of the Ticinese Colony in London a strongly worded rejoinder to a short article which we reprinted in our last week's issue from one of the prominent Swiss dailies. We sincerely regret that we cannot publish the whole of the long protest, as the same contains, apart from extraneous matter, a number of personal allegations, which we invite our correspondents to address direct to the Swiss paper or writer in question.]

To the Editor of *The Swiss Observer*.

We have read with interest the paragraph under the heading "Tessiner Wirtschaften und Tessiner Wirtschaft," printed in your last issue and written by Felix Moeschlin in the "National-Zeitung," from which it was culled.

Were we in the Ticino, we would very likely only just smile at the simple-mindedness of the

author of the article, because the overwhelming majority of the Ticinesi do not care two pins what newspapers north of the Gothard write about them, either for good or for bad. Here it is different. The various Swiss communities mingle more freely with one another, and we could not suffer totally wrong and gratuitous aspersions to be cast upon our character.

Mr. Felix Moeschlin is hopelessly wrong, both in what he says and in what he implies about the Ticinesi. Of right there is only the figure 2,556, which is given as the total number of establishments in the Ticino where a man can walk in and have a glass of wine. He must, no doubt, have patted himself on the back for having dropped on this figure, evidently from one of the statistics of our Canton. Unfortunately, he saw a glow-worm, and thought it was the moon. No doubt, there are enough *osterie* in the Ticino, but numbers are often misleading. In a widely distributed community, as we are, the number is bound to be large, and what the writer in the "National-Ztg." must not forget is that the vast majority of Ticinesi do not go to the *osteria* for the sake of drinking, or of getting drunk. They go to the *osteria* mostly in the evening after work is done, or mostly on Sunday, with the main idea of having a chat with their friends, consuming at the same time a glass or two of wine. As we are accustomed to speak in such a way as not to be misunderstood, it follows that the *osterie* must be small affairs, so that there should not be too many people talking at the same time.

He is, however, totally wrong in thinking that there are 2,556 "publicans" in the Ticino. With the exception of the towns, the dispensing of alcoholic beverages is mostly combined with that of grocer, farmer, stone-mason, or some other occupation, and if Mr. Moeschlin should make a tour of the rural Ticino between March and November, he would find out, if he took the trouble, that it is none too easy to get a drink. He may find many of what he calls "pubs," shut during practically the whole day. When he finds one open he will very likely see no man there, but just the wife preparing the meals. The husband may be away, up to the autumn, either in France or in Switzerland, working at his profession, and when the lady has finished her housework he may quite likely be asked to finish up his drink and "clear out," so that she may lock the door and go and do some agricultural work.

A great proportion of the Ticinesi, particularly in the Southern Ticino, need not go to the "pub," at all if they want a drink. They have a supply of from a few hundred to a few thousand litres of wine at home, and although a great many only seldom use water as a drink, and they could get drunk 265 days in every year, yet they are never seen under the influence of drink.

Some of us have been in other parts of Switzerland and think that, in the matter of drink, things are in no way better there than in the Ticino, the only difference being that the drinking is taking place in a more "businesslike" or "factorylike" fashion, which is, no doubt, what Mr. Moeschlin would like the Ticinesi to do.

As a publicist he need not be reminded of the fact that at the polls for the limitation of free distilling, which would have proved a boon to the abatement of drunkenness of all the Cantons, Ticino alone polled a majority in favour, and a substantial one at that.

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.		Jan. 13	Jan. 20
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	76.25%	76.85%
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	...	99.25%	99.25%
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	...	80.20%	80.15%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	101.50%	101.50%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	...	71.25%	71.75%
SHARES.		Nom.	Jan. 13 Jan. 20
		Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	680 680
Crédit Suisse	...	500	720 720
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	576 576
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3095	3125
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2007	1955
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1217 1217
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	642 632
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	747 788
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	500	322 328
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Milk Co.	...	200	224 221
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	...	100	174 189
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	...	500	525 530

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