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By "KYBURG,"

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In reference to the firm of Brown, Boverie, & Co., to whom the contract for the new plant of the Portobello Power Station has been allotted by the Corporation of Edinburgh, I may perhaps be allowed, from intimate personal knowledge, to mention that it was founded in 1890 by a rare constellation of electrical, mechanical, and industrial genius in the persons of three young engineers—Mr. Charles Brown, his younger brother, Sydney Brown, and Mr. Walter Boveri. The two brothers Brown

were the sons of Charles Brown, a native of Brighton, who, a remarkably inventive and widely known mechanical engineer born at Brighton, settled in Switzerland, where he founded the still flourishing Swiss locomotive works of Winterthur. It may with truth be said that his mantle fell upon his sons.

The firm of Brown, Boveri, & Co., Baden, near Zurich, rapidly extended its sphere of activities far beyond Switzerland, and within twenty years became a concern of world-wide reputation, with branches established in various countries in Europe (including Great Britain) and overseas. Mr. Walter Boveri, the distinguished chairman of the parent concern, and Mr. Charles Brown, the equally distinguished head of the electrical department, died a few years ago, leaving Mr. Sidney Brown as one of the original founders, and present leading heads of the great concern and its numerous ramifications.

The present writer, who was associated with the firm in several electrical undertakings during the decade 1890 to 1900, gladly avails himself of this opportunity to bear witness to the fully deserved encomium passed at the meeting of the Town Council of Thursday, 1st inst., by several authoritative speakers, Messrs. Hardie, Guest, Harvey, Nelson, and Walker, upon the high standard of technical efficiency and perfection of the eminent firm, whose Anglo-Swiss origin is emphasised in the name of the associated London concern.—"The British Brown Boveri Company."

I publish the above, because most of my readers have probably read the controversy which has sprung up in the British Press anent that contract worth some 5 million francs. I think they may like to hear something of the history of the great Anglo-Swiss Concern in question.

Swiss Fruit Growing.

The Times (July 5th).—

EAT MORE FRUIT seems to be the slogan in Switzerland as well, and most of my readers will probably be surprised over the extent fruit growing has assumed in our country. It must not be forgotten, however, that a lot of fruit, included in the figures given, is converted into "liquid food" in the form of Cider and Kirsch.

Agriculture is very much developed in Switzerland, where every available acre is cultivated by the peasants, even in the mountain districts. It is estimated that Swiss agriculture is supplying about 60 per cent. of the food products required for home consumption. It is not generally known that, apart from cattle breeding, fodder, cereals, milk, cheese, and vegetables, Switzerland is producing great quantities of fruit. In 1924 the cultivation of fruits yielded 100,000,000 francs (£4,000,000), or nearly 7 per cent. of the total yield of agriculture. There are in Switzerland, 20,000,000 fruit trees, mostly apple, pear, peaches, apricots, plum trees, as well as grape. Before the war the exportation of Swiss fruit was very active, but it has since then decreased, and only reached a value of about £240,000 in 1924, that is, 6 per cent. of the production. The Swiss fruit crop is now consumed in the country itself and the industry of tinned fruit has very much developed, especially in the eastern cantons and in Canton Valais.

The English Mind.

Yorkshire Post (7th July).—

In an address to the foreign students attending the Summer School in English at Manchester College, Oxford, yesterday, Sir Michael Sadler said that a clue to the mental habit of a people might be found in the criticism passed upon it by foreign opinion.

"A Swiss observer who was asked recently whether the English are liked in his country, said that they are often popular as individuals but that as a nation they are thought to be Machiavellian. This charge of Machiavellian-

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

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" 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	...	1000	102.50	1000	102.87

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Crédit Suisse	...	500	790	500	800
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	650	500	650
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	2122	1000	2052
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	3440	1000	3437
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	...	1000	3000	1000	2950
S.A. Brown Boveri	...	350	511	350	513
C. F. Bally	...	1000	1300	1000	1296
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	457	200	481
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	...	1000	1050	1000	1022
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ism assumes" (continued Sir Michael) "that England (or rather Britain) has deliberate continuity of purpose in foreign affairs, and that there is some man or some group of men permanently and watchfully responsible for the course of the ship of State. This is far from being the case. Britain has not one mind, but at least two minds between which it oscillates. The permanent staffs of the Foreign Office and of the Diplomatic Service are, it is true, the depositories of a wide experience, but their action is determined by the decisions of the Cabinet which, in its turn, is sensitive to Parliamentary and to public opinion."

"Machiavelli's presuppositions do not apply to the British form of Government. Changes in the balance of public opinion determine the direction of our policy. These changes are sometimes sudden and drastic, as with regard to Near Eastern policy in 1880, and to South African policy in 1906. The pressure of public opinion is felt almost continuously by Governments during their tenure of office, and policy is guided rather by judgment of what is practicable than by long-range calculation of ultimate advantage."

It would be absurd to impute Machiavellianism to our political instinct, as this had no purposeful centre and was reflected in undulating movements of opinion. Events had shown that in Europe, Africa, and the East, nationalism has been costly to many British interests. The political instinct of Britain might be sound, but it was not purely self-regarding. More light was thrown on the English habit of mind by Montaigne and Pascal than by Machiavelli.

I should be greatly interested to have my readers views on the above and I think I could then most likely classify those views in accordance with the number of years the writers had been resident in Great Britain. In other words, I have come to the conclusion that it requires a great number of years ere a foreigner can hope to penetrate the "English Mind." Often, when talking over political or other matters with younger Swiss friends, who have resided here for a couple of years, I am struck by the cock-sure manner they are able to interpret manifestations of English character which leave me puzzled.

Epilogue.

Country Life (3rd July).—

JUNE IN SWITZERLAND.

Here on the mountain-side I gather
Gentians of rare and lovely hue,
Italian skies in all their splendour
Have never known that wondrous blue.
Round me in beauty stretch the uplands;
Bare rocks above, bare grass below,
Beyond on mighty mountain-summits,
The silent everlasting snow.

The clouds that float, the wind that passes
Make beautiful the dreaming hours,
And, look! below, where wave the grasses,
A whole wide valley starred with flowers!

M. Y. STEWART.

P.S. Will friends visiting Switzerland please refrain from sending me picture post-cards from famous inns and hotels where I know the food is good and the wine as it should be! Why tantalise? Alas it IS hot.

UN MOT DE CHEZ NOUS.

Il est certain que, tout comme moi,—et quelles que soient vos opinions politiques,—vous devez reconnaître qu'en Italie le fascisme fut une force rénovatrice, une puissance qui est en train de créer la Plus Grande Italie. Et je ne doute pas que dans son cadre naturel vous ne reconnaissez à cette institution purement latine, une réelle valeur.

Autant les méthodes du Duc vous semble possibles au-delà des monts, autant nous ne saurions les voir appliquées sur notre territoire, et ne saurions approuver que des particuliers se permettent d'agir chez nous comme les fascistes agissent chez eux.

Vous savez ce dont il s'agit. Des journalistes étrangers, officiellement ou officieusement, sont venus chez nous, dans le Tessin, dénombrer nos propriétés rurales; établir une statistique; comparer le pourcentage des latins avec celui des allemands; inclure les Suisses-Allemands aux Alle-

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