

# Notes and gleanings

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tionnellement au temps passé par le recourant sur son territoire. Le fisc vaudois ne peut percevoir qu'un impôt sur la fortune mobilière et sur son revenu.

Les deux cantons admettent que, dans la présente espèce, il s'agit d'un séjour d'été au sens de la jurisprudence fédérale. Or, la répartition du produit de l'impôt, prévue pour un pareil cas, ne concerne que l'impôt sur la fortune mobilière et non celui sur le produit du travail.

Le produit du travail n'est sujet à l'impôt que dans le canton du domicile civil, et un séjour d'été ne saurait avoir aucune influence sur ce principe.

## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

### Fate of Prisoners of War.

It is a sad commentary upon the result of the peace that was to follow the War to end war, that our Swiss Government should think it necessary to continue doing their best in order to alleviate the sufferings of wounded soldiers, victims of future wars. However, such is human nature and such is human forgetfulness and, on the whole, I think it splendid of our Government to lose no time and to bring the nations together while their thoughts are not quite dulled yet and they, or some among them at least, still remember the unspeakable horrors of the great war.

(Manchester Guardian), 2nd July.

In response to an invitation by the Swiss Government, representatives of 47 Governments met to-day at Geneva to discuss the revision of the Geneva Red Cross Conventions of 1864 and 1906 on the fate of men wounded and rendered ill during war, and the drafting of a new convention of prisoners of war.

The Swiss Federal President, Dr. Haab, opened the conference. He said that war seemed an improbable thing to-day. The existence of the League of Nations, the increasing number of arbitration treaties, and the signing of the Kellogg Pact justified the greatest hopes for world peace. He felt, however, that it was the duty of Governments to be sincere and to admit that world peace was not yet absolutely guaranteed. This, he said, justified efforts for making any future war as humane as its tragic necessities would allow and for ensuring that the lot of wounded and sick soldiers and prisoners of war should be alleviated.

By the way, I can thoroughly recommend "Im Westen nichts Neues" as well as "Brether-ton," both war-books which show up the unbelievable ghastliness of modern war or mass-murder as it might be called. Reading these books one's imagination reels and shudders and one has to make an effort still to keep one's faith in the ultimate triumph of humanity.

Let us turn to happier thoughts, forget war, forget beastliness, slums and gin-palaces, forget crowded streets, evil smelling lanes and smoke-laden air and let us turn to thoughts of holidays in the Alps, on the shore of our Swiss Lakes, in the forests and along the rivers of Home, sweet Home.

Although I do not like to publish mere holiday advertisement, I think the following article from *Everyman*, 27th June, may serve its useful purpose for many of us.

### Walking in Switzerland.

I am once again in Lucerne, and it is as good a place as any from which to start on a walking tour in this land of great hills and deep valleys. There are three classes of visitors to Switzerland: first, the man who requires a change of scene and people and comes here to enjoy the good hotels and the wonderful motor rides, but who through poor health or laziness does not want to walk. Secondly there is the Alpine mountaineer who goes for the peaks and ice and snow and Alpine huts, rope and ice-axe. He is a fine fellow, but well able to look after himself, and is in a special class. But it is for a third class, the walker pure and simple, that I wish to write.

Lucerne is the best starting point, and I have just arrived by way of Bale. Take a good day's rest here after the journey, and enjoy a short steamer excursion to Burgenstock up the lake and by funicular to enjoy the view, and enjoy tea at the café and go back to your hotel for dinner and early to bed.

My kit is spread before me, and if I tell you what it consists of it may help you. First of all, footwear. Considering that your walks here are mostly road and good path walking, I would recommend boots, not too heavily nailed, or even very stout "brogue" shoes, nailed, such as I am actually wearing. They are cooler than boots, and considering you have better surfaces here than in our Cumberland fells, I think them more suitable than boots—which I certainly recommend for Cumberland.

Carry a light pair of shoes for a change, and carry all your kit in one large rucksack. Breeches for walking, three cotton shirts, a pair of flannel trousers, and an old school blazer for evening wear, three pairs of stockings and two of socks—with the usual handkerchiefs, razor, pyjamas, etc. Take one felt

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hat, very light, and with a wide brim for sun and rain. Thus equipped it is well to take the boat to Tolls Chapel and get out on that wonderfully engineered road the Axenstrasse.

It is hot above the lake, and by the time Plüen is reached one may lunch and have a choice of several excellent restaurants.

Altdorf, round which centres much of the William Tell legend, is a really charming old town with Tell's monument in the middle of the main street. When I walked here, I took the train from Altdorf to Goschenen and greatly enjoyed the views, which change continually and suddenly. The walk from Goschenen is steep and in a narrow gorge, and you will be thrilled at the Devil's Bridge which crosses the torrent at a great height, and soon the road lands you in Andermat. There I stayed the night, having done enough for the first day.

The ascent of the Furka Pass next day was quite easy although in length my longest walk—some eighteen miles.

For a while the road ascends in an easy straightforward way, giving all along wonderful views of snow-covered peaks. Towards the summit many zig-zag curves (lâcets) occur, and one may cut across these and so save distance at the expense of muscle and breath.

Never shall I forget the Rhone Glacier which one sees just below the top of the pass and to the right, and the ice tunnels which have been cut out of its side. The pale blue and deep green ice colours are not easily forgotten.

Continue down the road, or, better still, down the mountain track to the foot of the glacier, from which issues the baby Rhone with a roar and crash and occasional thunder of falling ice from the glacier tongue. I certainly did not feel like walking more that day and so spent the night at Gletsch (which simply means "glacier").

Next day I trained to Fiesch along the Rhone Valley and at once set out for the Eggishorn, high above on the right bank of the Rhone. It is just under 10,000 feet, and very easy to climb. It is well to walk by the mule track through the forest to the Jungfrau Hotel, book a room and do the Eggishorn before dinner. I doubt if after so easy a climb a finer view can be seen in Switzerland—but do not attempt the climb unless the day be favourable. When last I stood on top it was a perfect August day—visibility distinctly good, and this was my "bag" of peaks: to the south the Matterhorn and beyond it Mont Blanc, then the huge snow mass, well named the Weisshorn, with Monte Rosa a near neighbour: at my feet as the Aletsch Glacier, the longest in Switzerland, and opposite was the Aletschhorn and to the right the Jungfrau, that dazzling lady of the high snows. Further to the right and north was the glorious Finsteraarhorn, whose steep rocky sides were almost bare and in great contrast to the Oberaarhorn, which was in a garment of dazzling white.

You should ascend the Eggishorn, for it is a comparatively easy climb. I walked over the Grimsel Pass after returning by rail to Gletsch—at present it is rather spoiled by operations on the dam construction which, when completed will make Switzerland independent of foreign coal, giving her an almost unlimited electric supply.

It is well to stay at Handeck a night, and next day press on to Meiringen, approaching it by the Aar Gorge—there is a fine entrance money here. The whole of the roaring mountain river pours and thunders through this narrow gorge and you walk above the waters on a narrow platform let into the solid rock of the precipice, which shuts out most of the sky. So narrow is the gorge that at one place you can touch both walls—a hand on each side.

After sleeping at Meiringen I went by the railway up the Reichenbach Falls thus saving a steep 2,000 ft. climb, and put up at Kaltenbrunnen at the Guesthouse. This is the finest part of Switzerland for walkers. It is surrounded by forest; waterfalls are on every hand; the dazzling snow and ice gleam through the firs as you walk on a narrow mountain track on which no wheeled thing can travel. The green gloom of the forest is relieved by brilliant sunshine and always the song of the wind through the trees speaks to one mysteriously. Here, too, is Roselani, a delightful holiday resort, with its wonderful glacier gorge which is second to none in Switzerland. Let Grindelwald be your sleeping place that night and do not forget to see the Obergrindelwald Glacier before you reach the town. Its whiteness is seen across gay meadows full of flowers.

Next day I walked up the further Little

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Scheidegg Pass—for the walk just described is called the Great Scheidegg.

Here one passes such peaks as the Mönch, Eiger and Jungfrau, and never shall I forget the sound of the crashing avalanches down its steep crags, or the sight of the ice crushed to powder in its fall. The walk to Weungen and Lauterbrunnen and then Interlaken is easy and pleasant, and a fitting end to a fortnight's holiday. After the walk you sail up Lake Thun, and then on to Spiez, and so home. The memory of such a walking tour in such scenes of grandeur will pass only with life itself.

One more holiday article, which may be of great interest to visitors to Switzerland:

#### Valais and its Valleys.

*The Spectator*, 29th June.

Not without reason the canton of Valais claims to be the heart of Switzerland. Nevertheless, though parts of it are very well known, the majority of its beauty spots have never been heard of by tourists, who pass them by in the train or avoid them for places more crowded and no more lovely. Sion, its capital, standing on two castle-crowned hills and with a thrilling mediaeval history, is an example.

Let us start with the two valleys lying to the east of the canton, not far from the Pass of Simplon. Get out at Stalden, the first stop, and let the busy, smoky, overcrowded little train puff away towards the Zermatt hotels without you, and you will find yourself in a valley where solitude is for hours often broken only by the roaring of the torrential Saaser Visp, where the flora is less preyed upon by tourists, and the villages are as hospitable as they well could be. Saas-fee, six hundred feet higher than Zermatt, lies most picturesquely in velvety meadows, surrounded by an amphitheatre of mountains, with the great Fee glacier gleaming in the sunshine far above.

Farther west we come to Sion, and the phenomenon of the Visp valleys is repeated. There are again two valleys here. That of Horencence, leading to Arolla, is well served by post-motor and comparatively crowded in summer, but the Val d'Herens, in which the chief centre is Evolène, remains unknown beyond Mayens de Sion and Vex. There is a superb view from Vex up this valley, which alone is sufficient to inspire multitudes to invade it. The road is both good and picturesque, running high above the stream of the Borgne, passing the curious formation known as the Pyramids of Euseigne, and a number of unusually charming little log-cabin villages. In this valley—in Evolène, at any rate—the traditional Valaisian costumes are genuinely worn on Sundays: not put on, as is the case in some villages, for the purposes of edifying tourists.

To my mind no valley in Southern Switzerland is more charming than the Val d'Illeiez, near the head of which stands the well-known village of Champéry. For one thing, it gives an unusual impression of spaciousness; for another, it is eternally green, an Emerald Valley if there ever was one; for a third, its heights—the great chain of the Dents du Midi—are hardly surpassed in the country.

The goal of most who tramp or tour this valley will be Champéry, and never had a village a more attractive approach than this. "It would seem to have been set before the Dents du Midi at the most favourable angle," wrote a Frenchman once, "like a seat before a picture in some gallery." That is exactly the impression of the tourist as he contemplates the range from one of the numerous hotel balconies which the village can now offer him. A visit to Champéry is an experience not soon forgotten, and I confess that of all the valleys of Valais I love it best.

#### Swiss Guards and a Dog.

*Daily Telegraph*, 3rd July.

The question whether the extradition clause in the Concordat accompanying the Lateran Pact of Conciliation between the Italian State and the Vatican City extends to the Rome Municipal Dog-catching Department, has been brought up here by the conduct of a stray dog in St. Peter's-square.

The dog, whilst in the neutral territory of St. Peter's-square, was chased by two dog-catchers, but avoided them by taking refuge beyond the frontier of the Vatican city. Swiss guards stopped the dog-catchers in their pursuit, and thus raised the question of territorial rights.

A crowd gathered when the dog-catchers were confronted by the Swiss guards, and laughed when they were informed that beyond the Charlemagne Arch of St. Peter's-square another State began, and that to apprehend the dog it was necessary to have recourse to diplomatic channels. Meanwhile, the canine culprit lay beside the stones on the Piazza Santa Marta, sardonically watching its persecutors.—*Chicago Tribune*.

Well, well, I quite understand the zeal of the Swiss Guards, after all, newly acquired rights generally make for zeal and what are diplomatic channels after all? Do not most of us remember the famous "Dienstweg"?

#### OUR GOTTFRIED KELLER.

It is significant that Gottfried Keller, admittedly Switzerland's greatest writer, should have been of the people, for only a man of the people could have given Switzerland her true expression of literature. Other countries, faced with a less bitter struggle for existence and a less urgent need to protect their national consciousness against foreign influences, have evolved a type of culture best expressed in their salons or their universities, and divided by a deep gulf from the world of labour. But the real spirit of the Swiss lives, even to-day, in their workshops and on their farms, and the most highly cultured among them feel a kinship with it which has been lost in other countries. Whatever wealth or learning they have acquired, the Swiss remain essentially the descendants of that handful of peasants who threw off the Hapsburg yoke.

The native patriotism of the Swiss finds its simplest and finest expression in Keller. He loved his country as he loved nature, with a robust, hearty love. No fruitless wallowing in feeling troubled his vision of either. He was politically active throughout his life, not with politics as a game, but with politics as the seeking for the best his country could achieve. Dangers beset the patriot of a small country—on the one hand, a parochial self-satisfaction at much achieved with small means, on the other, a too great readiness to acquire from other countries in the mistaken attempt to enlarge spiritual horizons. From both these errors Keller was free. Few men who have spent their most active years within the frontiers of their own country have seen it so clearly as Keller saw his, and all he wanted from it was the best it could do and be.

What is most characteristic in Keller, however, and what is probably the most timeless element in his work, is his humour. It pours forth ceaselessly, in limitless variations. It is refreshingly free from the artifices of the humorist—not once do we find that common trick of a leitmotif of phrase or gesture by which we are so often warned that the funny man is being funny. Keller had no need of such crutches for a stumbling invention. In fact, it is but rarely that he has recourse to the spoken word to make his people achieve their comic effect. His humour is drawn from life itself by his own rich sense of the inherent ridiculousness of people and their spontaneous reactions. When, as in *Spiegel* or the *Combmakers*, his own favourite story, with infinite gusto he throws aside all restraint and lets his exuberant imagination carry him into riotous farce, he is great. Here, perhaps, more than anywhere else, lies the reason why he has been more than once called Shakespearean. However much loving fanaticism the word may contain, it has a certain justification precisely in Keller's instinctive sense of the comic. And it is curious how, in other work, his humour, which could be so vigorous and rude in the *Combmakers*, takes on, particularly in the *Seven Legends*, that lyrical and tender note of which Shakespeare was the master. In fact, his humour does follow something like the curve of Shakespeare's.

He is, of course, not a faultless writer. He is prone to preach, and, when he has a moral to point, his artistic instinct falters. His method of narration, which at its best is splendidly broad and leisurely, disdaining baits for the hasty or sentimental, at its worst can be really tedious. To attempt to estimate his place in European literature would be dangerous, for it is easy to overrate one who stands so much alone. It cannot be claimed for a moment that Keller is a genius of the dimensions of a Shakespeare, a Balzac, or a Tolstoy, for whom no frontiers exist. For him, frontiers do exist, and they are the frontiers of Switzerland. But by all that is best in his art, he has brought that particular mode of being which is Swiss into the European picture, given it *droit de cité* there and enriched that picture by just so much. For there is more than Switzerland in Keller, there is humanity; he has, preserving all the peculiarities of the local, given it general significance. He has, of course, his limits; he can by no means correspond to all moods. He has none of those "blank misgivings," those "obstinate questionings" which can only find their expression in art. But what he gives us is based on really personal elements. The beauty of Sali and Vrenchen's morning walk, their last journey on the river, the *Combmakers'* futile race, the delicate humour of the *Legends*—these are things which do not pall or fade. It is, in its buffoonery, its tenderness, its pathos, the kind of art to which the mind turns with a sense of relief from much of the exhausting soul-searchings of to-day. There is human joy and sorrow in it, and rollicking fun, and, beneath it all, a very sound sense of the values of life on earth. It may be limited, but it is not little, and if Meister Gottfried's seat among the immortals be a humble one, it is but what he himself, in true humility, would have deemed right.

M. D. HOLLINGER.

(Extract from the translator's introduction to "*The People of Seldwyla and Seven Legends*," recently published by Messrs. J. M. Dent & Son, at 7s. 6d. net.)

#### The Swiss Watchmaking Industry.

In the course of the first term of 1929, exports in the watchmaking industry remained practically the same as those of the preceding year. The figures attained are roughly the following: 4.6 million watches, cases and works, representing a total value of 57.8 million francs. A fact which should not be overlooked and which is a confirmation of our excellent reputation in the branch, is that the export of detached parts, and works without cases, has decreased. Inasmuch as perfect working can only be guaranteed when watches are regulated and cased in Switzerland, the change is entirely in our favour and is undoubtedly due to the far-seeing policy of the "Trust de l'Ebauche." In addition to this export of watch cases has also increased which tends to lessen the anxiety caused, of latter years, by the competition of foreign case manufacturers. And lastly, exports of wrist-watches show an extraordinary increase, having reached the figure of 140,000 pieces.

Exports to the United States of America are also higher, which should not be attributed, says the Review "La Fédération horlogère" to a threatened rise in the duty imposed, a condition which is bound to remain, for some time to come, a great source of worry to all Jura manufacturers. A careful examination of the statistics shows that the real cause is to be sought in the development of the sale of ordinary metal watches, particularly of wrist-watches, sold on the American market.

In Great Britain where unemployment and the puzzle of the elections weighed heavily in the balance during the passed months, the sale of watches suffered a decrease. The same may be said of Germany where, for the last year, business has shown signs of relaxation, a phenomenon which does not seem wholly unrelated to the credit crisis. And finally in Spain a certain decrease is also noticeable in the sales which will undoubtedly, be duly compensated by the favourable results of the Barcelona Exhibition, where the campaign of publicity undertaken by our foremost factories will not pass unnoticed. S.I.T.

#### Pocket Atlas for Motorists.

This pamphlet has been published with a revised text in English, French, German and Italian and with all the latest regulations regarding motor traffic on the ordinary and Alpine roads of Switzerland. It contains nine maps of all the motor roads of Switzerland, a list of the main roads, as well as all the information regarding customs, formalities and the transport of motor cars through the alpine tunnels, the postal motor coach service, regulations concerning the alpine roads and passes, a list of the Swiss customs offices. It may be obtained from the Swiss National Tourist Office or its agencies abroad. Price 3 frs. (discount to retailers).

#### A NEW SWISS NOVEL.

*Gadscha Puti*, a posthumous novel of the Far East by Hans Morgenthaler, published by A. Franke A.G., Berne, Price Fr. 7.20 (paper cover Fr. 5.50).

We sometimes take a magnifying glass to see things more clearly. The glass brings the objects nearer to the eye, but we can only see a small part of the whole scenery; we see things from one side only, in proper proportion as far as the picture itself is concerned, but out of proportion to what we cannot see, to what is outside the range of our glass. Such a view of life, such a picture of culture, is Morgenthaler's novel "*Gadscha Puti*."

We follow the young Swiss Infeld as he, full of energy, full of youthful enthusiasm, leaves his native land, travels by land and sea to the shores of far off Siam, up on a second class railway to one of the outposts of civilisation. We accompany him on his tours always looking out for ore, always disappointed; together with him we sympathise with his friend and countryman Schneider who worked for the same firm in a forlorn part of the country and in a forlorn position. We laugh with him over the clumsiness of a third Swiss who took to a brown girl and handled her as hopelessly as he handled his prospective mines. There is life, hot air, wild speculation, in these pages. Yet there is enough humour to let us believe what we read, though the whole "genre" is pessimistic to the extreme. The pictures of the swindling and drinking outpost managers of the mighty Firm Almeida, the nice but undecided manager, the life of lust and desire in town, they are all pictures as seen through the magnifying glass, exaggerated as far as the general view is concerned, but true, only too true, if looked at in their isolation. A true picture of our veneer culture. This is a novel well worth reading.

JOHN HENRY.

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