

Notes and gleanings

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brauch machen. Das Publikum bekommt, die wohl-tuenden Wirkungen erst aus der Hand der Kan-tone zu spüren. Ein erfreulicher Beschluss wird aus Baselstadt gemeldet. Der Regierungsrat hat dort gemäss Antrag des Polizeidepartementes eine allgemeine Herabsetzung der Passgebühren ver-fügt. Die Höhe der Gebühren bildet einen der Klagepunkte, der so mancherorts immer noch das Publikum verärgert. Wozu sollen Pässe, für viel-leicht zur einmaligen Auslandsreise, immer noch ihre 10 Franken oder mehr kosten, wenn der Bür-ger doch überall mit schweren Steuern den Be-amtenapparat zahlt und erhält? Nach der neuen eidgenössischen Verordnung können fortan Pässe sogleich für 3-5 Jahre ausgegeben werden. Machen die Kantone hiervon Gebrauch, so hindert das hoff-entlich nicht den gleichzeitigen Abbau der Pass-gebühren. Und entgegenkommend sollte ebenso mehr und mehr die ganze Praxis für Ausstellung des Reisepasses sein. Dass der Weg zum vielleicht gar nicht nahe gelegenen Kantonshauptort gemacht werden muss, erscheint als unnötige Belastung des Publikums. Mit dem Pass kommt man heute leicht über die Grenzen. Sache des Kantons ist es, wirksam dafür zu sorgen, dass man den Pass end-lich leichter und billiger beschaffen kann.

—Bündner Tagblatt, Chur.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Aviation in Switzerland.

The *Times Trade and Engineering Supplement* (Jan. 19th) publishes a survey of civil aviation in Switzerland during the 1928 flying season:—

"In spite of the smallness of the country, precluding any long-distance flights, and the disabilities resulting from the Alpine barrier, aviation has developed to a surprising degree in Switzerland during the last two years, and especially during 1928. During the so-called 'high' flying season, i.e., from April 23rd to October 13th, the 14 regular air lines, operated by two Swiss, one British, one French, one Ger-man, one Dutch, and one Austrian air navigation concerns, worked an international network of air lines measuring some 4,989 km., of which 894 were purely Swiss lines, 2,496 'pool' lines, operated in conjunction with foreign undertak-ings, and 1,599 km. worked solely by foreign companies. Swiss participation in this inter-national air line network increased from 60 per cent. in 1927, to 67 per cent. in 1928, Swiss pilots and Swiss machines carrying passengers to Munich, Vienna, Stuttgart, Frankfurt, Brussels, Rotterdam and Amsterdam.

The summer season of 1928 saw scheduled flights carried out over a distance of 1,307,151 km., as compared with 711,980 km. in 1927, the number of hours flown being 9,694, as compared with 5,765. In consequence of the more power-ful type of airplane used, the average speed in-creased from 128 km. per hour to 135 km. per hour. Record flights, averaging 148 km. per hour, were carried out on the Geneva-Zurich-Vienna line, operated by the Balair and the Luft-Hansa Companies. Of the scheduled ser-vices 97.1 per cent. were carried out, as against 96.8 per cent. in 1927, the average punctuality increasing from 81.6 per cent. in 1927 to 84.3 per cent. in 1928.

Notwithstanding the unfavourable atmo-spheric conditions which prevailed throughout the early part of the summer, there was a notable increase in traffic, both travellers and goods. Thus, the number of passengers carried amounted to 15,046, as compared with 10,823 in 1927, while goods increased from 81.2 to 253 tons, mail from 46.5 to 82.9 tons, and luggage from 25.7 to 42.5 tons.

In addition to the regular summer service, there were early spring and late autumn services, which were, so to speak, of an experimental character. Among the new services introduced was a non-stop express flight between Zurich and Berlin. On several occasions, however, it proved necessary to have recourse to an intermediate landing. Two lines, the Vienna-Innsbruck and the Amsterdam-Brussels-Basel lines, were extended as far as Zurich, and the internal Basel-La Chaux-de-Fonds line as far as Geneva."

Shrinking Glaciers.

The movements of 92 selected Swiss glaciers are now officially controlled and recorded. A com-mentary on the figures published for last year is given in the *Daily Mail* (Jan. 24th):—

"The news that of 92 Swiss glaciers which were kept under observation last year 73 have re-ceded while 5 remained stationary may revive the old fear that a time may come when the glaciers of the Alps will have vanished alto-gether. Switzerland without its eternal snow and ice, would be bereft of much of its beauty and of its most precious source of power. For it is from the melting of the glaciers that the steady stream of water is obtained in summer which actuates the immense electrical works now studded about the Alpine valleys.

For the last six years, since 1922, the ma-jority of Swiss glaciers have been receding, though there have always been a few exceptions. In the period before 1922 there was a general

slight advance; and even since 1922 one or two glaciers (among them the well-known Upper Glacier at Grindelwald) have been moving for-ward considerably. But there are indications that in the past the glaciers have at long intervals moved forward and moved back. The advance and retreat of the immense ice masses have been almost like tidal movements, spread over decades and even centuries."

A Sea Fish Market.

It is news to most of us that Basle is now the centre for the marketing of sea fish; there seems therefore to be a good prospect that on our next visit there we may have haddock for breakfast. In the meantime we must be satisfied with the fol-lowing report taken from *The Times* (Jan. 19th):—

"Few people, not only abroad but also in Switzerland itself, realise the importance of Basel both as a fish market and as a vast clear-ing-house for imported sea fish. As a matter of fact, it is one of the principal fish markets in Europe, and possesses, in addition to excellent railway connections with Germany, France, Great Britain and Italy, large cold-storage establish-ments equipped with every conceivable modern improvement, which serve as distributing centres for the entire country. They furnish fresh fish to all the large hotels in the mountain and lake resorts as well as the principal fish dealers in the various urban centres.

The Swiss people are not big fish eaters, except on high days and holidays, when no fes-tive board is deemed complete without boiled river trout. Sea fish is, however, consumed in large quantities by visitors residing at hotels, and the demand for it, as also for shell-fish, is steadily on the increase. Up to the present Germany has been the principal purveyor of this commodity, and was responsible for 1,014 tons of fresh sea fish, amounting in value to 1,200,000 fr., out of a total of 2,400 tons and 4,500,000 fr. for the twelve months of 1927. During the first nine months fish imports increased from 2,222 tons, value 4,300,000fr., in 1927 to 2,364 tons, value 4,800,000fr., in 1928.

Unfortunately imports of fresh sea fish from the United Kingdom are comparatively insignifi-cant (13 tons, value 28,191fr. in 1927), which is surprising considering the excellent and rapid means of communication between Switzerland and Great Britain. English kippers and haddocks are to be found in 'delikatessen' shops, but as the general public is ignorant of the proper way of cooking them they have not achieved any degree of popularity. Frozen fish is obtained both from Canada and the United States. In view of the development and improvement which are now taking place in the Swiss tourist industry, there is every reason to believe that a corres-ponding increase will occur in the demand for fresh sea fish during the winter sports and sum-mer season. The *Revue des Hôtels* lays particu-lar stress on the high degree of efficiency attained in the organisation of regular and rapid de-liveries of fresh fish to even the most isolated hotels in the country."

Women Cresta Riders.

Even so peaceful a place as St. Moritz is not exempt from the intrusion of the modern flapper. While in this country women look like outwitting the stronger sex, they have to 'keep off the grass' and surrender all the honours at the Cresta in St. Moritz. Lt.-Col. Moore-Brabazon, M.P., the great expert on the difficult art of Cresta riding, breaks a lance for his fair competitors in *The Times* (Jan. 21st):—

"I see from *The Times* this morning that the committee of the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club have unanimously passed a resolution to the effect that no women are to be allowed to ride the Cresta. I regret that owing to absence I was not able to oppose this as, although I admit that riding the Cresta is not a woman's pastime, it is for that reason that I consider the ruling unnecessary.

In our country such sports as flying and motor-cycling are, perhaps, not wholly suitable for all women, but there have been some splendid and useful examples of exceptions to this, and the same applies to the Cresta. After all, the Cresta, like Gaul, is divided into three parts. No one can pretend that riding from Stream is a dan-gerous pastime, and although no one can pretend that riding from the top is anything else but dangerous, it is to the principle of curtailment of the liberty of the subject to do what he or she likes that I object. Where will the next regulation come? Is bobbing free from danger? If anybody is under that delusion let them look at the records of accidents over recent years; and will the Bobsleigh Club soon introduce a regulation forbidding women going down the run? Will the Ski Club soon regulate the depth of snow upon which alone we may slide for our safety? Where is all this to stop?

This letter does not advocate in any way the riding of the Cresta by women, but the writer does maintain that more dangerous than the Cresta is the slippery slope of petty regulations. Women are quite able to look after themselves and to know what they can do and what they

cannot, and the St. Moritz Tobogganing Club have separate powers to forbid any rider descend-ing the run who rides dangerously; this should be enough for them. We have seen quite enough of D.O.R.A. in this country for it to be a lesson to us to avoid a fussy 'Home Secretary' spirit in the High Alps."

Swiss Flag on the High Seas.

Mr. F. A. Schumacher, the Swiss Consul at Sierra Leone, whose remarkable recovery from an admittedly fatal illness we referred to last week, has established a precedent with his latest business venture. Perhaps the time will not be far off when the Swiss flag ceases to be a curiosity on the high seas. This is what the *Daily Express* (Jan. 24th) reports:—

"A peculiar point in international maritime law has arisen at Fleetwood in connection with the departure of the small wooden motor drifter *Impregnable* on her 3,000 miles voyage to Free-town, Sierra Leone.

The *Impregnable* leaves Fleetwood without a port of registry and with no nationality.

The boat, which carries a crew of six, was purchased by Mr. F. A. Schumacher, of Free-town, Sierra Leone. On arrival in British West Africa she will inaugurate experimental fishing in the colony for the first time since 1912, and the governor of the colony, Sir Joseph A. Byrne, is anxious that the experiment shall prove a suc-cess.

Mr. Schumacher is a Swiss, and on buying the boat the registration papers had to be sur-rendered because he was not a British subject. As there is no Swiss maritime law he was in a

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

BONDS.	Jan. 22	Jan. 29	
Confederation 3% 1903	83.25	83.15	
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	102.30	102.65	
Federal Railways 3½% A—K	88.10	88.15	
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	102.55	102.50	
SHARES.	Nom.	Jan. 22	Jan. 29
Swiss Bank Corporation ...	Fr. 500	Fr. 863	864
Crédit Suisse...	500	989	993
Union de Banques Suisses...	500	754	755
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	35.48	35.07
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	47.39	47.39
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe ...	1000	43.88	44.00
S.A. Brown Boveri ...	350	605	614
C. P. Bally ...	1000	1555	1745
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mlk. Co.	200	927	924
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	1000	1283	1292
Comm. de Naviş n sur le Lac Léman	500	520	510
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco ...	100	335	334
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon ...	500	830	840

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quandary. The whole of the crew are British, the boat has always been British, and was built in Scotland, but owing to the new owner being of Swiss nationality she cannot sail under the British flag, because every ship flying the British flag must be owned by a British subject.

Mr. Schumacher was anxious to sail under the British flag and sought the assistance of the Swiss Legation in London without success. He asked the Board of Trade what flag he could fly, and was told any but the British. To overcome the difficulty he has decided to use the Swiss flag for the voyage, but on arrival at Sierra Leone the boat will be registered as British and fly the British flag according to colonial maritime law, which differs from the British."

Switzerland as seen in Wallington.

The *Wallington Times* (Jan. 24th) has treated its readers to a description of the institutions of our country. We appreciate the good things said about us and the kindly spirit, but we would advise our enterprising contemporary when he goes off the beaten track again to consult the appropriate text book in the local library; or better still, we could give him the addresses of a few Wallington residents who have gone to school in Switzerland and would no doubt be delighted to correct his proofs. Thus speaketh the *Wallington Times*—

"The present Constitution was formed in 1848, and is a model of a Federal Republic. Every man becomes a voter at the age of 20; each Canton governs itself internally, presided over by a Landammann, or Mayor. Its proceedings are public, and conducted in the most businesslike manner. Each Canton is composed of a number of small communities, like our local councils, who arrange their affairs to the best advantage to themselves.

These communities own all common land, waterfalls, forests, mountains, etc., and retain their hold upon them for future generations, leasing out the land, water power, timber cutting and mountain pastures. With this community property held for the benefit of the people, most of the more prosperous ones, instead of having to pay a communal tax, receive a yearly bonus either in money or kind. It is enough to make the mouths of our local councils water. Moreover, one-fifth of the country is forest land, and for every tree cut down three saplings must be planted, so the future assets of the nation are protected.

All the above are in marked contrast to our own country, where land ownership means profit to the individual and not to the community, and where great bodies like the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, with £1,625,000 yearly income from estates and £1,387,000 from dividends and interest, disburse this to the bishops and clergy, overlooking the fact that they are trustees of much land that was given for the maintenance and education of the poor.

The Swiss Parliament consists of two chambers—the Bundesrat, one member elected for each 20,000 voters, and the Ständerat, or Upper Chamber, two members for each Canton, which forms a compact democratic body of 44. The veto is in the hands of the electors.

If a Bill is unpopular, it can be referred back by 50,000 electors signing a referendum, and their recommendations must be dealt with by the Parliament or the Bill cannot pass.

The country has a fine military history, and an efficient army existing only for self-defence. It has only one professional soldier, the Commander-in-chief; every man in training has another profession or occupation; every man over 20 must do his share in the defence of his country if he is physically fit and over 5ft. 1½ in. height. There are no exemptions. Those who and if they possess independent means, the fine are not fit must pay for the training of others, can be very considerably increased. During manoeuvres citizens must, if called upon, billet soldiers free of charge or be fined, so that even those who are not actually serving can feel that they are doing something for their country.

The Army consists of the Auszug, men from 20 to 32 years of age. The first year they are in training for 65 days, and after that 16 days every other year. Then they go into the Landwehr, the first reserve; they then do nine days every four years, until they are 44 years old; then they belong to the Landsturm, or second reserve. The Army has no cavalry, who would be useless in that mountainous country, but they have the best mountain soldiers in the world, all composed of guides. Marksmanship is very highly thought of, and they have many rifle clubs for practice.

It is reported that Napoleon once asked the Commander-in-chief:

"What would you do if I brought 20,000 of my troops against you?"

The Commander-in-chief replied: "My men would fire once, and you would go home alone."

To sum up, although comparisons are said to be odious, we have dealt with a country which, compared with other European countries, comes out well. They have no nobility, for in their eyes every honest man is a noble man. They have no State Church and patronage, but 57 per

cent. are Protestants and 41 per cent. Roman Catholics, all free and self-supporting. There are no large landowners allowed. There are no extreme rich and but few paupers; no public houses and drinking bars as we know them.

Although the Germans like their beer and the French their wine and get them pure, I have never seen any drunkenness, although I have been in most of their Cantons, and there is in consequence little crime and but few prisons.

Switzerland is a buffer State, bordering on Germany, France and Italy, and it has no language of its own. It possesses 71 per cent. Germans, 21 per cent. French and 6 per cent. Italian and they live together as one family, "All for each and each for all"—a National Brotherhood. Education is free and under local control, elementary up to 12 years; Secondary up to 15, and after that special commercial and technical schools leading to the universities without any class hindrance."

A Waiter's Story.

The Bahnhof Buffet at Berne is a universally patronised culinary stronghold, not so much, we believe, on account of its central position but for reasons of the excellent fare provided there by the popular tenant, Mr. Müller. The following reference is from the *Daily Mail* (Jan. 24th):—

"An example of the democratic spirit of the Belgian Royal Family is provided by an incident which occurred at Basle a few days ago.

The station buffet was crowded to suffocation when a tall, bronzed man, accompanied by two women, entered, and, finding every other table occupied, asked a party of Swiss if they might be allowed to sit at theirs.

The newcomers were obviously amused at the conversation of the Swiss, and the younger woman was heard to remark, 'They speak very good French, these Swiss.' After drinking their 'citron presses' the trio rose to catch their train.

One can judge of the surprise of the Swiss when a waiter rushed over to tell them they had been sitting with the King and Queen of the Belgians and their daughter, Princess Marie, who were on their way home from the winter sports at Mürren.

The same buffet was the scene of another amusing incident a few days earlier. The room was crowded with diners when the head waiter emerged from the telephone box and began making a round of all the tables where the more smartly dressed women were seated.

He then went to the middle of the room and in a loud voice announced that Pola Negri was wanted on the telephone. Everyone stood up and craned their necks to catch a glimpse of the famous film star, but they quickly sat down again when a fat man wearing blue glasses—her secretary, one supposes—rose from his seat and walked to the telephone.

By a curious coincidence the passage of Pola Negri on her way to St. Moritz had been announced in the local Press the same day."

The authority for these historic events is the statement of the waiter, which we should not dare to doubt for a moment. It reminds us, however, of a similar revelation—more fanciful than correct, but probably made with an eye to business—made to us during lunch at a City restaurant, when the information was confided to us that we were sitting next to the chief actors in this week's Old Baily melodrama.

Trouserless Swiss.

This is another old friend of ours in a somewhat different attire. The copyright of the story is, we believe, claimed by Geneva, when a local bank clerk, during the inflation period, took the train to a town in France in order to procure himself a new "rig-out." Returning home, he joyfully dispatched his old clothes through the window before opening the carefully wrapped up parcel. The following is taken from the *Yorkshire Evening News* (Jan. 21st):—

"When the Orient express reached the Turkish frontier, the strange sight of a traveller gesticulating wildly to the guard of the train dressed only in his jacket and shirt caused considerable amusement, states a Constantinople newspaper.

The traveller, a Swiss, explained to the guard that, having bought a new suit of clothes at Constantinople, and wishing to avoid paying Customs duty at the frontier, he had shut himself up in his compartment and proceeded to put on his new clothes. He threw the old suit (which he had taken off) out of the carriage window, some miles from Sirkedji, the Constantinople terminus of the Orient express.

When, however, he opened the new parcel containing his new suit of clothes he found that his tailor had sent only a jacket and vest, and had forgotten to send a pair of trousers.

The guard good-humouredly sent a porter to obtain the necessary garment, and, amid the laughter of those assembled on the station, the Swiss received with joy a new pair of trousers.

As the train moved slowly out he waved his hand through the carriage window crying, "Vive les pantalons!" But he had to pay Customs duty all the same."

DEMOCRATIE ET AUTORITE.

Connaissez-vous sur la ligne, qui de Lausanne mène à Fribourg, l'antique et caractéristique cité à l'aspect moyennageux, encore à l'abri de ses remparts sous l'oeil patriarcal de ses tours, qui s'appelle Romont?

C'est là que samedi et dimanche derniers se sont tenues les assises annuelles de la Nouvelle Société Helvétique. Charmante réception qui restera gravée dans la mémoire de tous ceux qui eurent le privilège de ce déplacement. Et je dis cela sans méchanceté malgré le froid intense qui régna dans certaine salle de l'Hôtel de Ville le dimanche matin et qui transforma les assistants en véritables glaçons!

En était venu nombreux et de fort loin pour suivre les débats qui allaient s'engager. Le sujet choisi était d'importance et passionnée à l'heure présente tous ceux qui se préoccupent de l'avenir politique de l'Europe, non seulement dans notre pays mais au dehors.

Démocratie et Autorité tel est le complexe qu'exposa avec clarté et science Monsieur le professeur Arnold Keymond, de la Faculté de Philosophie de Lausanne.

On sait combien le monde, secoué depuis une vingtaine d'années par la préoccupation d'un ordre politique nouveau, s'intéresse à ce problème. Les initiatives italienne, espagnole, polonaise et yougoslave, pour ne citer que les principales, sont venues lui donner une acuité nouvelle. La déroute du parlementarisme français qui se meurt en d'atroces convulsions et les efforts diversément accueillis d'un homme comme M. Coty ne sont pas faits pour apaiser les esprits. L'éminent rhétoricien de Lausanne prend la défense de la démocratie et relevant successivement toutes les critiques qui lui furent adressées les réfute non sans puissance. Il traite ensuite de la crise par laquelle passe l'idée démocratique et aboutit à cette conclusion dont on parle ces derniers temps d'une façon croissante en Suisse: "La désagrégation systématique de l'Idéal Moral sur lequel nos pères avaient basé non seulement leurs Constitutions mais qui étaient encore la raison d'être de leur activité et le motif de leur vie, est cause du mal."

Monsieur Keymond ne trouve comme remède unique que la reconstitution d'un Idéal commun à tous les Suisses par une meilleure adaptation de la vie aux conditions nouvelles.

Le Dr. Schindler, de la Faculté de droit de Zurich, qui succède à l'orateur précédent, estime que "Démocratie et Autorité" ne sont point antagonistes lorsqu'on les transpose de l'ordre politique à l'ordre moral et intellectuel qui doit servir de base au premier.

Un genevois de rare mérite s'est fait depuis longtemps un apostolat d'un autorité nouvelle élargie de l'idée fasciste et puisant aux sources mêmes de la philosophie sa raison d'être. On attendait son exposé et sa réfutation avec grand intérêt. M. Eugène Fabre, rédacteur en chef du journal *La Suisse*, n'a point déçu son auditoire, qui pourtant était visiblement d'un avis contraire à l'orateur.

M. Fabre estime que la démocratie, loin d'accroître la notion de liberté, la disperse, l'éparille, l'amointrir et la perd; qu'à partager ainsi la souveraineté elle n'existe plus! Puis poussant plus loin son exposé, il oppose les caractères de la nature, qui sont par essence inégaux, à la théorie égalitaire de la démocratie et n'hésite pas à déclarer que cet idéal a, à son point de vue, fait faillite et qu'il doit être abandonné.

Le premier orateur, résumant la controverse, la situe ainsi: "Les masses sont-elles, oui ou non, capables d'atteindre un certain niveau? Dans l'affirmative, craponnons-nous à la démocratie, au cas contraire, n'en parlons plus!"

Cette discussion aura un retentissement considérable, non seulement dans les milieux intellectuels, mais dans les masses populaires également.

* * *

Le Tessin, décidément trop près de la frontière italienne, est secoué par les passions qui opposent socialistes et communistes aux fascistes. La dernière escarmouche, dont l'épilogue aura lieu au Conseil National même, a trait à une conférence!

Le professeur Salvemini, anti-fasciste notoire, qui vit du reste en Angleterre, devait faire un exposé à l'Ecole tessinoise de culture italienne. Il en fut empêché par le chef du département de

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