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Une presse à filer munie d'un piston déployant une force de trois millions de kilos fait passer un gros lingot cylindrique à travers une matrice qui, telle une machine à faire les macaronis, livre des barres, des câbles ou des rubans de diverses formes. Le piston est actionné par une presse hydraulique commandée par des pompes électriques absorbant 250 CV. La presse peut tréfiler jusqu'à cinq tonnes de métal par heure. Cette machine est la plus puissante existante aujourd'hui en Europe. Les barres, rubans, etc., sortant de la matrice de la presse passent sur d'autres machines qui les aplanissent, redressent et régularisent.

Dans une halle voisine se trouve le laminoir, une merveille de la technique moderne. Entre ses trois cylindres, en quelques minutes, un lingot aux surfaces rectangulaires et qu'on pourrait tenir dans ses bras si l'on en avait la force, est transformé en une tôle de quelques millimètres d'épaisseur et mesurant plusieurs mètres carrés. Encore toute trépidante et courbaturée par les cylindres implacables, la tôle, transportée par un pont roulant, passe sur plusieurs machines qui l'aplanissent, lui donnent une forme régulière ou la détaillent en morceaux plus petits.

Avant de pénétrer dans la presse à filer ou dans le laminoir, les lingots sont chauffés dans des fours à la température d'environ 400 degrés.

Une autre halle, voisine du vestiaire et du réfectoire, renferme une intéressante collection de machines-outils d'une grande précision où l'on prépare, usine et perfore les matrices à filer et où l'on répare diverses pièces.

Le "laminoir valaisain" a été inauguré mardi 28 mai. La cérémonie débuta, dans la cour de la fabrique, par un discours de Mgr. Bieler, évêque de Sion, qui montra les avantages découlant de l'industrie pour les populations valaisannes, et qui mit en garde les ouvriers contre les sophismes des meneurs prenant leur mot d'ordre à Moscou et cherchant à ruiner nos institutions démocratiques, nos croyances religieuses et à appauvrir le pays. Le prêtre parla aussi de la collaboration et de la bonne harmonie existant ici entre le capital et le travail, deux puissances qui ne peuvent vivre l'une sans l'autre. Mgr. Bieler procéda ensuite à la bénédiction de l'usine et de son personnel.

Un banquet d'une cinquantaine de couverts réunit les invités au Foyer de l'aluminium. On y entendit des discours de MM. Naville, président du conseil d'administration; Loretan, conseiller d'Etat; Bonvin, président de Sierre; colonel J. Couchepin; Dr. Détraz, et Dallèves, avocat.

Une journée comme celle-ci laisse une excellente impression. On sait en particulier que l'industrie a gagné sa cause en Valais où l'on n'eût pas toujours la compréhension de sa valeur économique et où l'on s'ingénia à élever des obstacles de tous genres à la construction et au développement des fabriques. Aujourd'hui, une localité est fière de posséder une usine et l'on voit Sion faire enfin des démarches pour attirer sur son territoire quelques nouvelles industries. Avec les remarquables installations de la Société de l'aluminium, la région de Sierre et de Chippis est maintenant largement favorisée et fait même beaucoup d'envieux.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

What about Swiss Roll.

I mean, why not give that Swiss bee Swiss Roll?

Says the *Daily Mail*:

Yesterday a friend of mine received some flowers from Switzerland. They arrived in a very sorry condition after their long journey. But on removing the flowers from the moss at the bottom of the box she was surprised to hear an angry buzz. A large bee thereupon flew out.

The owner is now considering the possibilities of hanging it out of the window in the hope that it may attract a swarm, or, after careful training, keeping it as a pet.

As it is, she is now wondering what will appeal to its Swiss appetite.

Or, alternatively, that bee might make its return journey to the newly opened

Air Port at Berne.

concerning which the *Hull Daily Mail* writes on 3rd June:

To-day (Monday), the new airport was opened at Berne, linking the Swiss capital direct with the now widely-branched system of international air traffic.

A feature of the Berné aerodrome will be the development of tourist sight-seeing flights over some of the finest Alpine scenery. Hitherto most of Switzerland's air traffic has been centred in Bale and Geneva both of which cities are on the outer edge of the country and some distance from the great snow-capped hinterland of the Alps of the frontier.

From Berne it will now be possible to reach the famous Oberland area within half an hour and enjoy the unforgettable sight of the Jungfrau, Monch and Eiger from above the glaciers there.

and from Berne, that bee—what a traveller she is by now!—might do worse than pay a visit to that re-opened

Britannia Alpine Hut.

The *Morning Post* on 12th June published the following:

The Britannia Hut, one of the most famous of Swiss mountain refuges, is to be reopened early in August in its new and enlarged form in stone. The Hut, the gift of British members to the Swiss Alpine Club in 1912, is situated at a height of over 10,000ft. on the Klein Allalin, between Saas and Zermatt. Originally built of timber in chalet style, it recently succumbed to the long buffetings of Alpine winters. Its re-opening is a result of further British subscriptions.

and, finally our bee might attend some meeting at which Disarmament is being discussed and there, as a token of good-will shed its sting! Disarmament, which is being discussed just now over here, also formed the subject of a discussion in the National Council the other day. Says the *Manchester Guardian* of 7th June:

Switzerland and Disarmament.

The Swiss Second Chamber, having approved of Swiss accession to the Kellogg Pact yesterday, conducted long discussions to-day on disarmament. The Socialist group moved that Parliament should invite the Swiss Government to report as to whether and how Swiss disarmament may be realised. They proposed that this resolution should be adopted as a sign of Swiss sincerity and confidence in the sincerity of all the other adhering States, especially those States bordering on Switzerland.

The Foreign Minister, M. Motta, who to judge by his remarks yesterday was full of confidence regarding the progressive improvement of international relations, to-day appeared to be quite content with the results of the last session of the Preparatory Disarmament Commission, and particularly with the decision that trained reserves should not be limited. This decision, he said, means that the Swiss military system may remain unchanged even after the Disarmament Conference.

The Socialist disarmament resolution was finally rejected by 103 votes to 48. Although in December about 20 members of the bourgeois parties voted in favour of reductions of the military estimates to-day only two Radicals allied themselves with the Socialists.

Diplomatic Privilege.

The *Observer*, 16th June.

In consequence of some motor-car accidents caused by foreign diplomats accredited in Switzerland, a question was asked in the Nationalrat if it would not be opportune to limit the privileges of their extraterritoriality as far as safety in traffic is concerned. So far they have not had to pass any test of driving capacity, nor have they been under the law which determines the liabilities for damages and injuries caused by accidents.

The Federal Councillor Motta replied that it was not right that a person suffering injury from a foreign diplomatist should not be able to take legal steps against him. "The diplomatic immunities," he said, "are indeed ripe for re-consideration, but this is a matter of international tradition, and Switzerland cannot bring about any change by herself."

With all due respect to Federal Councillor Motta, I suggest that Switzerland could easily take the initiative required by informing the respective Governments that Switzerland did not insist any longer on extraterritoriality for their Ministers and Legations.—I fear, however, that this move would be too much of a shock for our bureaucracy! It is comforting anyhow to know that one of our Federal Councillors, and I am sure he is voicing the opinion of the other six as well, has publicly admitted that this diplomatic immunity is ripe for the dustheap.


Still Obsessed by War.

A very refreshing and timely view is expressed in *The Christian World*, 13th June:

"I'm excited. I'm watching intelligent men doing a stupid—dangerously stupid—thing and can do nothing to stop them. I should like to jump up on this chair and shout a warning—but I can't. I can only boil over on paper."

"And so it goes. What excites me is this: The thirty nations here represented all definitely and solemnly renounced and outlawed war when they signed and ratified the peace pact, and here they are talking about how to make the next war more humane! Every now and then a voice is raised reminding the other delegates of the peace pact, and asking, why go on preparing for war? But such voices cry in the wilderness. Silence and perplexed looks greet them—and the conference drones on."

From my seat here in the press gallery I look out past the delegates gathered round the great U-shaped table in this famous glass room



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