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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

"Coming events cast their shadows before them" is one of our old adages and, like most adages, it is partly right and partly wrong, or, to put it in other words, it can be turned round with equal force and truth. When we think of the Great War, of Europe's Economical Difficulties, of the U.S.A.'s latest Protectionist Move, and then read Mr. Briand's letter to the Nations of Europe on the subject of the Federation of European States, we might well say that *shadows forecast coming events!*

The welding of the European Nations into a homogenous economic entity is not a dream any longer, it is a sheer necessity and slowly, very slowly, this fact is being recognised. The sad spectacle of our poor humanity struggling hard against anything which would really benefit it in the long run—as it has, from time immemorial, always fought hard against any and every sort of real progress—will naturally happen again. Lord Beaverbrook with his Empire Policy, evolved only long after Mr. Briand had adumbrated his European Policy and thereby given Lords Beaverbrook and Rothermere a chance of stealing his thunder and trying to make capital out of it, is only one phenomenon in this struggle. You need only visualise the far-flung British Empire to see that Lord Beaverbrook's policy, if realised, would inevitably lead to war. The British Empire, as we have known it, its doors wide open to all, is a very different thing from an economically shut entity, barred to others, reserved for Britshers only. And, when that aspect of the case is being properly appreciated by Britshers themselves, I doubt whether that policy will prevail.

Great Britain in Europe is bound up, tied together, inseparable from Europe, and that old policy of "splendid isolation" would to-day quite naturally and quite inevitably lead to war.

However, we will drop politics. I hope the above few remarks may set some of our readers thinking and thereby help the ideal of the United States of Europe and Peace.

Switzerland and the United States.

I had already mentioned, in a previous issue, the storm of protest caused in Switzerland by the U.S.A.'s latest tariff proposals and the following article from *The Times Trade and Engineering Supplement* of May 17th, will give further and very interesting news:

Serious anxiety and strong indignation are being felt throughout the entire country as a result of the proposed increase of import duties on watches and embroideries, which is now under consideration by the United States Senate and House Conference Committee. Important meetings have been, and are still being, held in the watch-making and embroidery districts in order to protest against the new American tariff. As many as 15,000 persons assembled at Bienn (one of the chief watchmaking centres), where the opinion was expressed that the American project went beyond the scope of a purely fiscal measure, and the competent authorities at Berne were asked to use retaliatory measures in respect of American articles of export.

On May 7th the Cantonal Association of the St. Gall-Appenzell Manufacturers' Union met for the purpose of discussing appropriate measures, and passed a resolution protesting against the proposed increase of duties on imports of embroideries and urging a boycott of American goods. A similar motion was carried at an important meeting at Geneva.

Should the American Government carry out their project some 7,000 watchmakers would be deprived of their means of livelihood, while in addition losses will be suffered by both manufacturers and exporters. Normally the United States absorbs 16 per cent. of the total production of the Swiss watchmaking industry, which provides occupation for 48,000 workers. The embroidery industry (which, despite the hard times through which it is passing, still ranks second among Swiss industries) will also be very seriously affected by the American protective tariff, as it is proposed to increase the already high duties by 90 per cent., exclusive of a new *additional duty per piece* on embroidered handkerchiefs, so that the duty alone on the latter article will represent several times the value of the handkerchief itself. It is expected that this increased duty on handkerchiefs will result in loss of occupation for over 500 families in the St. Gall district.

The Swiss Government are taking active measures, but in spite of the efforts of the Swiss Legation at Washington, seconded by the representations of the American Minister at Berne, who has drawn his Government's attention to the serious consequences attendant on the application of higher duties on the two principal Swiss products, no satisfactory results have as yet been obtained. Nor has any success so far attended the despatch

of a personal telegram from the President of the Swiss Confederation to Mr. Hoover, in which Monsieur Musy emphasized the serious consequences of the American protective tariff to the entire economic structure of his country.

The watchmakers' trade newspaper, "La Fédération Horlogère," after having carefully examined the difficulties resulting from retaliatory measures based on the introduction of higher duties on American goods (the majority of these being articles of primary necessity, such as cereals and other foodstuffs, raw cotton, copper, petrol and lubricating oils), which would only lead to a rise in the cost of living, suggests that all American manufactured products should be systematically boycotted. With regard to petrol, the opinion is expressed in interested trade circles in Eastern Switzerland that American supplies could easily be replaced by the products of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company. As for manufactured products, motor cars would be the first to suffer, and it is stated by a representative of a well-known American make that the effects of the general dissatisfaction are already making themselves felt. Meanwhile, French manufacturers—or at least their agents in this country—are taking the opportunity to encourage the proposed boycott by means of advertisements which call upon the Swiss people to defend themselves against the exaggerated claims of the United States whose new tariff constitutes a declaration of war on European products. "Do not be so stupid as to uphold American industries by buying American products, but patronize European makes and before deciding to purchase a new machine, in the interests of *your country* as well as in your own, try—" and here follow the names of three well-known French makes of motor-cars. . . .

Other Swiss industries affected by the proposed American tariff are:—Footwear (an increase of 20 per cent.), cheese (+40 per cent.), Jacquard silks (+10 per cent.), and schappe (+50 per cent.). Cotton goods will also suffer.

Basle in the Limelight.

What with being the seat of the International Bank, what with having its annual Fair, Basle now also has a *Mozart Festival*. Says "Musical Opinion" May, 1930:

The Mozart Festival which takes place in Basle from May 12 to 18th seems to have been organised as a sort of artistic antiphon to the hectic commercial activities of the Swiss Industries Fair, which draws to a close the previous week. Weingartner will direct a series of concerts, and all Mozart's chief operas are to be presented. "Don Giovanni" will be given in Italian. The C minor Mass will be sung in the old twelfth century cathedral by a picked choir of the Basle Choral Society. The little known "Coronation" Mass is to be sung by another choir. Following a symphony concert to be conducted by Weingartner, the festival will end with three chamber concerts by the well-known Busch Quartet.

I wonder how all these international activities going on at Basle lately will affect that wonderful dialect they speak down there? It is one of the most pronounced dialects we have in Switzerland, not very pretty perhaps to some ears—although I profess a great liking for it myself—but one that ought to be guarded jealously by our good friends of Basle. Joh!

Flirting with Death in the Alps.

Books on Alpine Climbing nearly always make good reading and stir our pulses not a little. Some of us personally remember hair-breadth escapes in our younger days, others have seen gallant lads and lasses sally forth to conquer one of the Alpine Giants and felt glad when later on they met them again, very much alive, down in the valley. In the "Daily Herald" of 13th May, R. S. Pippett deals with "They Climbed the Alps" by Edwin Muller, junr. (Cape 10s. 6d.) and writes:

To watch a fly climbing slowly up a window pane is not particularly exciting. But to watch a man climbing slowly up the steel-smooth, over-hanging face of a mountain, with a handhold here and a foothold there and a half-mile drop to the glacier below him. . . .

That is thrilling enough to see in the amazing illustrations to "They Climbed the Alps," by Edwin Muller, junr. How much more thrilling it must be to do!

Listen, for a breathless moment, to this.

In 1861, Professor Tyndall, the famous scientist, set out with two guides, Bennen and Venger, to attack the Weisshorn, a terrifying, and, at that time, unconquered, pyramid of granite nearly 15,000 feet high.

Towards the summit they came, after hours of hard climbing, to a gap, twenty yards in width, which looked impassable.

"The ridge here narrowed to a thin rock wall . . . on which rested a second wall of

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snow, which dwindled to a sharp knife-edge, white and fine of grain. It seemed certain that if a human being set his foot on it he would crash through and go bounding down the cliffs."

Bennen was in front. He looked at it long, tried it gingerly with his toe.

"Then, to the astonishment of the others, he began to cross it, his toes turned outwards like those of a tight-rope walker. At last he reached the opposite rocks and turned round with a smile."

And that is only one of many incredible flirtings with death on the high hills which Mr. Muller recounts here.

He begins at the beginning, which, for Alpine climbers, was the latter end of the eighteenth century. He tells of the first ascent of Mont Blanc by Pacard and Balmat in 1786, when "the moment had come to climb the little mole-hill."

He tells the terrible tale of the first ascent of the Matterhorn in 1865, when the rope broke and three of Whymper's party were killed.

Most gruesome of all is his account of the disaster on Mont Blanc in 1820 when a trio of guides were lost in a crevasse.

Long after the accident the prediction was made that the bodies would be discovered lower down the glacier forty years after the tragedy! And so it happened....

The last survivor of the catastrophe, a tottering old man, was taken to see the body of one of his lost friends, "almost uninjured, looking as he had on that August day of 1820, still in the flush of youth."

Many of the classical ascents were snow-and-ice climbs. In the 1870's the era of rock-climbing began.

Soon "elderly members of the Alpine Club were horrified to see active youngsters inching their way up chimneys forty, sixty, a hundred feet high, where there were no holds in which even a finger tip could be inserted."

But the day was still remote when men would hang on a sheer face, like that fly on the window-pane—when men such as Geoffrey Young would tackle climbs such as the Grepon, "that tremendous uprush of smooth red slabs which hangs over the Mer de Glace" above Chamonix.

In a last chapter the author tries to answer the question, "Why Do They Do It?"

To the unaspiring people, to the folk with no head for heights, the man who sets out alone to scale those towering and indifferent rocks seems foolhardy in the extreme.

But, as Mr. Muller reminds us in this muscular, sure-footed book, the climbers themselves, braced and taut for the attack, can hardly be expected to look at it like that!

All the same, it is a great rule, when climbing the Alps, to be one of a party of three, so that in case of an accident, one can stop with the injured, and the third can go for help. Anyhow, that is what we were taught years ago by men who knew.

BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS.

By the courtesy of our influential financial contemporary *The Stock Exchange Gazette*, we have received a copy, attractively garbed in green and gold, of their Supplement of May 9th specially dealing with the important subject of the Bank for International Settlements, constituted as part of the "Young Plan." (The Stock Exchange Gazette, Bank of International Settlements, Basle [Switzerland] Number.) This issue gives in full, in English, French and German, the Trust Deed, Charter and Statutes of the B.I.S. These are prefaced by the lucid and illuminating address on the functions of the new Bank delivered before the Institute of Bankers in London by Sir Charles Addis, K.C.M.G., a Director of the Bank of England and also a Director of the Bank for International Settlements. There is also a prefatory article, which will doubtless be of special interest to our readers, from the pen of Henri Stucki (Manager, Swiss Bank Corporation, Basle). These two articles, taken together, convey a very clear and concise idea of the genesis of the new Bank, while they also describe and explain its scope and operation. It would have been an advantage, from the point of view of the English layman at least, had the gigantic sums mentioned in the two articles been expressed in terms of the same unit of currency.

The further articles, dealing with Basle Commerce and Industry, Finance and Transport are appropriate and informative. A.R.F.

LONDON SCHOOLCHILDREN'S TRIP TO SWITZERLAND.

Twenty-four boys and girls of Battersea Central School will not soon forget their pleasant tour of the Continent—ten memorable days in some of the most picturesque towns and cities in the world.

The experience was made possible by the generosity of Mr. Charles Gulliver, who is himself an old boy of the school.

We left Victoria on April 17, travelled via Folkestone and Boulogne to Paris. (The Channel was reasonably kind to us!)

On arrival in Paris we found a charabanc awaiting us at the station, and we enjoyed a sightseeing tour of the French capital, seeing the Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe (with Unknown Warrior's Tomb), Louvre, Napoleon's Tomb and Notre Dame.

We had dinner at the Hotel St. Petersburg before catching the night "rapide" to Basle. Travelling all night by train was a novel and interesting experience for most of the young travellers. The distant snow-capped Vosges and Black Forest mountains excited attention in the early morning just before reaching Basle.

The journey from Basle to Lucerne gave a foretaste of the natural beauties of the country.

Having reached our destination we were accompanied to "headquarters," the Hotel des Balances (a 15th century building, with remarkable frescoes on the front elevation), formerly the Hotel de Ville, now a luxuriously appointed hotel. It is situated on the lake side, near the outflow of the lake into the River Reuss, here a raging torrent.

On arrival each boy and girl received a bag containing new Swiss money, especially secured from Berne, equivalent in value to £1—"with Mr. Charles Gulliver's compliments."

The hotel proprietor, a very influential man in Lucerne, had secured special facilities for excursions in and around Lucerne. Lake trips, funicular railways, mountain railways, charabanc outings, tram rides, were all provided at about one-third normal cost, and we were indebted to these undertakings for their assistance, particularly to Dr. Durrung, the director of the steamboat services.

Trips included visits to the Lion Monument, and the Glacier Garden, Tell's Chapel and Hohle Gasse, Küsnacht, Immensee (or Lake Zug), Kriens Sonnenburg.

We attended an English church service on Easter Sunday morning.

On Easter Monday we travelled by boat to Vitznau and then ascended the Rigi (5,900 ft.). Fortunately snow had fallen a few days earlier, and 6 to 8 feet were found at the summit. A snow battle was the natural result, and fortune provided a suitable opponent. Another London Central School—from Hackney—was met and a battle royal ensued. And all in blazing sunshine!

Lunch was then taken and the descent followed. The following day we made the journey to Fluehen—a beautiful three-hour trip to the extreme end of the lake, touching at Brunnen, Tellspalte, Rütti, and following the famous Axenstrasse to Fluehen.

Here a special tram awaited us, and we were conducted by a member of the House of Representatives of the Uri Canton to Altdorf—its capital—the scene of the exploits of William Tell, whose monument appropriately fills the centre of the market square. We were especially favoured in being allowed to visit the Hôtel de Ville and see the Tribunal and Assembly Halls and to compare them with our Houses of Parliament. Banners carried at the battles of Sempach and Morgarten in the 14th century were seen here, and a Capuchin monasteries was also visited.

The following day a visit was paid by alpine cars to Einsiedeln, a very old village 3,000 ft. above sea level, now the most famous pilgrim resort in Switzerland. The Benedictine Abbey, founded in 948, was found most interesting. Vespers were heard in the Monastery. The young people were thrilled to see the procession of sixteen monks to and from the shrine of the Black Virgin, when the daily rite was performed.

A visit was paid later to one of the largest and best equipped farms in the district of Lucerne.

Perry making and bottling were seen and a quaint "tea" of perry, bread and cheese was provided by the kindness of the proprietor, Mr. Hengeler.

The wonderful Swiss cattle, some thoroughbred horses and some very young colts, were objects of great interest.

The newly installed system of pumping liquid manure to various parts of the farm land showed the high standard to which Swiss farmery has reached.

Several other lake and hill trips were enjoyed.

We also saw a town school and a school of arts and crafts, and learned something of the Swiss educational system.

I should like to express thanks to all who have contributed to the success of the trip, partic-

ularly M. and Mme. Haecky, our hosts, for their great kindness, and, of course, to our benefactor, Mr. Charles Gulliver.

Films were taken on all trips and these will be shown to the rest of the school during next term.

Lucerne was found to be an ideal centre from all points of view, and full of historical and geographical interest.

A. LING, in the *South London Press*.

FERIEN.

Den lieben, langen Tag so nichts zu tun,
Als sich zu sonnen;
Und zu bedauern abends beim Ausruhn',
Dass er zeronen;
Des Morgens aufzustehen zu geruh'n
Zu neuen Wonen;
Lässt glauben fast, das Paradies sei nun
Zurückgewonnen. MURZ.

Doings in Our Colony.

THE WEDGWOOD EXHIBITION.

The Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini attended the inauguration ceremony of the Wedgwood Bicentenary Exhibition and were the guests over the week-end of the Earl and Countess of Bradford at Shifnal. The house-party, which was graced by the presence of Princess Mary Countess of Harewood, drove in motor cars on Monday to Stoke-on-Trent where they were received by Lord Harrowby, Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, and entertained to luncheon in the Town Hall by the Lord Mayor.

M. and Mme. Paravicini were keenly interested in the exhibition of modern Staffordshire pottery in the King's Hall and the historical exhibits in the Hanley Museum. They also witnessed the historical pageant at Hanley Park. The Minister returned to town on Tuesday morning.

FETE SUISSE.

Am 19. Juni wird in der Westminster Central Hall das diesjährige altekannte Fest stattfinden. Wir dürfen sicher hoffen, dass sich rechte viele unserer Landsleute einfinden und die Miete dieser grossen und schönen Halle rechtfertigen werden. Einige Solisten von Ruf konnten gewonnen werden Künstlerfamilie Dolmetsch, die sich hier in England rühmlich eingeführt hat, Fr. Violette Brauen und ein Geiger. Die volkstümliche Seite wird wie alle Jahre gepflegt und die 3 Sprachen werden zu ihrem Recht kommen, im Volkslied und in Deklamationen oder Ansprachen. Ein ausgezeichnetes Buffet wird das Begegnen nach allen Kräften fördern. Der Eintritt kostet 1/6. Der Reinertrag soll dem "Fonds Dimier" zugute kommen. Wie alle Leser wissen, ist dieser Fonds dazu bestimmt unseren Alten und Einsamen einmal einen schönen sorglosen Lebensabend zu bereiten. Diesem herrlichen Ziel müssen wir mit allen Kräften zusteuern. Das comité lädt herzlich ein und bittet um zahlreiche Teilnahme.

ANNUAL DINNER OF THE SOCIETE DE SECOURS MUTUELS DES SUISSES A LONDRES.

The presence of the Swiss Minister, Monsieur C. R. Paravicini, rendered great importance to the well attended dinner of the Society at its headquarters, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1., on Friday, May 16th.

After a well served dinner, the honorary chairman, M. Paravicini proposed the toast to the King, followed by "à La Suisse."

The president, Mr. C. Campart, thereupon expressed his gratitude and high appreciation of the honour our distinguished patron had conferred upon the Society by his personal attendance. Rendering a brief account of the activities of the Société de Secours Mutuels des Suisses à Londres, he paid a splendid tribute to the fact that the total membership of just over 100 includes 6 honorary members of over 50 years' standing, headed by Mr. Ulrich Ruckstuhl of Zurich with 64 years' membership to his credit (a well earned record). The unavoidable absence of the Président d'Honneur, Mr. Georges Forrer, as well as that of Mr. Georges Gerber now residing in the home country, who also sent a charming letter, and of 2 honorary members Messrs. Arthur Baume and Alfred Müller (Secretary) was much regretted. Great applause met the president's statement that, with 1930 the Society was commemorating its 227th anniversary, a record in the history of the Swiss Colony in London, of which the Société de Secours Mutuels could well afford to be proud. As a surprise to the gathering, a neatly finished case was exhibited containing a small collection of "marrons," dating back to the early days of the Society's existence. (These copper coins are specially minted for the Society and members who personally attend the monthly meetings to pay their subscriptions, are handed one of them, the equivalent value in kind of which can be obtained

