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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

A FORGED ANTI-GERMAN PAMPHLET.

A pamphlet entitled *Die militärische Lage Deutschlands und der Zukunftskrieg*, purporting to be a supplement to the Swiss monthly review for officers, was recently circulated in Germany. It expressed views very unfavourable to Germany, even attacking the rulers of the Reich, and stated that the author's fellow-officers had authorized him to submit his opinion to the public. It caused some sensation in Germany, but in Switzerland it is asserted that it is a complete forgery, and the Federal police are making inquiries.

ALPINE ACCIDENTS.

There have been several climbing accidents during the past few days, due mainly to the break in the weather and snowfalls on the Alps above the 9,000ft. level which followed Thursday's thunderstorms. Three Germans, Herren Paul Geipel, Karl Flech, and Bernard Greiss, of Wiesbaden, on Thursday climbed the Matterhorn (14,780ft.) by the Zmutt Ridge. At 10 p.m., while descending along the Hörnli Ridge, one slipped while just above the shoulder (13,925ft.) and dragged down his companions. All three fell about 2,000ft. and were killed. This accident was witnessed by two other Germans, who succeeded in reaching the Solvay Hut, where they remained until some guides arrived to bring them down next day.

Five persons have been missing in the Zermatt region since Tuesday. Three of them are Germans, who left to climb the Weisshorn (14,804ft.) by way of the Schalligrat, and the others are a young Swiss couple, last seen near the top of the Zmutt Ridge of the Matterhorn.

Herr Fritz Grob, of Karlsruhe, fell while gathering edelweiss above Engelberg and was killed.

A skeleton to which still adhered a few remains of clothing was found on Friday in the Zanfleuron glacier below the Diablerets. Some bits of a notebook made it possible to identify the remains as those of M. Schneider, pastor of the Evangelical Church at Lausanne, who fell into a crevasse of the glacier in 1917.

IRON ORES IN SWITZERLAND.

The deposits of iron ore in Switzerland suitable for exploitation are estimated to total 52,000,000 tons with a total Fe content of 15,000,000 tons. The majority of the deposits are low grade. The Gonzen ores total 2,000,000 tons; the Simplon magnetites with 55 per cent. Fe about 100,000 tons, and a variety of spars with 14 to 23 per cent. Fe. The Fricktal ores, with 28 per cent. Fe, are said to amount to 50,000,000 tons. Investigations are proceeding on a 3,000-kw. electric furnace for the smelting of Swiss ores, no preliminary sintering being found necessary.

TOP OF THE MATTERHORN SOLD FOR FIVE SHILLINGS.

The thousands of Alpinists who for the last 70 years have ascended the Matterhorn (14,780ft.) were under the impression that they had really set their foot on the very top of the mountain conquered by Edward Whymper.

They were wrong. Since 1868 the top of Matterhorn has been in Geneva, where recently a local Alpinist bought it for 5f. 50c. (about 5s.) at a sale.

In 1868 M. F. Thiolay, a Geneva dentist and first president of the Geneva section of the Swiss Alpine Club, made the ascent of the Matterhorn and, as was his custom when reaching the summit of a peak, took off the highest stone slab, about 12in. long and 10in. wide, in the presence of his guides, and obtained from the Commune of Zermatt a certificate that this was the real top of Matterhorn.

He took it home, where it was kept in a collection of Alpine souvenirs.

One of his descendants recently sold these relics, and the "top of Matterhorn," with the certificate, was acquired by a resident of Geneva.

OPEN-AIR FESTIVALS IN SWITZERLAND.

Open-air theatrical festivals in Switzerland continue to be very popular. Schiller's *Wilhelm Tell* is being performed in the Rugen Park, at Interlaken, every Sunday in August, and on the first two Sundays in September. The actors are all recruited from the population, and it is surprising to see what artistic sense these country-folk possess. The great attraction at Lucerne — apart from the International Music Festival — is the production of an old *Passion Mystery* which is being given almost every week on the parvis of the Hofkirche with the collaboration of native actors and singers. The Passion play dates from the Middle Ages, when it was performed on the Weinplatz and had a European reputation. It has been shortened and slightly modernized, but remains a monument of ancient German literature.

Einsiedeln has this year given up its big theatrical festivals, but has organized in front of the Benedictine Abbey a series of representations of a "Tellspiel," produced according to the tradition of Canton Uri. In Berne, on the Münsterplatz, in front of the old cathedral there, have begun the performances of *Der Ewige Reigen* (*The Eternal Roundabout*), a work of the poet Rilke; it is a new version of the ancient "Totentanz," which is so vividly illustrated by the well-known pictures of the wooden bridge of Lucerne.

Among indoor performances one should mention the First and Second parts of Goethe's *Faust*, in their original version, which are performed at the Goetheanum of Dornach, near Basle, and the celebrated "Tellspiele" of Alt-dorf. The interest of these productions lies in the fact that all the actors and members of the choirs are local people.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN SWITZERLAND.

According to official figures just published, there were at the end of July, 49,703 unemployed in Switzerland. (July 1937: 49,244).

SWISS MILITARY MISSION TO BELGIAN MANOEUVRES.

Colonel Borel, commander of the 2nd Division, and lieutenant-colonel Corbat, chief-of-section of the General Staff will attend the Belgian manoeuvres in the Ardennes.

A PROMINENT "AUSLANDSCHWEIZER."

M. Gerard Kraft-Wegenstein, the famous Swiss "Hotelier" in Florence, has celebrated his 80th birthday anniversary.

As a young man, M. G. Kraft took over the Hotel Italie on the river Arno, later on he added on to it the Grand-Hotel. Having acquired the Hotel de la ville, he pulled same down and erected on the same site the magnificent Hotel Excelsior-Italie.

M. Kraft, who is ably supported by two of his sons, is one of the outstanding personalities in the Hotel profession.

JEWS CROSS ALPS TO SWITZERLAND.

The sudden renewed influx of Jewish refugees from Austria is causing grave concern to the Swiss authorities. Many hundreds have arrived during the past few days. A central collective camp has now been established on Swiss territory at Diepoldsau.

As nearly all the refugees arriving by train during recent weeks had been immediately deported back to the Reich by Swiss frontier officials, the refugees now come on foot by remote mountain paths. Recently 79 men who had crossed in this way surrendered to the Swiss police.

Jewish religious and charitable organisations in Zurich have accepted responsibility for the maintenance of the refugees until they can be transferred elsewhere. Most of the newcomers, who are between the ages of 18 and 25, express the desire to emigrate to France or America. They are being housed in hastily installed camps and in homes and pensions.

The German frontier officials who have been aiding and abetting these clandestine "escapes" across the frontier to-day received instructions from Berlin to cease this activity.

Representatives of the Swiss Ministries of Interior and Justice will shortly debate with the responsible cantonal authorities as to the future measures to be taken.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

The late Director Wagner, in Winterthur, has left an amount of 20,000 frs. to the community of Turbenthal, the interest to be used for the sick people.

* * * *

There are at present 31,000 Foreigners living in the town of Zurich, amongst these are 16,000 Germans and 8,000 Italians.

BERNE.

A former administrator of the "Sparkasse" in Bassecourt, has been arrested on a charge of embezzlement, the defalcations amount to about 90,000 frs.

* * * *

M. Peter Bernet-Jossi, a former well-known Alpine guide, has died in Grindelwald at the age of 73.

LUCERNE.

Ex-King Ferdinand of Bulgaria, and S.M. Moulay Abdellazis, a former Sultan of Morocco, have arrived in Lucerne for a prolonged stay.

THE HEROIC AGE OF ENGLISH

ALPINISM.

By MARIE D. HOTTINGER-MACKIE, M.A., ZURICH.

The full history of the English 19th century still remains to be written. While the legend of tedious respectability, of the triumph of middle-class morality has been exploded, and well exploded, not all the vital and unsuspected currents pulsing beneath that misleading exterior have yet been explored. It was G. K. Chesterton who made the illuminating remark that the fascination of the 19th century lay in the contrast between the cheapness and narrowness of its conscious moral formula and the breadth and humanity of its unconscious tradition.

It is in this light that the burst of Alpine mountaineering which occurred full in the middle of the century takes on a peculiar interest. It is the more interesting in that, at a time consciously preaching pure utilitarianism, it represents something inherently useless, something radically inexplicable from any rational standpoint. The splendour of the Elizabethan sea-dogs is not dimmed by the fact that they discovered new lands, later to become English colonies, nor does it abate our awe of Drake's achievement in sailing round the world that he came home laden with stolen god, of which Queen Elizabeth took a generous share. On the contrary, it adds to the age of the great seamen that touch of pure human-humour which reminds us that it was the age of Shakespeare.

But Victoria was not Elizabeth. The Elizabethans were ready not only to accept, but to revel in the full implications of being men. That is what the Victorians could not do, and that is what made R. L. Stevenson say sadly: "Our civilization is a dingy, ungentlemanly business. It drops so much out of a man." Yet dropped is not destroyed, and under the respectable, middle-class appearances of Victorianism, old instincts lived on. The buccaneering spirit of the Elizabethans had gone; men no longer reckoned with a good fight, a good kill and a good haul as part of their programme, but the old exploring spirit was not dead. It lived on in the passion for scientific discovery, in the moral rebelliousness of the great novelists, and most clearly of all in the conquest of the mountains.

In the early part of the century, the mountains themselves were a comparatively recent importation into life and literature. Confronted with the mountains of Scotland in 1773, Dr. Johnson had written: "This uniformity of barrenness can afford very little amusement to the traveller. These journeys are useless labours, which neither impregnate the imagination nor inform the understanding." As for Rousseau, who had changed the scenery of European literature, he accused him of being "carried away by a childish desire for novelty," and went on gravely, "Rousseau, Sir, is a very bad man." Fortunately that robust, magnificent old Englishman was spared the triumphal entry of the mountains into English poetry with Wordsworth, and their spiritual apotheosis in Shelley.

There is one unforgettable moment in the life of the Englishman who travels in Europe — the moment when, for the first time he sees the