

Notes and gleanings

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NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

Glories of Switzerland:

Bath Chronicle and Herald, October 2nd:

Now that summer has left us and most people's annual holidays are over, it is still of interest to read about trips to Switzerland, especially when one feels how much the writer enjoyed them. And, in the following article there are a few items of news to most of us, errors which are probably due to the reporter who took down what the Chairman of the Trowbridge Council, Mr. Garlick, told of his voyage and these errors, like the one of Napoleon's army crossing the Alps via the Jungfrau, are really quite amusing. So here goes:

What could be more delightful than to spend a holiday in Switzerland amid its majestic and rugged mountain fastnesses, its silver-like glaciers, its charming and beautiful valleys, which alleviate the rough and severe character of the mountains—the idyllic houses of its people and characteristic customs, the graceful lakes, and general picturesque situations, which are so fascinating to tourists the world over?

It was such a holiday which the Chairman of the Trowbridge Council (Mr. H. Garlick) participated in recently, in company with a gentleman friend, and although in the course of years he has travelled in America, Canada, in various other parts of Europe, and Africa, his holiday tour through the delightful and wonderful country of Switzerland has created perhaps a more lasting impression than his sight-seeing elsewhere.

"Holidays in Switzerland," said Councillor Garlick, narrating some of his experiences of his trip to a representative of this paper, "is much easier than it was some years ago. For instance, one can get from Trowbridge to Paris in a day; leave Paris at about eight o'clock the following morning, and be in Lucerne at four the next afternoon. The Customs are easy, the inspection of luggage being done on the train at the frontier.

"Switzerland is a wonderful country, with its awe-inspiring mountains, snow-capped, at times glistening like silver, at others hidden in the mists.

"At Lucerne there are numerous opportunities for excursions—upon the lakes, the mountains, and to the many interesting sights which abound there. One of the many fine trips from Lucerne is the ascent of the Engelberg, with a fine old monastery at the summit.

"There are about 200 monks in the monastery, and connected with it is a cheese factory, worked by the monks.

"As to the foundation of the monastery, the story runs that many, many years ago a rich man thought he would like to do something for his fellows, and so founded the monastery. He visualised that he had to drive some cattle along the passes, and where they lay down, there he was to build the monastery. Accordingly, he drove the cattle up the mountains, and they lay down on the spot where the monastery now stands. He called it 'Engelberg,' meaning 'Angel Mount.'

"Strange customs are observed in connection with the burial ground adjoining the monastery. There is no soil there whatever, and one can understand the difficulty in burying the dead. It is the rule never to bury more than one in a grave, which is hewn in the rocks. After 10 years the remains are disinterred and all the bones collected and placed in a common Calvary. The skulls of distinguished people do not go into this, but are placed in what is known as a skull chapel. We visited this, and saw the skulls ranged upon shelves.

"Leaving Lucerne, we went on to Interlaken, a beautiful Swiss town between two lakes, one Thun, the other Brienz. Here one is at the foot of the high Bernese range, not far from Interlaken, with its old Swiss capital of Berne, which we took the opportunity of visiting. Berne derived its name, according to tradition, from the fact that, before the city was formed, one inhabitant said he would go out into the forest, and the first animal he shot should give the place its name. He shot a bear, hence the name Berne. It is a wonderful old city, yet has its modern cinema, but so jealous of the ancient amenities are the authorities that they would not allow a modernised front on the exterior of the building. Another interesting feature of Berne are the bear-pits in the streets, a patronal institution, so to speak.

"From Interlaken one starts to make the ascent of the Jungfrau, one of the highest mountain ranges in Switzerland. A wonderful ascent can be made, thanks to the skill of the modern engineer. One can take a trip by rail along the track used by Napoleon, when crossing the Alps, three-quarters of the way up, to the Eiger glacier, and from there, if one wants to complete the journey, one finds it very expensive, as the last portion of the line goes

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through the top of the mountains covered with snow and ice, twelve years having been occupied in piercing this tunnel. At the top is a small hotel, the highest in Europe, which obtains its water supply through heated pipes from below.

"We took the ascent to the top, but unfortunately we found ourselves in a blizzard. Nothing but snow and ice were to be seen. I attempted to walk a little way out from the hotel on to the plateau, but immediately I was in the throes of the tempest, and off went my hat over the precipice. From then onwards for a time I went hatless, until I secured a beret, which I found most comfortable.

"It was unfortunate that we arrived in a blizzard, for had there been a clear view from this summit of 13,000 feet the panorama would have been magnificent. On this occasion the weather was so bad that the dogs were not allowed to go out.

"We came down to the first stage and had a walk on a glacier and through an ice cave—cut out of the solid ice—of a peculiar blue colour. While there, we heard avalanches tumbling down the mountain-side on to the glacier.

"After spending three or four days at Interlaken we left for Montreux, one of the most beautiful railway journeys in Switzerland. It is situated at one end of the Lake of Geneva, which is about 45 miles in length, the City of Geneva being at the extreme end. Montreux is one of the growing places in Switzerland. It is quite a large town. We arrived on Saturday, and on Sunday we crossed the lake, and while we were having tea in a little way-side inn garden we saw a Graf Zeppelin pass very gracefully over the lake.

"The following day we took a trip to the top of Mount St. Bernard, where the famous monks and their wonderful dogs live. We were shown all over the monastery and the church, and I had an interesting chat with one of the monks. A little way beyond the monastery stands the monument to St. Bernard, with the figure's hand outstretched pointing to the monastery. At that point is the frontier between Switzerland and Italy.

"I was anxious to take a photograph of the monument, but was prevented from doing so, as at the frontier the cameras of all tourists are taken away, and so I had to be content with taking a long distance shot of it. There are only from 12 to 16 monks in the monastery, and their dogs are simply wonderful. In the winter the pass up to the monastery is entirely closed by snow and ice, and if a traveller loses his way there is a small hut connected with a telephone, the use of which brings speedy help from the monks and the dogs. The latter always find the way back safely to the monastery.

"One of the most pleasing sights we witnessed was that of viewing the contents of the treasury. Producing four keys the monk unlocked the gates and when inside we were face to face with treasures in ecclesiastical vestments and altar plates, the value of which cannot be assessed.

"We found the city of Geneva very modern. We had the pleasure of going into the temporary building of the League of Nations and of seeing the production of what will be the permanent home of the League in 1933. One of the strange things one sees is the blue stream running out of the lake and another stream running down from Mont Blanc, perfectly white, like milk. The two streams run together without blending for a distance of one-and-a-half miles. It is a wonderful sight. While we were there the atmosphere was so clear that we could see the peaks of Mont Blanc shining like silver, and we were told the distance between us was 50 miles.

"Our homeward journey lay through Dijon and Paris. We entered a through carriage for Paris, but when we had got well on the journey, through Dijon, we were startled by a loud report. The train went on a little further to a small station. We could not see where, because it was dark. An official came along and examined the carriage we were in, and turned us all out (30 or 40). What had hap-

pened we did not know. Fortunately an express from Marseilles picked us up.

"The next day my friend and I thought we would like to see Versailles, and when 1½ miles outside, the tram we were travelling in came into collision with a trolley filled with iron. Little damage was done, however, though people were flung all over the place and the tram and windows were smashed. Fortunately, we were none the worse for our escapade.

"All that mattered was that we arrived safely home after a most enjoyable and refreshing holiday."

Back to British Rock Climbs:

Morning Post, October 4th:

This article by W. T. Palmer, is an apt reminder to those intrepid mountaineers in our midst who might be inclined to think that England offers very little scope for their favourite sport. As a matter of fact I once heard a Zermatt guide say that he had met with as great difficulties in Cumberland as ever he met in his native mountains! Besides, exploring the beauties of England, Wales and Scotland can be a very fine and exhilarating adventure and even on the Continent, in Switzerland for instance, there are many who are beginning to find out the real beauties of these Islands and who, when coming over, are no longer content to spend a week or a fortnight in London, but who go about, seeing the famous beauty spots. Which is all to the good, for in seeing the country, meeting country folk, one gets much nearer to the soul of Great Britain than by seeing its Metropolis only. Just as if by going to Montmartre one could get a real idea of France!

With the end of September the mountaineering season in the High Alps of France, Italy and Switzerland closes. There is a sudden flurry of autumn storms, a garment of fresh snow and ice masks glacier and rock face, and work on the high levels becomes impossible.

In our land, autumn climbs are a joy; the air is clear and honey sweet; there is warmth in the afternoon, and the evenings do not drop with dramatic Alpine suddenness.

The rock-courses are of a higher standard, if not on the magnificent scale of the Grepon and the aiguilles of Mont Blanc. In many other ways the work is different, for there are no problems of glaciers and ice ridges.

Fresh from the long days and great distances of the Alps, the climber needs a new scale of effort. We have all heard of the Swiss guide who, on a day of snow, wished to turn back from the attack of the central peak of Snowdon, fearing that it was several hours, instead of less than half an hour away.

A most experienced Alpine man made the same error on the back of Langdale Pikes, and could not be convinced until it was proved that the rocky tip he dreaded could be reached in twenty minutes instead of three hours.

In Snowdonia and Cumberland, the high-level hut, the bivouac, the start before sunrise are not needed. Splendid rock-faces are to be found within a couple of hours of excellent quarters. The Pillar Rock, in Ennerdale, is probably the least accessible, and it is a short

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three hours for the ordinary walker from Wastdale Head or Buttermere.

Naturally, with plenty of rock-courses so near at hand, there is a tendency to rush up and down a succession of stiff gullies, aretes, and face climbs.

"The afternoon was fine, and we did practically everything we could find on the Napes" (Great Gable), is occasionally heard at Wastdale Head.

Climbers who have been accustomed all summer to logging for several hours over moraine and snow in order to reach a difficult Alpine ridge or problem can be excused for thinking that the short and convenient climbs can be passed in easy succession—the standard of the climbing, however, precludes the theory being put into practice.

With the close of the High Alps, the winter arrangements of the British rock-climbing clubs are more patronised. The Climbers' Club, with a membership mainly occupied in London, has a hut at Helyg (Capel Curig) among the Welsh peaks; the Rucksack Club of Manchester has another at Tal y Braich, near Llyn Ogwen, within easy reach of the rocks of Tryfan; the Wayfarers, of Liverpool, have opened a hut in Great Langdale, Westmorland, from which Gimmer Crag and other great rocks are assailed.

These huts are largely modelled on the refuges in the High Alps; they have no caterers or caretakers, and their tradition is for hard work and spartan faring. They are valley huts, and not open to the trials of high-level places in winter.

In addition the Fell and Rock, Yorkshire Ramblers, Scottish Mountaineering, and other clubs have their winter programmes, worked from some favourite centre or hotel; so have the Ladies' Alpine, Pinnacle, and Scottish Ladies' Climbing Clubs.

FASHIONS FOR MEN.

By W. PRITCHETT.

There will be no drastic changes in the styles of the Lounge Suits this Autumn and Winter. The distinctive feature will be the broad, athletic appearance given to the wearer by means of the squarer cut shoulders and the increase of the room across the chest.

Although the colder weather generally encourages the wearing of the double-breasted suit the single-breasted suit will, undoubtedly, be the most popular and fashionable style worn. So long, however, as the Prince of Wales and other notabilities wear the double-breasted jacket, it will always have a following.

There will be a strong preference for the smart single-breasted jacket with double-breasted lapels, having three buttons and buttoning on the centre button. The jacket will be cut on easy lines but well defining the figure and will be a little longer than formerly. The lapels will be short and broad, rolling to the top button, which does not button. The single-breasted button-two coat will be largely worn by those men who prefer a longer rolling lapel and a garment that has a smart appearance with the maximum of comfort.

The single-breasted waistcoat will be worn with the single-breasted suit. The short double-breasted waistcoat is as dead as mutton! The waistcoat should have a fairly long narrow opening and buttoned with six buttons, although the smarter men have the waistcoat so cut that the last button does not button.

Trousers should be fairly wide and long and finished with four pleats at the top. Turned up bottoms will be chiefly worn. The width of the bottoms should be governed by the height of the wearer.

The jacket of the plus four suit should be similar to the lounge suit but cut on easier lines and the plus fours will continue long and full. Plus fours may be made to look very smart or decidedly sloppy. They should be of length to suit the wearer. A short man cannot wear long plus fours, while a tall man does not look his best in short ones. The calf of the leg should not be obliterated. That is the secret for the tailor. This suit has now become so popular that everybody's wardrobe should possess one. It has been said that the tailor has made more Plus Four men than the golf course.

Brown and fawn shades, which had a good run this summer, will continue the vogue. This is not surprising as these colours are highly suggestive of autumn and winter. Fancy weaves in blues and blue-greys will also strongly appeal. There will be a distinct tendency for subdued glenurquhart and other check designs. But the general tendency is still towards quiet and neat patterns in cloths.

Wealthy Americans never fail to replenish their wardrobes when visiting this country. According to the "Daily Mirror," some of these ask that the tailor's name tabs should not be sewn on, for reasons connected with customs dues. They take the tabs with them to be sewn on after arrival home, because "English Tailoring has a high reputation in the U.S.A."

ECONOMIC NOTES.

FOREIGN TRADE.

The figures for foreign trade for the month of July—with a total of 356 millions—prove that the economic depression which first made itself felt some months ago is still exercising its influence.

By comparison with the month of June, 1930, these figures show a certain improvement—17.4 millions for imports and 1.3 for exports. But, compared to the month of July 1929, the fall is very noticeable since the decrease on imports amounts to 26 millions and that on exports to 36 millions, in round figures.

To appreciate these figures at their proper value one must not neglect to take into account the drop in wholesale prices which can be estimated at approximately 5 or 6 per cent. on the average. One must also take into consideration the set-back in exports to the United States, consequent on the Customs policy which has just been brought into force. These circumstances are not, however, sufficient to explain the falling-off in exports. The drop is due to the general depression in the world markets from the consequences of which Switzerland has not been able to save herself.

On examining the imports more closely we find that in July they reached a total of 218.2 million francs. Splitting this into the figures for the various groups we have the following (the figures in brackets refer to the previous month):

Foodstuffs, etc. 42 millions (42 millions). Raw materials for Agriculture: 7 millions (5.5 millions). Fuel: 22 millions (17 millions). Raw materials for Industry: 42 millions (45 millions). Manufactured Goods: 48 millions (45 millions).

The increase is therefore almost general in raw materials for industry, which proves that we are now passing through a period of cutting down in production.

Turning to exports, we find that they reach a total of 137.8 million francs which may be divided up as follows:

Animal foodstuffs: 14.9 millions (13.7 millions). Textiles: 41.8 millions (42 millions). Metallurgical products, machines and vehicles: 37.2 millions (35.6 millions). Watch-making: 16.4 millions (18 millions). Pharmaceutical products and colouring matter: 12.4 millions (12 millions).

In these different groups of exports the drops almost counterbalance the rises.

Finally, here are the figures for Swiss exports divided up into the principal purchasing countries:

Germany: 22.7 millions (21.3 millions). France: 15.2 millions (14 millions). Italy: 8.6 millions (9.5 millions). Great Britain: 20.8 millions (20.8 millions). Other European countries: 34.6 millions (33.4 millions). United States of America: 9.2 millions (10.1 millions).

From one month to the other the drop in exports to the United States is less than 1 million. On the other hand it is 10.5 millions if we compare it with the figure for the month of July of last year.

THE HOME MARKET.

The situation of the Swiss home market is affected by the difficulties which are being met with in the world market. The economic depression is producing its effects also in Switzerland, as is proved by certain figures relative to the activity of home production.

An enquiry, held by the Federal Trade Office, bearing on this period, among 1,835 enterprises which employ 225,000 workmen, reveals the following situation:

Of the concerns consulted only 18.8 per cent. reported good business; 51.3 per cent. reported satisfactory business and 29.9 per cent. insufficient business.

The enterprises which were in the most favourable positions during the period of the enquiry were Building, Graphic Arts, Metallurgy, etc., etc.

As for prospects of activity in the near future, 34.3 per cent. gave a favourable opinion, 26.8 per cent. announced an unsatisfying or even a bad situation and 38.9 per cent. were in doubt.

The activity of the hotel industry has been somewhat hampered by the inclemencies of the summer season. At the end of July 1930 the average percentage of beds occupied in the establishments open was 72.5 per cent. for places below 1,000 metres and 71.8 per cent. for the others. For the sake of comparison we may say that the co-efficients for the end of July 1929 were respectively 77.4 per cent. and 83.9 per cent.

The situation of Agriculture has become considerably worse during the last few months. The sale of milk products, either abroad or in the national market, is being confronted with new difficulties. The State has decided to give help to Agriculture in order to enable it to pass through this critical period.

Unemployment shows a certain increase. From the end of June to the end of July the number of unemployed has gone from 9,000 to 10,160, while the number of employment has diminished from 3,300 to 2,600. The watch-making indus-

try is particularly affected, having a total number of 2,500 unemployed. Next comes the Textile industry (1,775)—building (1,093), etc., etc.

The cost of living has increased by one point. The index figure has risen from 158 per cent. last month to 159 per cent. for July. This increase is due to factors connected with the season.

Wholesale prices, on the other hand, which for the last 12 months have shown a continuous drop, seem to be inclined to arrest their downward progress. In July the figure was 126 per cent. as compared with June 1914, the same as in the preceding month. The groups of products most affected by this drop are fodder, with an index of 91 per cent. as compared with before the war, Textiles, leather and rubber (100 per cent.), metals (102 per cent.), etc., etc.

REVENUES OF THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION.

For the first six months of the year the Customs revenues were 132 millions as against 123 millions and 118 millions for the corresponding periods of 1929 and 1928.

The revenue from Federal stamp duties for the same period of 1930 was 43 millions as against 48 millions and 38 millions during the same period of the two preceding years.

The balance of the exploitation of the Federal Railways from January to June shows a total of 60.5 millions which constitutes a drop both by comparison with 1929 (71.9 millions) and with 1928 (68.8 millions).

S.I.T.

BESPRECHUNG.

LIEDER AUS DER HEIMAT. 100 Schweizerlieder, gesammelt und gesetzt von Friedrich Niggli. Preis Fr. 4. no.-Verlag, Gebrüder Hug & Co., Zürich.

Das ist ein Buch das man sehr gerne anzeigt und wärmstens empfehlen möchte. Im Volkslied hört man die Herzlaute eines Volkes. Wir sind dem Verlag der Gebrüder Hug & Co zu grossem Dank verpflichtet, dass er dieses Werk in neuer Aufmachung hat wiedererschienen lassen. Einige sehr gerne gesungene Stücke sind eingefügt, andere wieder weggelassen worden. Der verdienstvolle Bearbeiter hat eine nicht leichte Aufgabe gehabt, denn die Qual der Wahl muss er gespürt haben. Hier und dort werden nicht alle Wünsche befriedigt sein, auch sind nicht alle Lieder auf dem Boden der Heimat u. durch Landsleute entstanden. Diese sind dann aber doch in einem gewissen Sinn Schweizerlieder, weil sie sich eben eingebürgert haben. Das Gleiche ist auch anderswo zu beobachten, z.B. im Elsass. Dass einige Lieder in verschiedener Singart gegeben wurden ist sehr dankenswert. Barblan's Vaterlandshymne, die sich schon lange in der Westschweiz eingebürgert hat, ist bis jetzt im deutschsprachigen Gebiet unserer Heimat zu wenig gehört worden. Ueber die Transskriptionen in andere Tonarten lässt sich nicht streiten. Das Sempacherlied z. B. wäre uns in A- oder C-Dur lieber gewesen. Einen Wunsch möchten wir aber an den Verlag richten: nämlich dass er einen solideren Einband herstellen lassen möchte. Entweder einen biegsamen aus Ganzleinwand oder dann einen solchen aus dickem Karton. Hoffentlich greifen nun viele unserer Landsleute hier zu diesem Buch und machen ihre Familien mit diesem kostbaren Schatz des Volksliedes wieder vertraut.

DAS WERK. Architektur, Freie und Angewandte Kunst. Gebr. Fretz A.G. Zürich. Das Septemberheft dieser Nummer möchten wir hauptsächlich wegen der ausführlichen Besprechung und Darstellung der Siedelungsbauten des Hirzbrunnenareals in Basel empfehlen. Wenn wir hier etwas Ähnliches durchführen könnten, wie schön wäre das! Und wir würden auch einen Mann in unserer Mitte haben, der diese Aufgabe bewältigen könnte. Aus Sparsamkeitsgründen sind die Strassen mit Häusern gleicher Bauart bebaut worden, doch nicht ohne einer Gruppe in der Strassenachse einen zweigeschossigen Bau als Wahrzeichen oder "point de vue" zu geben, wie bei der Wohngossenschaft "Hirzbrunnenpark." Es würde zu weit führen auch nur Einzelheiten anzuführen. Die Preise für diese Häuser sind je nach Grösse verschieden, doch als billig zu bezeichnen. Besonders bemerkenswert ist die Wohngossenschaft "Im Vogelsang," die mit Hilfe der Regierung von Baselstadt Bauten für 50 unbemittelte Familien herstellte. Es sind dies reine Parterrebauten, die sich in dem kalten Winter 1928/29 ausgezeichnet bewährt haben.

Zu Anfang dieser Nummer wird das künstlerische Werk des Malers Max Beckmann eingehend gewürdigt. Es würde das Verständnis dieser Kunst wesentlich fördern, wenn sich der Verlag dazu entschliessen könnte ab und zu eine farbige Reproduktion zu geben. Aber auch so wäre nicht jedermann für Beckmanns Kunst zu gewinnen. Am Schluss des Heftes lesen wir eine "Chronique genevoise," die diejenigen, die diese Stadt lieben besonders interessieren dürfte. Eins ist uns klar, nach dem wir es persönlich gesehen: dass der neue Bahnhof von Cornavin gründlich verpfuscht ist und in unverantwortlicher Weise das Stadtbild verdirbt, währenddem er das Gegenteil hätte schaffen sollen. Die