

# Notes and gleanings

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## NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

A very nice letter has reached me from a reader who also finds the topic touched on in my recent "Stray Thoughts" rather interesting. His letter is really so nice that he will forgive me, I hope, for publishing it in full:

Dear Kyburg, 2nd April 1930.

I read your article on "Stray Thoughts" with much interest and seeing your difficulty on the question of Nationalism I just wondered, whether some thoughts recurring in one of your brothers' mentality might be able to help you. I shall be very glad indeed if the following should shed a ray of light on that subject.

I am one of those persons who, like you, dear Kyburg, has felt that rebellion against narrow patriotism and yet again has been drawn occasionally with a mighty and indescribable power to all those qualities of Switzerland which reminded me of higher things. The old proverb that "a chain is as strong as its weakest link" seems to fulfil the condition of this particular problem. What is it that draws? Can that quality, which teaches us higher things, be hedged around by a national border? Do I love my country? Yes, I do love all those things of my country which with a clear sign point to justice, rightness, loveliness, purity, single-mindedness and brotherliness. Can those qualities be hedged in with a national border?

I know that charity begins at home and that a man who cannot love his nearest and dearest is not able to love a stranger. Yet I know also, that love and brotherliness cannot be confined by a national border, but will find expression in thought and action toward every one that happens to come into contact with us, if we only behold these qualities before our eyes constantly. Do you not think that the unification of Europe, and for that matter, of the whole world, lies rather with each one of us individuals, than with the politicians? The latter is just as strong as the support he derives from public opinion makes him and this opinion in turn is derived from the thoughts of thousands of individuals. Do you not think that it is lovely, that such small influences like yours and mine, etc., can help to correct the sick and suffering thought of an overnationalized world by thinking thoughts of that larger patriotism, which will bring all men, women and children into one grand brotherhood, possessing but one Father and one Fatherland, even eternal mind, true intelligence and wisdom, expressing itself in true thinking and acting by beholding in thought the brotherhood of man and expressing in action joy, gentleness, humility and love toward all mankind.

Yours thankfully, R.

I think that in his words "that the Unification of Europe lies rather with each one of us individuals, than with the politicians" he hits the nail on the head. In other words, as I read it, we have to alter the old latin saw we used to be taught, and substitute the new one "if you want Peace, prepare for Peace."

## To Spend Wisely is to Save:

By E. Audrey Standen, "East Anglian Daily Times" 28/3/30.

Switzerland is no longer to have money to burn, for a Swiss scientist has recently invented metal bank notes which are proof against fire.

Whether the innovation is likely to spread to other countries will depend, one would think, upon the money-burning proclivities of the population.

There seems little doubt, however, that our attitude towards money has undergone a vast change of recent years, and if we do not have money in excess to burn, we have no objection to a little burning on occasion. We do not value money less, but we are more alive to its possibilities in adding to the comforts of life.

The notions of thrift that existed thirty years ago are not the notions of to-day. We are not a thriftless age, but our thrift is conducted on different lines.

It used to be considered a source of considerable satisfaction to have a substantial sum put by for a rainy day, and doubtless it is to-day for that matter, but we are conscious of other satisfactions that seem equally if not more important.

The "rainy day" which we all so much dreaded has lost many of its terrors. The Government has relieved many people of its burden and the more general recognition of life assurance as an endowment for the future frees many of us from the grim worries of that "rainy day" that used to be so much feared. The saving of money as an end in itself is no longer regarded as one of the virtues. To deprive oneself of certain small pleasures and even of some necessities in order that one's bank balance may show an increase is not the modern way.

It is realised that such a proceeding is often harmful. It may result in serious damage to one's physical health, and what is not less im-

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portant, in grave mental reactions. Modern conditions emphasise the need for diversion, both mental and physical, when the day's work is finished. A narrow and circumscribed life brought about by a voluntarily restricted financial budget vetoes those very diversions on account of the financial element that enters into them.

We cannot do our work if we do not know how to play. Relaxation is imperative, and whether we play tennis or football or golf, or merely listen to the gramophone or go to the pictures, we are diverted from thoughts of the work day world.

Our problems do not appear so impossible of solution when we approach them again for we have not allowed them to overburden us by constant association with them.

There are those whose preoccupation with money leads them to spend their lives in its pursuit and life seems to have passed them by. It is true they have the satisfaction of amassing great wealth, but all their time and all their thoughts have been spent in acquiring it. The very rich often find themselves isolated by their riches. They become suspicious of sincerity which they mistake for calculated flattery, and are avoided by ordinary men sometimes owing to a nauseating display of wealth or because it may be felt that the association means a loss of self-respect.

To those of us who are neither very rich nor very poor, who have struck that happy mean which is the surest guarantee of contentment, we shall never be troubled by considerations such as these. Our wealth will not embarrass us, nor our lack of it disturb us. We may not have a fortune in the bank, and it is doubtful whether we shall be greatly concerned to make one, but we shall not be afraid of spending our money wisely and getting the best out of life.

I hesitated rather before inserting the above article, but I hope it may bring some much needed guidance to those about to grapple with the income tax collector's demand-notes!

#### Satire at Geneva:

*Review of Reviews*, March, 1930:

Mr. Sisley Huddleston, in his new book *Europe in Zigzags*, describes an amusing contest in ingenuity with which journalists and others once beguiled the tedium of the intervals between sessions at Geneva. In this exercise, in which, one may suppose, Mr. Huddleston had a prominent share, the predilections of the various races were facetiously defined as follows:

Of the Germans it was said:

One German—a professor.

Two Germans—a beer-hall.

Three Germans—the goose-step.

Of the English it was unkindly remarked:

One Englishman—an imbecile.

Two Englishman—a club.

Three Englishman—a great Empire.

Of the Swiss:

One Swiss—a pastry-shop.

Two Swiss—an inn.

Three Swiss—a Grand Hotel.

The Austrians were thus described:

One Austrian—a Rumanian Jew.

Two Austrians—a Hungarian Jew and a Czech.

Three Austrians—the Anschluss.

The Scotch came off fairly well:

One Scotman—a savings bank.

Two Scotchmen—a game of golf.

Three Scotchmen—the British Government.

The Russians:

One Russian—a genius.

Two Russians—two fools.

Three Russians—anarchy.

The French:

One Frenchman—a monologue.

Two Frenchmen—a conference.

Three Frenchmen—an ménage.

The Americans:

One American—a millionaire.

Two Americans—a cocktail party.

Three Americans—prohibition.

Sometimes the jokes were more cryptic. For

example, the Greeks have earned an unenviable reputation at card games in the casinos of Europe. There-

fore: One Greek—one Greek.

Two Greeks—two Greeks.

Three Greeks—three Greeks.

#### "Unionisms" Swiss Labour:

*Labour Magazine*, March 1930:

A very interesting feature in the development of the Swiss Labour movement, as pointed out by the writer of a recent article in a German Labour monthly, is the steady increase in the relative influence of the trade unions as compared with the Social Democratic Party.

The Swiss Labour Party was for long strongly under Russian influence, which is owed to a large influx of Russian labour leaders who fled to Switzerland after the failure of the 1905 Revolution in Russia. At that time the Swiss unions were weak, both numerically and financially, their organisational work being hampered by the diversity of race and language

in Switzerland. After the 1917 Revolution, many of these Russian refugees returned to Russia, and the weakened Social Democratic Party was thrown back upon the support of the Trade Unions. Moreover, throughout the war the Trade Unions grew steadily in strength, owing in part to an accelerated increase of membership, and in part also to the strong concentration movement which took root within the Trade Unions during that period: the craft unions which had been solely concerned with the narrow interests of their crafts were steadily converted into comparatively large industrial unions with definite views on political questions.

Hence the gap between the numerical strengths of the Trade Unions and the Social Democratic Party widened, so that at the end of 1917 there were about 148,000 "free" Trade Union members and about 35,000 members of the Social Democratic Party. In 1928 these figures were 176,438 and 41,076, so that the Trade Unions are still increasing their membership at a slightly more rapid rate than the Party.

One of the effects of this change is that political Labour leaders are being drawn more and more from Trade Union ranks, which means that they have passed through the Trade Union schools, and not those of Social Democracy.

The Anglicanisation of Switzerland proceeds merrily. We all know or have heard how, on certain days in the summer our mountain railway staffs talk nothing but English because there are so many English and American Tourists visiting and asking questions that our people quite naturally fall into the habit of talking English. We now shall also see the familiar English Bobby when next we visit Lausanne, for, according to the *Evening Advertiser* of Swindon, 21st March, we shall have

#### Lausanne's "London" Police:

Switzerland is adopting new police uniforms. When the season opens, early next month, tourists will note drastic changes in the hitherto familiar dark blue coats and trousers and peaked kepi of the Swiss gendarmes.

Lausanne, the cosmopolitan centre of the Lake of Geneva, has paid a graceful compliment to this country by taking the uniform of the Metropolitan Police as a model.

Berne, the capital of the country, has, on the other hand, chosen a uniform of the horizon blue of the French infantry. Herein lies an interesting problem in the science of camouflage.

The French military authorities adopted horizon blue for uniform during the war on account of its invisibility in the Flanders terrain. But Berne has decided upon the colour because of its sharp visibility in street traffic.

Talking of the wonderful London Police-Force, we quite naturally remember that homely fine old painting "His Majesty the Baby" showing how the London Policeman holds up the traffic in order to let a Nurse with a perambulator and a small girl pass in safety. How

#### Switzerland Helps the Children:

is set forth in the following, from "*Co-Operative News*" Manchester, 22nd March:

Humanitarian causes are always worthy of support, and no one would deny that those which have for their object the welfare of children are particularly meritorious.

In Switzerland in particular we see the effective way in which the State can aid such causes. For many years now—eighteen, to be exact—Switzerland has issued special postage stamps, "Pro Juventute" (to help the children), for a period every year. Each of the stamps cost a little more than the ordinary rate, and all the proceeds, after deducting the normal franking value, go to the Pro Juventute fund, which does excellent work in promoting the welfare of children.

Figures given in "*La Coopération*," a popular Swiss co-operative journal, show the amazing growth of the fund since its inception. In 1912, the first year of the organisation's existence, 1,275,939 stamps were sold, the proceeds for the fund being 127,593.9 francs. In 1928 stamps to the number of 9,445,632 were sold, and Pro Juventute benefited by 5,531,757.4 francs. Thus in seventeen years the annual proceeds multiplied nearly fifty-fold—fine testimony to the popularity and appreciation of the organisation's good work.

Pro Juventute does not confine itself to collection of money for immediate distribution. It maintains and assists several schemes which have for their final object the benefit of youth. It has an important propaganda system, and gives a great deal of practical help, especially to children of school age. Up to the present it has been able to send no less than 40,160 children to holiday homes, not including the 19,000 and more Swiss children in other countries to whom its benevolent help has been extended.

With such wide and practical sympathies, Pro Juventute might truthfully be called the fairy godmother of Switzerland's youth.

#### SWITZERLAND AND GOLD.

Just as the cessation of the world scramble for gold is raising hopes that the need for economy in its monetary use is now being generally realised, Dr. Bachmann, president of the National Swiss Bank, has made a somewhat disquieting speech. Addressing the annual meeting of his shareholders, he is reported to have said that Switzerland should not regard the gold exchange standard as a permanence, but should envisage the prospect of the return of gold coins to circulation. To this end she should collect as much gold as possible. Dr. Bachmann later said that there was no generally valid currency policy, each country having to guide its policy by its own needs, and that it was not the duty of central banks to take measures against price fluctuations. If Dr. Bachmann is correctly reported, he is deliberately setting himself in opposition to world banking opinion, and if many countries shared his opinion and acted on them, there would be an end to the growing spirit of co-operation between central banks. It may be that Dr. Bachmann was concerned to show that the presence of the B.I.S. in Switzerland will not mean any loss of financial independence, but it is to be feared that his remarks were more influenced by the strong feeling which still persists in Switzerland in favour of gold currency, which was of course in circulation there long after it had disappeared elsewhere in Europe. But there is not enough gold to re-establish gold currencies at the present level of prices, and it will bring disaster if nations attempt to act in this matter from a purely nationalist point of view and ignore the effect on the world situation. It is the duty of those in responsible positions and who have knowledge to make this clear to the public in their own countries.—(*Economist*.)

#### Etwas vom Wohltun und Geben.

Aus dem Abreisskalender für die reformierte Schweiz:

Darüber klagt Mancher und meint, die Wohltätigkeit gehe über jedes Mass. Da hat einmal ein Pfarrer einem Geizigen folgende Rechnung aufgestellt:

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Für Innere Mission	—25
Für Heidenmission	—10
Summa	Frs. 10.35

(Aus Stäbler, Erz. zum Neuen Testament.)

#### Introduction of Summer Time.

Summer time will be introduced in the night of April 12th to April 13th in the following countries of Western Europe: Belgium, England, France, Holland, Portugal and Spain. This means that from then onward Western European time will coincide with Central European time. Dutch time (Amsterdam time) will be 20 minutes in advance of Central European time.

#### Doings in Our Colony.

##### HODEL EXHIBITION IN LONDON.

At last a living Swiss painter—Ernst Hodel—is having a one man show in London. The occasions when single pictures of Swiss painters were shown in this country have been all too rare. But never to our knowledge has a countryman of ours had the privilege of being the sole exhibitor at a London show.

We have to thank the Fine Art Society of 148, New Bond Street, W.1. for this opportunity of seeing some of Ernst Hodel's best works at their show-rooms. Our Minister, Monsieur Paravicini, formally opened the exhibition last week with a happily phrased speech complimenting the Fine Art Society on its enterprise. Mr. Rutter, a director of the Fine Art Society, replied with a few graceful words. Hodel, he said, renders most

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