

Strauss in the Alps

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place with 12,700. It is added that not all the Swiss are registered at their respective consulates so that the figures given are to a large extent based on estimates; the latter, we believe, err on the conservative side, especially where England is concerned.

We reproduce an interesting table showing the development as far as population is concerned of Swiss towns over 10,000 inhabitants.

	Dec. 1920	Dec. 1925
Zurich	207,161	206,323
Bâle	135,976	137,500
Genève	135,059	126,350
Berne	104,626	106,680
St.-Gall	70,437	66,700
Lausanne	68,533	71,700
Winterthur	49,969	51,300
Lucerne	44,029	45,930
La Chaux-de-Fonds	37,708	36,150
Bienne	34,599	35,500
Neuchâtel	23,152	22,100
Fribourg	20,649	20,750
Schaffhouse	20,064	20,500
Montreux	16,721	17,950
Coire	15,600	15,300
Hérisau	15,015	15,200
Thoune	14,162	18,000
Lugano	13,440	14,300
Soleure	13,065	13,400
Vevey	12,768	12,550
Le Locle	12,463	12,150
Rorschach	11,582	11,550
Oltén	11,504	12,250
Aarau	10,701	11,300
Bellinzone	10,232	11,550

EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

Einigkeit und Einheit.

Man vergisst bisweilen, dass wir kein Land sind, sondern bloss eine Sammlung von Ländchen. Dann aber braucht man heute bloss zu lesen, wie irgend ein Korrespondent aus irgend einem Urkanton über das Getreidemonopol berichtet, so weiss man wieder, woran man ist. Da hört man denn zur Genüge, dass man sich in jenem Kanton nicht gross um die Geschichte kümmere, denn da keine Brotfrucht angebaut werde, sei der Bauer als Producent eben nicht an der Monopolfraße interessiert, die Hauptsache sei ihm, dass er zu billigem Brot und Mehl komme, eine andere Hauptsache gebe es nicht.

Mit diesem Standpunkte, der sich leider nicht auf einen bestimmten Kanton beschränkt, werden wir es noch herrlich weit bringen. Wir reden von europäischen Staatenbünden und haben es nicht einmal selber zu einem tätigen, lebendigen Bund gebracht. Und doch geht, so tragisch das ist, der Weg zu einem einigen Europa über eine einige Schweiz. Wir können den Weg nicht abkürzen. Irgendwie und irgendwo wächst in Europa das Gefühl, dass wir zusammengehören. Aber zuerst gehören wir Schweizer in der Schweiz zusammen. Werden wir wahrhaftig die letzten sein?

Das Getreidemonopol gibt erwünschte Gelegenheit, um für die wirtschaftliche Freiheit und gegen die Einmischung des Staates in das Wirtschaftsleben zu kämpfen. Bei uns ist es nur Sitte, die Hilfe des Staates anzurufen, wenn es einem schlecht geht. Und doch ist gerade heute das rechte Zusammenwirken von einigender, staatlicher Aufsicht und privater Initiative eines der wichtigsten Probleme jeder Volkswirtschaft. Nicht Verstaatlichung auf allen Gebieten, aber Männer als Vertreter des Staates, die berufen sind, Richtlinien anzugeben, Leitlinien zu entwerfen, die das Ganze im Auge behält, nicht bloss das privatwirtschaftliche Wohl des einzelnen Unternehmers. Vereinheitlichung der Vielgestalt, Beseitigung der unnötigen Widerstände, der Verschlechterungen infolge der Konkurrenzierung von Kleinbetrieben, Verminderung der Spesen durch eine Planwirtschaft, die bei uns leichter möglich sein könnte als irgendwo anders.

Wahrscheinlich haben wir pro Kopf der Bevölkerung die zahlreichsten Fabrikbetriebe Europas. Man soll einmal die Leiter, Direktoren und Präsidenten der Elektrizitätswerke zählen und ein Land ausfindig machen, wo es ebenso viele gibt. Überall spricht man von Rationalisierung (und handelt in diesem Sinne), doch wir scheinen uns die grossen unnötigen Unkosten immer noch erlauben zu

können. Haben es die kleinen Länder schwerer als die grossen, ihre Quadratkilometer in einem produktiven Sinne zu übersehen?

Grimm.

Dafür gibt es Fragen, die uns ungeheuer beschäftigen. Grimm als Präsident des Nationalrates! Wir zeigen immer wieder ein Talent, uns mit Nebensächlichkeiten abzugeben. Wir verbrauchen Kräfte, einfachen Gegenkräfte, wo wir Gescheiteres zu tun hätten. Man wirft dem Kanton Tessin mit Recht vor, dass er zu viel politisiere. Doch im Grunde sind auch die andern Schweizer nicht viel besser. Die Entwicklung unserer Demokratie wird davon abhängen, ob wir in dieser Hinsicht gescheiter werden oder nicht.

Grimm hat sich in Bern als tüchtiger Mann ausgewiesen. Wenn der Diktator von 1918 sich im Jahre 1927 damit zufriedener gibt, Präsident des Nationalrates zu werden, wer sollte etwas dagegen einzuwenden haben—wenn nicht er selber?

Felix Moeschlin in National Zeitung.

STRAUSS IN THE ALPS.

By SOPHIE WYSS, the Swiss Soprano.

The B.B.C. did well in bringing Dr. Richard Strauss over to London to conduct the big Albert Hall Orchestra. And the "Alpine Symphony" was a particularly happy choice, since it is the least known of his works, requiring, as it does, practically a double orchestra. But in spite of this important musical occasion, we learn that the great hall was only moderately filled. I do not think this is as sad a fact as some appear to imagine. The trouble is not so much musical as physical. The concert was broadcast, the weather was bad, and all the world has a cold at this time of the year. If the Concert had not been broadcast, even my cold and the weather would not have prevented me from going to the Albert Hall. But as I could hear it more or less by my own fireside, I fell to the temptation and fixed the ear-phones over my head. Music's chief enemy in London is the climate.

It was not long before I regretted my laziness. My ear-phones could not give me much more than the outline of the Symphony. But it was enough to show that here was the Strauss touch, the sure sign of genius, the "new voice." Nobody ever wrote music that sounded like this before. Here is individuality; here is the mind that has something original to express, and new terms in which to say it.

The Symphony is a great deal more subjective than many musicians and writers imagine. There is certainly objective matter in it, as for instance, the cow-bells, the storm and the waterfall. But this does not prevent the work as a whole from being subjective. Strauss's main object was not so much to describe in music the silhouette of the mountains, the chalets in the foreground, and other incidents of the landscape, so as to produce the musical impression which these things made upon his mind. The result is that he has built up upon a simple musical phrase a very elaborate piece of music. He has twisted and turned this simple musical phrase into the basis of a Symphony which lasts for three-quarters of an hour, and like all that comes from his pen, every moment of his cunning elaborations has its undeniable enchantment. Nevertheless, in spite of the masterly orchestration, there lurks at the back of it all what is for Strauss, our greatest living composer, a certain poverty of ideas. Be it understood that I only hazard this opinion in comparing the "Alpine Symphony," with the Master's other work. If it had been any other living musician in the world to-day, no such point would have occurred to me. Strauss is our greatest; but the "Alpine" is not the greatest Strauss.

Its broad phrases and Strauss-like silvery ten s deepen and expand just as one's soul deepens and expands as one treads the path that leads to the snow. One feels in the work traces of that divine sentiment of gloom, which soothes one's senses as one passes beneath the pines which clothe the knees of the Alps. Touches of objectivity, such as the above-mentioned cow-bells, give a certain realist support to the mental impressions of height, rarity of atmosphere, and (to borrow an American word) "uplift." I could not trace in the music much more real emotion than this. But for us Swiss these sentiments, coupled with the delightful skill and individuality of orchestration, are a very deep pleasure in themselves. I would wager that there is no one in our whole Colony in London so unmusical that the work did not at any rate remind him of holidays at home!

FOLK-LORE OF THE JURA.

THE BUST OF SAINT URSANNE.

When one enters the church of St. Ursanne on that saint's name day, the 9th of December, one feels penetrated with pious meditation.

The choir of this beautiful edifice is most graceful with a ravishing chiaroscuro from the narrow, very high windows, the majestic lines of its architecture, and above all, its curious and rich baldachin.

The magnificence of the religious ceremonies performed therein as in no other part of our beautiful countryside, thus make this sanctuary doubly dear by reason of these inspiring impressions.

But upon the saint's day, the centre of all eyes is the little altar erected in the middle of the nave, around which gathers a circle of surpliced priests. Surrounded by numberless lighted candles and dominating the masses of flowers about it, rises the superb silver bust of Saint Ursanne, a reliquary containing some of the bones of this miracle worker. Whence came this rare specimen of goldsmith's art of the XVII Century which survived the ravages of the great Revolution and the attacks of the Kulturkampf of 1873? Here is the tradition as it has been preserved in the little town on the banks of the river Doubs.

It happened in 1667; the Thirty Year's War is just ended. The Swedes, at the death of their magnanimous king, the great Gustavus Adolphus, had lost their former prestige. Harassed and covered with laurels they had regained their frigid region. All the Pays d'Ajoie (district of Porrentruy, north of Berne, under the dominion of the Bishop of Basle in former times), and the entire Bishopric commenced to breathe freely once more, and after so much ruin and devastation, the people in gratitude went to pray at the tomb of Saint Ursanne and to kiss the stones which covered her mortal remains. One day a crowd of pilgrims climbed the hill of La Croix on their way back to fertile Ajoie. They prayed and sang of the power of the saint. There they met a son of Israël.

He was Sédécias ben Yousouph, a rich merchant, parading his importance vaingloriously. He was on his way back from the fair at Porrentruy and was elaborating in his mind a new trick.

The Israélite approached at a mincing pace, mounted upon a superb charger which he had bought for next to nothing. Coming up with the pilgrims, he bent mockingly and in a voice filled with bitter raillery cried: "Eh! good people, did Saint Ursanne recognise you? Without doubt she filled your purses with double Austrian florins?" A worthy man filled with righteous wrath, answered him: "Horn of Satan, what thou darest to blaspheme our great Saint, away with thee! Thou shalt soon feel her puissance!"

The voice of Sédécias arose anew proffering abominable blasphemies against the Saint of the Doubs, and in a mysterious invocation in Hebrew he called down a malediction upon the Galileans. Then with an abrupt and nervous movement he urged his horse into a trot.

The silhouette of the Jew disappeared soon behind the rocks overhanging the little town and its hermitage. While he continued to chant a curious, monotonous melody, the little chapel of the hermitage appeared before his irritated eyes. His hatred increased, and he proffered fresh curses whose echoes reverberated from rock to rock. Finally, his rage reaching its height, he dared to cry out: "Ursanne, thou to whom these dogs of Christians come to pray, come forth, show thy power to the son of Abraham, but thou art powerless, and the faith of our fathers will not be confounded! Oh, Ursanne, I conjure thee that my horse which carries me may become blind!"

Oh, wonder! oh, stupefaction of Israël, the horse stopped, reared, and refused to go forward. Sédécias, horrified could not believe his eyes, but he descended and realized with terror that his horse could no longer see. But refusing to yield to this warning, he dared once more to brave the Saint.

"Oh, thou thinkest to fool me, I know well that it is by Belzebub that thou hast blinded my noble charger." Barely had he uttered this fresh outrage when he himself lost his sight. Two blind instead of one. This time the blasphemer realized that one cannot outrage the friends of God with impunity. If he had lost his physical eyes, those of his spiritual saw the light. He threw himself upon his knees, and asked God's pardon for having slighted Saint Ursanne, he recognised the powerful intercessory powers of the miracle-worker; and returning to the grotto, he cried aloud:—"O blessed Ursanne, thou whom I despised, take pity upon me, see my repentance and my humiliation. Thou who hast so much influence with Heaven, hearken to my prayer. I promise thee a bust in massive silver if thou wilt restore my sight."

The Saint fulfilled the prayer of the converted Jew, sight was restored to him as well as to his horse, which descended the slope with a calm and assured step.

The Jew Sédécias kept his word. A magnificent bust in solid silver was ordered and offered to Saint Ursanne, as a testimony of the potent intercession of the sainted hermit.

Saved by courageous hands at time of the great Revolution, this silver bust given by the repentant Jew, was restored to the church in 1802.

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