

Conte du bel hiver

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Though our Scotch contemporary has curiously ignored the £s. d. factor, I fancy a fortnight's ski sport in Switzerland would prove the cheaper proposition; I am, however, open to conversion.

"Curling."

With the invasion of the Scots and their sports into Switzerland, we may before long hear the bagpipes compete with the alphorn in community blowing. Here is what Sir John Foster Fraser says in the *Evening Standard* (Dec. 17th) about curling:—

Once I got into trouble with a bishop. I suggested, as Switzerland had no seaboard, I should paraphrase a familiar hymn so that at the Sunday morning service in the dining room of our Alpine hotel we could plead "For Those in Peril on the Ski." He was a conservative-minded prelate and addicted to curling and thought I was flippant.

The great trek to Switzerland is beginning. The illustrated journals are already creating discontent in the hearts of stagnant folk by publishing photographs of more or less celebrated people enjoying winter sports in lofty altitudes.

At St. Moritz it is not unusual for nice young women to have their pictures taken—"Miss Cutie Golithly about to start on an expedition"—without getting more than a dozen yards from the hotel. This is a pleasure which should not be overlooked.

No picture postcard is now allowed to leave Switzerland that does not reveal plenty of snow. But before you go romping off to St. Moritz, Murren, Wengen, Adelboden, Grindelwald or other famous places it would be well to find out if there is snow. Generally there is, but sometimes there is not.

It is twenty-five years since I began visiting Switzerland in winter. Like all oldtimers I might exclaim, "Ah! those were the days." Then there were only a couple of villages where folk went holidaying. Now there are dozens. There will be congestion on the railways and the luxurious and expensive special trains will run in duplicate and triplicate.

You meet square-jawed, determined folk who go to Switzerland meaning real business, folk who are away all day laboriously climbing steep places and exhilarating in long glides—with thrilling stories to tell on their return—people who skate four and five hours each day and at tea are flushed when boasting about their "outside edges," sturdy and vociferous curlers, daft with excitement when their sides aches, to say nothing of the tobogganers, dear ladies sliding cautiously down the village street and reckless fellows throwing themselves on steel runners, and, head foremost, plunging down prepared icebanked slopes at fifty miles an hour—to say little of the scamper of hockey on the ice, the most furious of all winter sports.

But, bless our hearts, the folk who get the best fun out of Switzerland are those who are not experts in anything except the art of enjoying themselves. There is escape from the bondage of dun towns and leaden skies. A mile up is: the air you are invigorated; the sky is postcard blue and the sun often so hot that you puff. Amid the gleaming glories of the Engadine I have met voluble Americans sighing for "a little lurch of hot dog!"

One of the real delights of winter sporting is dressing up for the part. A young woman has to be careful about a picturesque garb. We are far from the days when "any old petticoat will do for knocking about in." Breeks have been invented which seem to taper off the exuberance of the female figure; cerise trousers and vermilion jacket and a cap that can be as cockatooish as fancy allows. There are heavy boots and variegated socks. There never was a woman who, when she clatters round the tiled hotel lounge, is not improved by what has come to be correct for Swiss wear. It is not necessary to ski or to skate, but you must be rightly dressed.

These who are really IT do not adopt gaiety in garb—which makes a group of happy Anglo-Swiss girls like pantomime performers after a dress rehearsal—but keep to sedate blue, even black, for cap, jacket and nether things—an idea which comes from Scandinavia.

I protest against the contemptuous neglect of the illustrated articles of curling except occasionally to give a photograph of a retired bishop with a besom in his ex-ecclesiastical fist, sweeping imaginary snowflakes from the path of an advancing stone.

Some ruffians long ago started the story that curling is a game played only by elderly Scotsmen, slightly intoxicated. Sardonic men say they intend to take to curling when they are elderly. Tut tut; that was the remark which used to be made about golf. Some of the best curlers I have come across these last few years have been young fellows and just as keen as young golfers.

The supercilious new arrival, attracted by the shunting, wanders to the curlers' rink. Oh no, he does not play; he may take it up when

he is eighty! Yet he gets "intrigued." When he hears the yell that "married men" have defeated "the world" he sees what it is like to "put down a stone." He gets pleased with himself; he seeks instruction about chapping and lying, inhandling and outhandling, the authority of the skipper and the efficiency of the broom.

The next day he would like to be taken into a team. The next week you cannot keep the pushing, eager fellow off the rink. He misses his lunch so he cannot miss a match. We must see to it this season that "the roaring game" is not only respected but sufficiently honoured.

To many these "winter sports" are an excuse, but a legitimate one. They go to Switzerland to have a good time, to idle in the sunshine, to forget the income tax man, who invariably selects Christmas Eve to remind us of our duty to the State, to make up jolly sleighing parties to lunch at a loftier hotel, to scramble for tea at Hanselmanns, to have riotous dancing evenings—and probably the exalted altitude is chiefly responsible for the tempestuous exuberance.

Touring in Switzerland.

The following appropriate reply to a grouser in a previous issue is published in the *Motor* (Dec. 21st):—

I have read with surprise the acrid letter in your columns of November 30th, headed "An Absurd Innovation." The strictures on the alleged rapacity of the Swiss are undeserved, and the other comments arise out of insufficient knowledge.

Prices are always higher in any recognised resort, whether in France, Switzerland or England. A comparison between Savoy and Switzerland is unfair, unless the abnormal low rate of the French franc is taken into consideration. The prices of last summer are very different now in terms of English pounds, with the French franc at 120. The Swiss franc is at par, and the cost of living is higher than in England. The writer omits to mention, also, that roads are good in Switzerland, although that cannot be said of the roads in Savoy, and the scenery is quite different.

But his comments on the power of a "dirty little boy" to fine motorists on the spot for exceeding the speed limit are unworthy of an Englishman. The Swiss police are exceedingly clean and smart, and are hardly more officious than in England, especially as regards speed limits. At the entrance to most towns there is posted a notice giving the speed limit and the amount of the fine for exceeding it. If the motorist disregards this he has the option of paying up on the spot or going to trial. The case of a tourist presents obvious difficulties which are, in my opinion, well met by this provision, which is much more convenient than making all cases stand trial after first exacting a substantial deposit, or confiscating the car, as is sometimes done.

His last complaint against a railway porter for calling a policeman when a traveller refused to pay him adequately arises out of his ignorance of the fact that a porter is entitled to charge a reasonable fee as portage for each package. This sum is so small that I can hardly think it would be refused.

Swiss Suicides.

I often wonder how the papers obtain their news, and the origin of the following from the *Evening Standard* (Dec. 17th) is certainly a mystery to me:—

The Anti-Suicide Association of Zurich claims to have saved 590 lives during the five years of its existence.

It is curious that in Switzerland, the very name of which suggests health, beauty and high spirits to people who live in places like Wigan and Oldham and Swansea, should have so depressing an effect on its inhabitants. Napoleon ordered an enquiry into the suicidal habits of the people of Geneva, and some of the polyglot members of the League of Nations' secretariat now established there find that they have to struggle a good deal against gloom.

That is perhaps why Lord Cecil gave some of his American Peace Prize money for the establishment of golf and tennis clubs for these exiles.

I have heard of societies existing in Germany during her critical time which encouraged self-destruction to the aged and infirm, but I did not know that people on the other side of the Rhine had been affected by this mania.

New Mountaineering.

From the *Nottingham Guardian* (Dec. 23rd), to be taken *cum grano salis*:—

The inveterate moraliser will see in the construction of a kind of lift to a point near the summit of Mont Blanc new evidence of the modern desire to reap without the labour of sowing. The Alpinist regards it as a vulgar desecration of the sublime, and argues that nobody who will not climb to the Aiguille du Midi deserves to enjoy the views that are obtainable thence. The new aerial cable railway may be considered to register the beginning of the end of the conception of the Alps as a challenge to the serious mountaineer. True, he can still make formidable ascents under his own power, but the glow of achievement of one who has scaled Europe's highest peak may be expected to freeze in the presence of a horde of trippers, who were still in bed eight hours after the *bona fide* mountaineer began his arduous climb. Hydraulic lifts up the precipices of the Matterhorn may be expected as the next step in the conversion of Switzerland into a European Coney Island.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES.

BONDS.	Dec. 21		Dec. 28	
	Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.
Confederation 3% 1903	79.75	79.00	79.00	78.50
5% 1917, VIII Mob. Ln	100.87	97.82	100.87	97.82
Federal Railways 3½% A-K	83.40	83.00	83.40	83.00
" " 1924 IV Elect. Ln.	100.77	101.12	100.77	101.12

SHARES.	Nom.	Dec. 21		Dec. 28	
		Fr.	Sfr.	Fr.	Sfr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	783	786	783	786
Crédit Suisse	500	807	810	807	810
Union de Banques Suisses	500	674	675	674	675
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	2550	2552	2550	2552
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3975	3982	3975	3982
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	2755	2690	2755	2690
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	504	519	504	519
C. F. Bally	1000	1222	1225	1222	1225
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	568	578	568	578
Entreprises Suizer S.A.	1000	1001	990	1001	990
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	545	550	545	550
Linoleum A.G. Giubiasco	100	87	84	87	84
Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon	500	688	688	688	688

CONTE DU BEL HIVER.

Il y avait une fois, dans un petit pays que recouvrait la neige, un Seigneur riche et puissant. Il était fort redouté de tous ses sujets et malgré les lois qui assuraient au bon peuple un semblant de contrôle, et une souveraineté de papier, le prince agissait selon sa guise. Cependant la sagesse de cette nation avait attiré sur elle les yeux du monde, et les autres peuples, au lieu de lui décerner un diplôme d'honneur et de vertu, décidèrent simplement de tenir leurs grandes séances internationales en ces lieux où la sagesse semblait éclore comme les fleurs par une belle matinée d'été. De tous cotés le ciel fut imploré; les noirs, les blancs, les jaunes, les métis et même les autres, invoquèrent les puissances supérieures et appelèrent sur leurs manifestations oratoires et gastronomiques les bénédictions, d'en haut et d'en bas. Un franc succès combla leurs vœux et le spectacle qu'ils donnerent fut si apprécié, qu'il fut répété et qu'il est encore, à l'heure qu'il est quelque fois se demandé. Le puissant Prince, malgré tout l'orgueil qu'il ressentait devant de semblables réunions tenues en ses murs n'avait pas, de prime abord prêté ses villes et ses palais, avec plaisir. Il entretenait les relations fort suivies avec certains démons à la tête carrée qui longtempes ne virent pas ces meetings d'un très bon oeil. Avec le temps sa rancune disparut, et comme il était habilement choyé et entouré, il finit même par se joindre au concert. Dans ces cénacles se discutaient les plus sérieuses questions. On y parlait autant des femmes, des enfants et des catastrophes passées ou futures que des questions politiques et économiques. On tentait d'atteindre un parfait équilibre qui permettrait aux puissants de continuer et même de renforcer leurs jeux, tandis que d'habiles sorciers de tous genres et de toutes nuances s'évertuaient de persuader le peuple que toutes ces cérémonies se déroulaient pour son bien et pour la Paix de leur planète. Le puissant Seigneur, qui n'était pas, il faut bien le reconnaître, d'une intelligence très vive, crût tout d'abord que—noblesse et hospitalité obligent—il lui faudrait mettre en pratique dans les peuplades à lui soumises, les beaux principes à l'élaboration desquels il collaborait. Mais bien vite il se rendit compte que même ses craintes étaient inutiles, et reprenant la suite de ses exploits, il vécut comme par le passé.

Pour le surveiller le bon peuple trop confiant avait créé un corps de Conseillers, au nombre aussi imposant qu'inutile. Ils étaient là mandatés par la masse; le puissant seigneur sut en faire des courtisans. Il obligea le premier, préca au deuxième et plaça en son palais le troisième. En peu de mois le tour fut joué, il avait remplacé ses gardiens par des adulateurs.

Or il y avait dans les cartons du prince un plan qui lui était particulièrement cher. Il voulait assurer à une certaine clique de ses partisans l'achat et la vente de l'essentielle nourriture populaire. Il lui semblait qu'en gouvernant de haute main le ventre de ses sujets il était plus sûr de leur absolue soumission. Mais contre toute attente ce

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Members of the Committee.

bon peuple jusqu'ici veule et "froussard" prit les armes, se fâcha, menaca, fit tant et si bien qu'il obtint gain de cause et supprima le pouvoir absolu que le Prince croyait déjà sien. Ce fut, à cette nouvelle une royale stupeur en tout le Palais. Les plus habiles parmi les courtisans se mirent, nuit et jour, à chercher comment ils pourraient bien une fois de plus, tourner en dérision la volonté populaire. Après bien des nuits blanches, ils parvinrent à leur fin. Puisque le peuple s'était déclaré contre l'absolutisme princier, tel il serait fait!...mais les Conseillers devaient décider quand il serait mis fin à ce régime de toute puissance et quand la volonté populaire prendrait corps. Réunis en une imposante Assemblée ils décidèrent tout simplement de repousser aux calendres...prochains la mise en vigueur de la volonté populaire. Et c'est ainsi que fiers de leur petit jeu de passapasse, ces gros Messieurs, comme nouvel an approchait, s'en vinrent manger l'oie blanche et goûter aux crûs fameux, tandis que la masse des petits gens, trop bête pour comprendre, ou trop pleutre pour résister, laissa faire. Dès lors, Prince à deux faces, vécut heureux parmi ceux qu'il méprisait.

...C'est là la belle histoire que dans quelques certains d'années, grand-père barbu racontera à ses petits enfants émerveillés, tandis que passera l'ange d'une nouvelle année! *Un lutin de la forêt suisse*

SWISS LOCOMOTIVES FOR INDIA.

The Oerlikon Company have, during the past months, met with further success in the field of electric locomotives. Mention can be made in the first place of the trial express locomotive ordered by the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Co. from the General Electric Co., Ltd. The electrical equipment of this locomotive is being built by the latter firm under licence to the designs of the Oerlikon Company, and the mechanical part is being supplied by British locomotive makers. The locomotive is to be designed for a continuous output at wheel rim of 2,160 h.p. at 1,400 volts. D.C. at overhead line, the speed being 35 miles per hour; this corresponds to a continuous tractive effort of 23,000lbs. at wheel rim. The maximum speed is 85 miles per hour.

The locomotive is of the 2C2 type, and arranged for individual drive; each of the three driving axles is driven by a twin motor, through the intermediary of a quill. The torque is transmitted from the quill to the wheels by means of the special Oerlikon flexible axle drive. The locomotive is controlled by contractor gear. In the case of each of the three methods of grouping of motors, the field is weakened in two steps. Bts.

VACANCIES IN SWITZERLAND.

At the request of the Federal Labour Office (Eidgen. Arbeitsamt, 8, Bundesgasse, Bern) we are publishing, at regular intervals, lists of special vacancies in Switzerland for which suitable candidates are not available at home. Whilst it is intended to fill these vacancies, whenever possible, with Swiss from abroad, applications are considered from foreigners possessing the necessary qualifications. Officers, stating date of publication and reference number, should be addressed to the Swiss Consulate in whose district the applicant resides, and will then be forwarded to the proper quarter in Switzerland. We publish the list in the original text as received from the Labour Office.

- E 6968 **I. Directrice für Damenschneiderei**, mit Ausweisen über praktische Tätigkeit in Paris; für die Massabteilung eines erstklassigen Modchhauses in Basel.
- E 6969 **Hills-Directrice**, für Blusen- und Kleiderfabrik in Zürich.
- E 7039 **Konfektions-Directrice**, die auch zuschneiden und mit der feinen Kundschaft verkehren kann, für Änderungen; für Kleider-Magazin in Basel.
- F 7036 **Fachmann-Betriebsleiter für die Pneu-Abteilung**, erstklassiger mit Praxis in gleicher Stellung; für Gummiwarenfabrik der Nordschweiz.
- J 6976 **Teppich-Kunststopfer-Reparateur**, als Meister für ein Atelier, wo Orient-Teppiche gewaschen, geknüpft und repariert werden; nach Basel.
- J 7001 **Webmeister**, Fachmann, in den Maschineneinrichtungen und der Betriebsaufsichtigung erfahrener, auf Jacquard- & Frotteerartikel; für Leinenweberei im Zürcher-Oberland.
- J 7023 **Webmeister-Zeichner**, auf Streich & Kammgarn für Tuchfabr. im Kt. Bern.
- K 6950 **Gemälde-Restaurateur**; in Atelier für Gemälde-restauration und Altarbeiten nach Zürich.
- L 6977 **Kartonnage-Zuschneider**, befähigt, erstklassige Kartonnage herzustellen. Muster zu entwerfen und die Maschinen (Kreisschere und Faltschachtelstanze) einzustellen; für Kartonnagefabrik in Basel.
- N 6874 **Spezialmechaniker**, auf Schuhmaschinen neuester Erfindung; für Schuhfabrik im Kanton Thurgau.
- N 6875 **Monteur auf graphische Maschinen**; für Maschinenfabrik im Kanton Zürich.
- O 6908 **Tailleur de diamants**, expérimenté s/petits diamants; pour taillerie dans la Suisse romande.
- P 6935 **Geschäftsführer**, mit Praxis als solcher oder als Rayonchef; für Filiale eines Warenhauses in Basel.

- P 6936 **Korrespondent** für Spanisch und Englisch, womöglich Kenner der zentralamerikanischen Verhältnisse; für grösseres Export- und Importgeschäft von Maschinen und technischen Artikeln in Zürich.
- P 6954 **Rayonchef**, für die Abteilungen Manufakturwaren und Konfektion; für Grosskaufhaus in Luzern.
- P 6955 **Rayonchef**, für die Abteilungen Kurzwaren, Posamenterie, Lederwaren & Bonneterie; für Grosskaufhaus in Luzern.
- S 6928 **Technischer Leiter-Fachmann in Kunstseidenfabrik**, akademisch gebildeter, in Kunstseidenbranche durchaus bewandelter, zur technischen Leitung eines Unternehmens der Nordschweiz.
- S 6980 **Berechnungs-Ingenieur**, der die Berechnungsmethoden von Motoren und Apparaten aller Stromarten, Generatoren, Transformatoren, etc.; beherrscht und langjährige Praxis bei erstklassigen Firmen nachweist; für Motorenbaugesellschaft in Basel.
- S 6981 **Englischlehrerin**, mit vollständiger Kenntnis der englischen Sprache und Literatur; für Institut in der Nähe von Locarno.
- S 7028 **Laboratoriums-Chef / Gisserer-Leiter**, Ingenieur, der in den modernsten Methoden der Metallverarbeitung bewandert ist; für Metallwerke der Nordschweiz.

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Messieurs les membres sont avisés que la prochaine **Assemblée Mensuelle** aura lieu le **MARDI, 4 JANVIER** au Restaurant PAGANI, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1 et sera précédée d'un souper à 7 h. (prix 6/6).
Pour faciliter les arrangements, le Comité recommande aux participants de s'annoncer au plus tôt à M. P. F. Boehringer, 23, Leonard St. E.C. 2. (Téléphone: Clerkenwell 9595).
Ordre du Jour
Procès-verbal. Admissions. Démissions. Divers.

Das Glück wird nicht bedingt durch Glücksgabe. —J. Gotthelf.

Ein Tag kann eine Perle sein und ein Jahrhundert nichts. —G. Keller.

Divine Services.

EGLISE SUISSE (1762), 79, Endell St., W.C.2 (Langue française.)

Vendredi, 31 Déc., 8.30—Service liturgique de fin d'année, avec St. Cène.—l'arbre sera rallumé.

Dimanche, 2 Janvier, 11h.—Service de **Nouvel-An.**—M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme: 2 Cor. IV. 18. 6.30—M. Alex. Berthoud.

Le Choeur reprendra ses répétitions le 16 Jan.

Pour tous renseignements concernant actes pastoraux, etc., prière de s'adresser à M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme, 102, Hornsey Lane, N.6 (Téléphone: Mountview 1793). Heure de réception à l'Eglise: Mercredi 10.30 à 12h.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE (Deutschschweizerische Gemeinde)

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
Freitag, den 31. Dezember—Sylvester.
Abends 8.30 Jahresschlussgottesdienst.

Sonntag, den 2. Januar, 11 Uhr vorm.—Predigt.
7 Uhr abends.—Predigt.

Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12—1 in der Kirche.
Mittwoch 3—5 im 'Foyer Suisse.'
Anfragen wegen Amtshandlungen etc. an Pfr. C. Th. Hahn, 8, Chiswick Lane, W.4.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, January 1st, at 6.30 p.m.—**SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY:** Fancy Dress Ball at the Midland Grand Hotel, St. Pancras Station, N.W.

Saturday, January 15th, at 6.30 p.m.—**CITY SWISS CLUB:** Cinderella Dance at Pagani's Restaurant, 42, Gt. Portland Street, W.1.

SWISS CHORAL SOCIETY—Rehearsals every Friday evening. Every Swiss heartily invited to attend. Particulars from the Hon. Secretary, Swiss Choral Society, 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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