

# Notes and gleanings

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A second high-power station for Switzerland has just been completed at Beromünster, and the test signals may be expected at any

time. The power of the transmitter is rated at 60 kilowatts in the aerial, and tests will be radiated on a wave-length of 459.6 metres, this wave-length at present being in use by Zurich. This second new station has also been constructed by a British firm.

So, in a short while, we shall get Zurich and the only query will then be whether I shall still have time to write these Notes and Gleanings?

#### *Le Grand Peuplier Solitaire :*

No comments are necessary to underline the rare beauty of the following, which I find in the *Bulletin Suisse d'Egypte*, 19/3/1931. I am sure "M.N.G." will readily grant us permission to reproduce his symbolic poem for the delight of our readers :

#### **PAYSAGE.**

La chambre,  
tout au fond de laquelle je suis assise,  
est petite et sombre.

Mais,  
bercée par les émuants et graves accents  
du trio de Beethoven,  
comme en un rêve je ne vois,  
—par la large croisée lumineuse qui attire  
le regard, —

je ne vois qu'un grand peuplier solitaire  
qui monte tout droit,  
tranquille et fier,  
dans l'atmosphère froide et transparente  
d'un clair dimanche de janvier,  
tout plein de soleil.

Le haut peuplier solitaire  
au tronc vigoureux et souple,  
aux longues branches fibreuses et fines  
dessinées à la plume sur l'écran de l'air  
scintillant,

nettement se détache  
sur un vaste et lointain rideau laiteux de  
brume opaque  
tiré sur le lac, les montagnes, et le ciel  
d'une blancheur bleutée uniforme,  
dont les plans effacés se succèdent  
sous la moindre silhouette  
que celle l'esprit leur donne par la pensée,  
par le souvenir de leurs lignes réelles.

Le grand peuplier solitaire  
se dresse  
dans la pure lumière  
et le soleil joyeux.  
Tranquille et fort,  
orgueilleux avec humilité,  
il s'élance  
dans l'air cinglant et vif  
d'un clair dimanche de janvier.

—Symbole de ma calme petite Patrie,  
elle aussi solitaire,  
droite,  
libre  
et fière.

M. N. G.

Although a thick yellow fog tries hard to convince us that Spring is a mere delusion, we know through our Weather Experts—and Meteorological forecasts are much more wonderful and useful than we Town-dwellers assume—that to-day's fog is waging a losing battle and that the SUN is just round the corner, as it were. EASTER is here! Or will be by the time you read these lines. Which makes me feel somewhat like those happy songsters or rhymsters who compose Christmas verses in Summer time so as to have them printed by Christmas!

Anyhow, EASTER is a glorious festival. The Festival of SPRING, or Hope Re-Born, of Life Re-Newed.

Is not business improving daily? Is not the air getting warmer? Have you noticed how, during these last few weeks men and women, boys and girls walk with a more elastic step when they go about their business? Have you noticed that people even begin to talk of coming holidays? Have you read how Seaside landladies are expecting a good season?

And have you heard the thrushes calling to each other early in the morning and making no end of a song about it?

Well, Spring is coming, is Here and to celebrate it's coming, the old Pagan Folks held Spring Festivals. Zurich still has its "Sechseläuten", other Towns have similar festivals.

EASTER means something far deeper to us, of course. The Story of the Calvary and of the Rising from the Tomb. The story of the change that we call death and of the re-birth or awakening to a future life and a better life.

Look at it from any side you like, Easter is a glorious time, the best holiday of the year. All the hopes which we have set on 1931 have not yet been tested, we are still optimistically inclined, we feel still the good times that are coming, the good business we are going to do this year and EASTER is, for us business men, a welcome breather in which to take stock and in which to halt for a moment, ere launching our main attack which must, we feel sure, give us the reward we have been planning for.

So let's all be merry and enthusiastic this Easter-Tide! We know that the good time is coming, is drawing very near, is almost within our grasp and, when, on Tuesday after Easter, we go back to business, we go with a light heart, with our body filled with beautiful sunshine and with our energies re-vitalised, ready to tackle our daily task with renewed vigour and with a zest that will carry everything before it!

So, let's celebrate a real HAPPY EASTER!

#### **UNION HELVETIA. STUDENTS SUPPER AND DANCE.**

The school of the Union Helvetia held its first students dinner and dance at the Union Helvetia Club, 1, Gerrard Place, W., on Friday, March the 27th. This day may be truly recorded as a red letter day in the history of the school and will leave pleasant memories with all those who had the pleasure to be present. We understand that this was the first social function of the institution since the foundation nearly four years ago, and the organisers may be well pleased with the response, as more than 120 students and friends were present.

The pleasant Hall of the Club, in which the dinner was served—was gaily decorated for the occasion and the Union Jack and the Swiss flag were not missing. Mr. A. L. Lenegre, head of the Pulteney Institute, the latter Institution being closely connected with the school, was in the Chair. Before the dinner started, two beautiful bouquets of flowers were presented to Mrs. Lenegre and Mrs. Indermaur, wives of the Chairman pro temp., and President of the Union Helvetia, respectively.

The dinner came well up to the reputation of the U.H. cuisine and Mr. and Mrs. Rossier, the stewards of the Club are to be congratulated on having been able to satisfy even the most particular gourmets.

After the toast of H.M. the King had been proposed and duly honoured, Mr. Indermaur, President of the Union Helvetia, rose and addressed the gathering, saying that it gave him great pleasure to propose the toast to the Union Helvetia School, coupling same with the name of to-night's Chairman Mr. Lenegre. He related that the school was founded about four years ago with the object of teaching the English language to young Swiss in the catering trade, who came to these shores in order to acquaint themselves with the rudiments of this language. He mentioned that the fees at the time were rather high and it was principally due to Mr. Lenegre's great efforts that the Society was able to run the school on more economic lines under the auspices and control of the L.C.C. Education Board, and that he was glad to be afforded an opportunity to thank him on this occasion in the name of all present. The day school for English,—he continued—is progressing very satisfactorily, and through the endeavours of Messrs. Lenegre and Finger, the school has been able to start French classes for British boys in the hotel trade. Not only do we—he said—undertake to teach these boys French, but we also arrange exchanges, so that they can work in Switzerland after the termination of their studies. He expressed his thanks to Mr. Allix who is in charge of these classes. He also acquainted the company with the facts that a school for senior accountancy was started under the auspices of Mr. Archibald to whom he voiced his great appreciation for the valuable co-operation so willingly given. Further he stated that a course on Inn keeper's law would start shortly.

This speech was received with hearty applause and was followed by a speech of Mr. Lenegre, head of the Pulteney Evening Institute, and Chairman of the evening.

Mr. Lenegre expressed his satisfaction on having been invited to preside over this splendid gathering, saying how very pleased he was to see such a close and happy co-operation between his institution and the U.H. school. Switzerland stands to me for homeliness, for whenever, on my frequent travels, I cross the frontier into your country, and hear "les douaniers" introducing themselves, I begin to feel "chez moi." Switzerland stands for loyalty, one of the most essential qualities of mankind. This passage of his address was enthusiastically received, and he continued by paying a well deserved tribute to Mr. Finger, Secretary of the Union Helvetia, saying that he was first of all a 100 per cent. man, secondly an enthusiast and idealist sacrificing himself for the great cause of giving English workers a fair hearing in the catering trade. This speech was received with great acclamation.

Mr. Finger was then unexpectedly called upon to say a few words and he accomplished his task with his customary efficiency. The long and hearty applause which greeted his short oration, in which he modestly disclaimed any merit in the success of the school, was a striking proof how much his services were valued.

At that moment, the major domo, which office was in the capable hands of Mr. Archibald, a member of the teaching staff, made the announcement that the mayor of Shoreditch, Mrs. Girling,

and her husband Councillor Girling had arrived, and on entering the Hall they received a hearty ovation from the whole gathering. Mrs. Girling, wearing the badge of office, said that she was extremely glad to spend a few moments in the present company as she was taking a great interest in the work of the two institutions, which she felt sure were benefiting the citizens of the two countries. On resuming her seat she was presented with a large bouquet of flowers amidst the hearty cheering of the whole gathering. Her husband, Councillor Girling, also briefly addressed the company.

In the meantime the clock pointed to 11 o'clock and the ladies, who showed so much forbearance with all the speakers, were clamouring for the dancing to begin; the Hall was soon cleared and an orchestra suddenly appeared seemingly from nowhere and before one was aware, one was waltzing around with one of the many sweet ladies present. It was a memorable and most enjoyable evening. ST.

#### **GYMNASTIC DISPLAY. BY SWISS GYMNASTIC SOCIETY.**

An exceptionally good attendance was recorded at the Display given by the Swiss Gymnastic Society at the Union Helvetia on Sunday, March 22nd. The programme offered a large variety of items, very much different from previous selections. The individual work done by the men's section on the Horizontal and Parallel Bars received great applause. The Rhythmic exercises performed by the Ladies' Section as well as the Eurythmics were excellently carried out, whereas the novel feature, the "Pierrette et les cinq pierrots" was so much appreciated by the audience, that this item had to be repeated. It may well be said that the execution of this Pierrot Dance was the last word in perfection, due to the skillful coaching of the Leader of the Team, Mrs. H. Meier. The last item on the programme, the Pyramids and the Tableau Vivant, proved without doubt the star turn of the evening, for the two sections combined, really produced exceptionally smart pyramids such as the Society has long been ambitious to show the audience. No effort has been spared in making this Display a success and the Leader, Mr. Gysi, the Leader of the S.G.S., is especially worthy of praise. The final Tableau, adequately described "Aspiration," performed during the singing of the National Anthem, completely stirred the audience, whereupon the President, Mr. Sernier, the well-known captain of the S.G.S. expressed his appreciation for the great support the team has been able to enjoy at this Display.

The Dance given by the Team in the evening again attracted a very large attendance, during which Mr. Sernier had the pleasure to welcome and introduce the 4 Delegates of the Ice Hockey Club "Arosa," who had just arrived from Switzerland to play a series of matches at various London Ice Rinks against their English Rivals, during the coming week. E.A.N.

#### **SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY. PENNY COLLECTION FOR A HOME FOR AGED SWISS.**

The Penny Collection aims at procuring additional revenue to the Dimier Fund for the erection in England of a Home for aged Swiss.

For this purpose lists, bearing the name of the Collector, signed by two members of the Bureau of the Society, are issued.

The weekly contribution has been fixed at one penny only to enable everybody to further the scheme.

To attain this aim it is now essential to find supporters of the scheme in all the Swiss Societies and in all the firms where many Swiss are employed. (Besides the weekly contributions penny collections could be taken at Meetings, Banquets, Balls, etc.)

The Collectors would :

1. Remit the money so far collected to a member of the Bureau every 3 months.
2. Be invited to meet once every 6 months to report on their activity and make suggestions.
3. Have a Social once a year to get to know one another.

All friends of this worthy cause who are willing to act as Collectors are invited to send their names to—Theo Ritter, Hon. Secretary, Swiss House, 34, Fitzroy Square, W.1.

#### **THE INTERNATIONAL MORTGAGE BANK.**

The Swiss portion of the debenture issue of the International Mortgage Bank, amounting to 15,000,000 francs, was opened for subscription today, and was almost immediately oversubscribed.

It will be remembered that the International Mortgage Bank was founded in Basle on the recommendation of the League Financial Committee to lend money on mortgage to agricultural interests through the medium of the existing national and local channels.

Its share capital was to be 25,000,000 Swiss francs, of which 5,000,000 were paid up. Further capital is being raised in the form of debentures.