

Forthcoming events

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did not exist in 1914. It provides a round table. Despite the spectacular failures of the last year or two it has from time to time been a most useful body; so it recently settled the controversy as between France and Alexandretta.

In conclusion Mr. Joss proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Gooch for his most interesting address which was followed by a tremendous ovation by the audience.

W.B.

WHAT OTHERS THINK OF US. EUROPE REVISITED.

(World Radio.)

Comparatively few visitors to this most famous of all tourist centres of Europe are familiar with the real history of Switzerland, the country which has solved within its boundaries the most complicated of racial, linguistic, and religious problems.

Of the four million inhabitants of the Swiss Republic the majority, some 2.8 millions, speak German, about 800,000 French, a quarter of a million Italian, and about 45,000 Romansch. Three official languages prevail in the country — German, French, and Italian. And there is still another, and fifth, linguistic medium, for in the Germanic parts the colloquial speech is a dialect which is hardly understood by Germans outside Switzerland. True, only about 1 per cent. of the population still converse in the quaint relics of a *lingua rustica* of the Roman epoch — namely, Romansch, and, in some parts, Ladin, which is closely related to it.

An admirable administration, the origin of which dates back several hundred years, has succeeded in uniting many races and creeds under one central Government, creating a State, which in present-day history is one of the wealthiest and happiest in Europe. The Swiss have learned their lesson from their past history, when they succeeded in shaking off the yokes of the autocratic domination which the Habsburgs exercised upon them, and grew strong and powerful by shedding their racial discords in the fight against the common enemy.

Keeping this in mind, one may be tempted to describe the Swiss Republic as a model State in the best sense of the word. The Republic, or rather, Confederation (*Bundesstaat*), as the Swiss prefer to call their States, is divided into 22 cantons, all of them, unlike the English counties, almost self-contained and different from each other in many ways. The inhabitants of these cantons vary greatly in cultural, political, religious, and also physical characteristics, and often speak entirely different languages and devote themselves to different customs and ideas from those of their neighbours. Yet they all form the most patriotic nation imaginable.

The Confederation.

It was in the thirteenth century that the Habsburgs' power began to rise in an unprecedented manner. Their fortress, Habsburg, or Habichtsburg (hawks' castle), from which they derived their name, stood near the junction of the Aar and the Rhine; it was built in the eleventh century and was the centre of a great number of estates which were acquired in later years. In the twelfth century the Habsburgs became Counts of Zürich and Landsgraves of Upper Alsace, later protectors, or "*Vogts*," over the Waldstätte (Schwyz, Uri, Unterwalden, and Lucerne). Another line of the dynasty achieved still further honours, Rudolph I of Habsburg being elected German King in 1273.

A few years later the men of Uri and of the neighbouring woodlands and valleys took the initiative in forming the Swiss Confederation by creating a close alliance, promising to defend each other's interests and territories against any aggressor. This treaty of alliance between Uri, Schwyz, and Nidwalden, dated August, 1291, on which the history of Switzerland was based, is still preserved in the museum of Schwyz.

Parallel to this alliance of the three districts around the Lake of Lucerne, a Burgundian confederation, with Berne as centre, and an eastern Swiss confederation around Appenzel, were formed in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. These three confederate unions agreed to unite their forces in the common struggle for their independence; and, despite many setbacks, the Confederation grew steadily in power, embracing gradually more and more districts, and developed into an important military Power in the early sixteenth century.

They defended their integrity and independence with varying fortune in the centuries to follow, until in 1848 the people of Switzerland formed a Federal Constitution, which was revised in 1874 and which has since developed into a Federal State, administered by a central Government, although the 22 cantons have also their own individual Governments. The Federal Government meets at Berne, and is presided over by a President who is elected every year.

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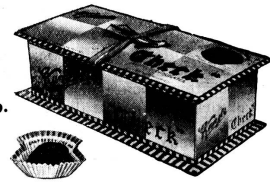
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The scenery.

Swiss scenery is probably the finest of its kind in Europe. The four great rivers, the Rhine, the Rhône, the Danube, and the Po, with their many tributaries, flow through the picturesque valleys in the mighty masses of the Alps and the Jura. Beautiful lakes, bordered by gigantic mountain ranges, flower pastures, and glaciers covering the saddles between the snow-covered rocky chains, which cut the country into two parts — these are some of the features which make of Switzerland Europe's playground.

The mountainous character of the country is best described in the following few figures. Sixty-one per cent. of the nearly 16,000 square miles of Switzerland are taken up by the Alps, 12 per cent. by the mountain ranges of the Jura, and 27 per cent. by the often densely-wooded Midlands. It is in the Midlands that the "garden of Switzerland" unfolds itself. There the towns and industrial centres lie in the midst of gentle pastures, beautiful forests, and around numerous picturesque lakes.

The Jura range is comparatively "low," if such a term can be applied to any part of Switzerland; but in view of the fact that no fewer than fifty peaks of the Alps reach a height of more than 15,000 feet, the plateaux of the Jura, hardly exceeding 5,000 feet in altitude, seem almost unimportant. Monte-Rosa, with its majestic peak towering to 15,210 feet, is the highest mountain in the country.

The making of chocolate and cheese plays an important part in the national industries of the country. In the Jura districts watch and clock making are still the most important industries, in a country which used to be predominantly agricultural, but has since developed into an industrial State.

The visitor to Switzerland will meet happy faces everywhere, the people are contented, and enjoy a high standard of living. Their national festivals and fairs bear witness to their light-heartedness. Yodelling, which is heard throughout the mountain districts, is in itself a manifestation of the happiness and high spirits of the people. Its familiar cadence is well known to listeners the world over. Happily enough, the Swiss broadcasting authorities never miss an opportunity of introducing the national melodies into their programmes, which often mirror in their music the country — beautiful in winter and in summer, attractive to foreign visitors both for sport and recuperation, mountaineering and leisurely holidays — and its people, who have a welcome for everyone crossing the frontier and greet him with their heartfelt "Grüss Gott!"

(To be concluded).

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

July — City Swiss Club — No Meeting.

Wednesday, July 7th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

July 19th-31st — Haslemere Festival — under the direction of Arnold Dolmetsch, at the Haslemere Hall — Haslemere (Surrey.)

Wednesday, August 4th, at 7.30 p.m. — Société de Secours Mutuels — Monthly Meeting, at 74, Charlotte Street, W.1.

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Dimanche, Juillet 4.—11h.—Culte et prédication.

11h. — Ecole du Dimanche.

7h. — Culte et prédication.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.
(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 4. Juli 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

Keine Abendgottesdienste während der Monate Juli und August.

Während der Ferien des Gemeindepfarrers amtet Herr Pfarrer Valentin Nüesch von Roggwil bei Langenthal, an den, bitte, alle Anfragen wegen event. Amtshandlungen zu richten sind: c/o "Foyer Suisse," 12, Upper Bedford Place, Russell Square, W.C.1.

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