Notes and gleanings

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HOME NEWS

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FEDERAL.

ELECTRICITY EXTENSION IN SWITZERLAND.

The Norman hero of the " Cloches de Corneville " considered his triple world tour quite an achievement. On visiting the Electricity Pavilion at the Swiss National Exhibition, however, we find that electric cables installed in Switzerland would reach five times around the world.

STUDY-TOURS IN SWITZERLAND.

The central committee for professional organisation in France is arranging a trip to Switzerland with the assistance of various Swiss societies in order that French business men and industrial owners may become familiar with Swiss achievements in the realms of industry, economy and social science.

FAVOURS GRANTED TO FOREIGN AUTOMOBILISTS.

The Swiss Federal Council has decided to maintain till 31 Mai 1940 the 20 cts. reduction per litre of benzine granted to foreign car drivers.

REMARKABLE SUCCESS OF THE EXHIBITION.

During the first nine weeks more, than 4,000,000 visitors came to the National Exhibition.

THE RADIO IN SWITZERLAND.

There are actually over 500,000 wireless set owners in Switzerland. The increase during 1938 amounted to 45,000. Switzerland occupies the seventh rank for the number of sets in proportion with 13.1% whereas last year she ranked only eighth.

THE PRADO EXHIBITION.

On June the first an exhibition of pictures from the Prado Museum was opened in Geneva. Nearly 200 pictures are shown. The exhibition will be closed on August 31st.

RIVER TRAFFIC IN SWITZERLAND.

Switzerland, in the middle of Europe, has no contact with the sea. Nevertheless the problem has been solved by the important harbour at Basle, on the Rhine, which gives indirect access to the North sea. The harbour has been so successful that many extensions have been necessary. Barges and the steam vessels which constitute the Swiss commercial navy can reach northern harbours without being unloaded. The importance of the Basle harbour and remarkable development of navigation on the home waterways is shown in an interesting way in the navigation pavilion at the National Exhibition.

SWISS MEDAL-ENGRAVERS AND PARAGUAY.

An order for 4,500,000 copper-nickel 10 and 5 Pesos coins has been passed to a Swiss firm by Paraguay, in spite of serious competition from foreign firms. This is proof of the excellence of Swiss industries and the confidence which they inspire abroad.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION.

The mayor of Cologne, Doctor Schmidt, his assistant, Mr. Brenner and other personalities stayed several days in Zurich and visited the National Exhibition.

THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF ZURICH.

(By Swiss Bank Corporation, Zurich.)

The month under review has been conspicuous by the absence of any important business. The market remains in a wait and see position, apprehending disturbances from the field of international politics. In light trading, prices have responded only in minor degree to the better disposition of New York during the current month. Our best industrials are quoted at prices which do not correspond with their present earning capacity.

The bond market has fairly well maintained its level of a month ago. Yields of Swiss Government securities range from 2½% to 2⅞% for the short term issues and from 3⅛% to 3½% for medium and long term issues. The floating of new loans has come to a complete standstill. The last local conversion issues have not been satisfactory. The Swiss-German Clearing negotiations have been concluded at the beginning of July; resulting again in further curtailment of cash transfer for the Swiss bondholders.

Quotations	*June 30th* 1939	*July 31st* 1939
Schweiz. Bankverein	498	506
Schweiz. Kreditanstalt	520	525
Elektrobank	321	335
Saeg Serie A	49	47 bid
Motor-Columbus	180	190
Elektr. & Verkehr	80 bid	93
Italo-Suisse	93	94
Schweiz. Rückversicherung	3275	3280
Saurer	440 bid	435 bid
Aluminium	2360	2365 bid
Lonza	505	487 xd
Brown Boveri	189	180 xd
Nestlé	1034	1065
Sulzer	660 bid	690 bid

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KYBURG.

1st August. You will find a full report on the London 1st August celebrations in this issue, but I cannot abstain from coming back on that Day also in these Notes once again. In the " *Neues Winterthurer Tagblatt* " I find the following exquisite description in National Councellor Th. Gut's speech made at Winterthur's 1st August celebration:

> " *Die Schweiz als kleines, mit sich selbst versöhntes Europa* "

which, I think you will all agree, is about as good a definition as one could hope to give of what our country is, stands for and aspires to be.

Again, in the same paper I find the following " thoughts " by H. Sch.

Das Schweizerkreuz:

Das firnenreine weisse Kreuz in blutig rotem Feld, das ist das Kleinod jedes treuen Schweizerherzens. Drei Kreuze sind dem Schweizermanne lieb und wert:

Das Schweizerkreuz im Schweizerbanner, das ist des Vaterlandes Schild und Zeichen. Wo immer Schweizer sind in aller Welt, da tragen sie der Heimat schlichtes Kreuz im Herzen.

Das rote Kreuz im weissen Feld, das ist der Nächstenliebe bestes Zeichen. Wo immer auch das rote Kreuz ersteht, zeugt es von Schweizersinn und Schweizergeist und ruft: Barmherzigkeit und Friede!

Und über beiden, gleichsam in den ewigen Fels gehauen, steht das Christuskreuz, das Kreuz vom Sieg auf Golgatha, der beiden ersten Kreuze Sinn und Ursprung. In ihm hat uns der Schöpfer seine Treu' erwiesen. — Dort hat der Eine einst für uns sein Blut vergossen. — Dort liegt des Rütlischwures heilige Treu verankert. — Von dort her hat ein kleiner Haufe Sempachkrieger einst im Angesicht der Wucht des Feindes auf den Knien Hilf' erfleht. — Von dort her hat ein Winkelried die Kraft zum Opfertod empfangen. — Von dort her hat ein Bruder Klaus getrennten Eidgenossen Rat und Heil gewiesen. — Von dort erhielt ein Zwingli Mut und Tapferkeit. — Von dort her schlug ein Herz des Henry Dunant für den Nächsten.

Mag wer da will, Hufeisen oder andere Zeichen Götter nennen; das Schweizerkreuz ist uns Symbol des Einen Herren, dessen Tod, für uns erlitten, uns Gewissheit treuer Vaterliebe unseres Schöpfers gibt. Ein Volk, das restlos ihm vertraut, kann nicht zu Schanden werden.

Wir wollen trauen auf den Höchsten, Gott, und uns nicht fürchten vor der Macht der Menschen.

I think it would have been a great pity to withhold this from our readers.

Switzerland's mission of mercy found a splendid way of showing itself when those children from the Special Areas of Great Britain were invited to Adelboden and I doubt whether any of you can read the following article taken from " *The Times*," Educational Supplement, 29th July, without feeling very deeply moved:

Four Weeks in Fairyland: (This article was especially written by one of the teachers who went to Adelboden last month in charge of a party of twenty-five children from the Special Areas).

From the dull, drab-grey surroundings and monotony of the Special Areas to the majestic Alpine grandeur of the Bernese Oberland; this was the experience of 25 boys and girls from homes of unemployed parents in Tyneside, Cumberland, Durham, and South Wales, when they spent a month as guests of the Mayor and people of Adelboden.

How excited they all were leaving Victoria on June 13th! Uncle Mac of the B.B.C., with representatives of the National Council of Social Service (which had found the necessary funds towards the cost of travel, clothing, and pocket money), saw them off, and already their senses were overcome with the wonder of it all. It was a dream come true! The Channel crossing, a motor tour around Paris, and a train ride through the night across France — little wonder their comprehension was numbed when the only holiday they had ever had before was a Sunday School treat or an occasional day visit to the seaside.

* * *

The party arrived at the end of their train journey in the early morning, tired but eager, and were thrilled by their coach ride up a winding Alpine road, with huge snowcapped peaks towering overhead. At Adelboden they were greeted by the cheers of hundreds of villagers, who had been waiting to meet them, and the Mayor received the little visitors and placed them in the safe keeping of their respective Swiss parents. Each child was adopted by a Swiss family, one member of which at least could speak English. Since this was the first time any of them had been away from home, it was natural that one or two of the girls felt a little homesick. The food was excellent, but some of the children were apt to view anything new, whether tasted or not, with suspicion. The situation may be summed up with the Cumberland boy's " We had chicken for dinner but it wasn't cooked properly " (it had been served in a casserole), and the Welsh boy's description of spaghetti as " stuff like strings "! Their lack of appetite, however, was soon dispelled by the wonderful hospitality of their adopted parents and brothers and sisters, the glorious Alpine air, and the new and interesting things which surrounded them. It was as if they were in fairyland. Not only were picture-postcard surroundings becoming real, but the warm, loving care of some of the most delightful and charming of people was showered upon them.

* * *

What excitement and delight there was on the children's first all-day mountain excursion! Armed with rücksacks and sticks they set off for Engstligenalp, the great plateau that lies 6,500ft. above sea level. After a walk through Alpine meadows, ablaze with millions of flowers, through fragrant pinewoods and alongside rushing torrents of snow water, they reached the cable railway. How amazingly delighted they were at being slung over precipices and gorges in a ride which frightens many grown-up people! On reaching the top they found they had been transported in six minutes from summer to spring. Snow lay in huge patches on the plateau, and snowballing and sliding were soon in full swing. A pleasant surprise awaited them, for behind a huge boulder their Swiss brothers and sisters had prepared a huge cauldron of soup, and after lunching together they played games, danced, and amused themselves for the rest of the day.

Every day brought with it something new and thrilling: bathing in the magnificent swimming pool, gathering specimens of Alpine flora, climbing to dizzy heights along easy winding paths, blowing Alp-horns, dancing and indoor games in the lounges of the hotels — what a feast of pleasure and entertainment, and how happy they were! Their pale drawn faces were soon full and brown, their hair began to show a healthy gloss. Even school was a delight and pleasure. Wet days, which were few, found them writing their diaries, pressing flowers, singing, dancing, studying relief maps of the area, and listening to an occasional history lesson in Swiss and English, seated by their Swiss friends. Adelboden rang with their laughter and song, and many an amusing scene was witnessed when Welsh children tried to explain to bewildered Swiss that their pronunciation was correct and that the northern children spoke "slang"!

* * *

All too soon the dream days passed, and their fairy hosts decided to give them a special farewell treat on parting. On a lovely sunny morning they set off by coach through beautiful Engstligen Valley to Mulenen. Here they ascended the mighty Niesen by funicular railway to the grandest view-point in Switzerland. A sea of mountains from the snow and ice-bound summits of the Bernese Oberland across to the blue outlines of the Jura, met their excited gaze, and far below at their feet the blue waters of Lakes Thun and Brienz. Then came the descent and the journey along the Kandersteg Valley to Blausee with its azure clear water, its tame trout which fed from the children's hands, and a row upon its clear waters. Little wonder that at their farewell party, held in one of the lounges of Adelboden's best hotels, tears were more in evidence than smiles upon the children's faces, despite the lemonade and cakes, dances and games. As they left, loaded with presents, the whole village again turned out. Tears streamed unashamedly down Swiss and English faces alike. Two little girls cried bitterly all the way to Berne.

The party arrived back in London on July 13th, looking healthy and strong. While in Adelboden they had been under the watchful eye of the local doctor, who was able to report that the children's average increase in weight was four pounds, with an improvement in the rest of their make-up to match. Before they left, most of the English children decided to establish "pen friendships" with their new companions.

The Lord Mayor's of London Visit to Switzerland has been a tremendous success from all points of view, not the least being that London's chief Magistrate and his gracious Lady, as well as the whole of his party seem to have had a really most enjoyable time.

Together with the recent Talks on the Radio by eminent Swiss and lastly by Sir Alfred Zimmern, talks which can be *read* by looking them up in The Listener, that Swiss visit has opened the eyes of a good many of our English friends who, if they thought of our country at all, did so, visualising it simply as the playground of Europe or as a country full of mountains, lakes hotels and cows, with, perhaps a few chamois thrown in.

From conversations I have had recently, I find that my friends begin to understand us much better. They have always rather liked us, mostly because they felt that Switzerland had no territorial aspirations and was, therefore, not a potential enemy, while, on the other hand, the Swiss had a reputation for being urbane, adaptable and trustworthy chaps on the whole.

Now, my English friends begin to see that our country is based on an astounding similarity of principles which underlie English life, politics and thought.

They find that, like the English, the Swiss are rather shy, not quick at making friends with strangers and it is being pointed out now that this attitude is Nature's defensive weapon for Mountain peoples as well as for Islanders, to prevent easy encroachments on their hard won liberties from abroad.

If you, dear Reader, wish to find out more on this highly interesting manifestation of Anglo-Swiss mutual similarity of outlook, etc., you will find the articles in "*The Listener.*"

I hope that by now our Editor has had his holiday and his fill of everything that we appreciate so much when we are "home" once more — very delicately put, don't you think so? — and I will, therefore make my bow to you, in the faint hope that I may succeed in stimulating your thoughts now and again in directions which open up surprisingly new aspects of everyday life.

Kyburg.

EGLISE SUISSE.

Culte Patriotique à Endell Street.

Les deux communautés de notre Colonie ont célébré Dimanche dernier, 30 Juillet, à l'Eglise Suisse de Endell Street, notre Fête Nationale, par un culte patriotique bi-lingue, présidé par Messieurs les Pasteurs M. Pradervand et E. Bommeli et honoré par la présence de Monsieur Ch. Paravicini, Ministre de Suisse, accompagné de Messieurs A. Girardet et J. de Rham.

Une gerbe de fleurs aux couleurs nationales ornait la table de communion et la Chaire ainsi que l'orgue étaient drapés de l'étendard fédéral.

Le service commença par le cantique "Grand Dieu, nous te bénissons ...," entonné avec ferveur par l'assemblée nombreuse qui remplissait l'Eglise, puis Mr. le Pasteur Pradervand donna lecture du Pacte solennel de 1291, qui fut le berceau de notre Confédération.

Après une prière pour la paix et pour exprimer à Dieu notre gratitude pour le beau pays qu'il nous a donné, Mr. le Pasteur Pradervand — qui avait pris comme texte de son sermon la Ire. Epitre de Paul aux Corinthiens, Chapitre 3 au verset 11, qui dit "Car personne ne peut poser un autre fondement que celui qui a été posé, savoir Jesus Christ" — nous montra, dans une allocution vibrante et émouvante, combien nous devons rendre grâce d'appartenir à une patrie, qui bien qu'elle soit petite, est aussi grande et belle et combien nous devons avoir la volonté de garder ce trésor précieux de liberté.

Il nous exhorta d'être inspirés — comme nos ancêtres — par l'esprit du Grutli qui mettait au premier plan les valeurs spirituelles car, de nos jours — plus que jamais — la croix est le seul salut possible.

L'assemblée chanta alors un hymne de reconnaissance, puis ce fut au tour de Mr. le Pasteur E. Bommeli de monter en chaire, pour y délivrer une allocution en langue allemande, basée sur la seconde Epitre de Paul aux Corinthiens, Chapitre 3, verset 17, avec ces paroles magnifiques: "Der Herr ist der Geist und wo dieser Geist ist, da ist die Freiheit."

Il élabora son texte d'une façon très complète en faisant ressortir que si nous voulons faire honneur à notre belle devise "Un pour tous, tous pour un," nous devons nous efforcer à servir et aider ceux qui sont autour de nous et il illustra son thème en faisant allusion à trois de nos plus grandes figures nationales (Zwingli, Pestalozzi et H. Dunant) qui, chacun dans sa sphère, se sont dévoués et ont consacré leur vie à l'allègement des maux qui affligent l'humanité.

Ce beau culte — qui vivra longtemps dans la mémoire de ceux qui y assistaient — s'est terminé par le "Cantique Suisse" chanté dans les deux langues par toute la congrégation.

"BUNDESFEIER" IN LIVERPOOL.

The men of the Swiss Colony in Liverpool have at this time of the year so many family engagements to fulfil that it is a matter of great difficulty to make up a gathering. We have no young men here. The Home Office regulations have prevented a new influx. But it is not so with the young women in whose favour the regulations have been relaxed if they come for domestic service. Of these we have a goodly number and these enjoy the friendship and the care of Mrs. Macquerrie and Mme. Davidson.

To give them a treat Mrs. Macquerrie suggested a char-a-banc outing, a trip to Prestatyn where the Consul resides. Prestatyn has two advantages. It has hills at the back and the sea in front. The views over the sea are extensive — they range from the Wirrel (the bedroom of Liverpool), to the Great Orme's Head near Llandudno and to Point Lynes in Anglesey and you can often see the mountains of Snowdonia with Snowdon itself. Scenery which might possibly appeal to Swiss girls.

Byron declares in one of his poems that Winter ends in England in July and this looks like being true this year. But we have in Prestatyn a Beech Pavilion with a sea-water pool, a dancing hall and a café where you can be under cover if the sun refuses to shine. No doubt some of the girls might have preferred the boisterous hilarity of Rhyl where they spent two hours on the way to Prestatyn but many no doubt were glad to get to the resraint of a residential sea-side town.

Fortunately the day kept fine. The meal was satisfactory. The Consul confined himself to a brief speech, reminding his hearers of the day we celebrate and that the original Swiss Confederation arose "Als Demuth weint and Hochmuth lacht da war der Schweizerbund gemacht."

Finally there was some time left for dancing. We all feel grateful to Mrs. Macquerrie to have arranged for us this full and happy day.

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Half the fun of a celebration is in holding it on the spur of the moment. You hear the good news, whether it's a newcomer to the family or a big contract neatly landed and straightaway you make for the telephone and rally your friends around you.
Then it is that you have to decide where to go — need you really trek up to the West End to be sure of getting food, wines and service fitting to the occasion.
No, of course not, if you are one of those who know just how well the Myllet do things. It is not only that food, drinks, music and dance floor are just perfect. It is the fact that the staff enter into the spirit of the occasion and go out of their way to make things go with a swing.
Next 'great occasion' just ring up the Myllet and let us know how many of you are coming. Prices are very moderate so you need not limit the numbers.

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