

Notes and gleanings

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invités par le Dr. Seiler, les membres de l'Alpine Club — parmi lesquels le général C. G. Bruce, Sir Frederick Shuster, M. Montagnier — s'en furent luncher ensemble en cet hôtel Monte Rosa qui est en quelque sorte un monument historique. Là passèrent un grand nombre des pionniers de l'alpinisme, à l'époque où il existait encore des cimes vierges comme le Mont-Rose, le Cervin, le Weiss-horn. Là, le 14 juillet 1865, accourut un enfant disant qu'il avait vu une avalanche tomber du sommet du Cervin: on se moqua de lui. Plus tard parvint l'affreuse nouvelle de la catastrophe qui assombrit la victoire de Whymper.

Voulant précéder les Italiens partant du Breuil pour gravir le Cervin par le versant italien, Whymper forme une caravane qui comprend des guides expérimentés — Peter Taugwalder et son fils, Michel Croz, de Chamonix — des alpinistes entraînés comme le révérend Charles Hudson, l'un des conquérants du Mont-Rose (1855), Lord Francis Douglas et un novice, Robert Hadow. Suivant l'arête du Hörnli, la caravane vainquit tous les obstacles et gagna le sommet du Cervin où, en guise de drapeau, ont fit flotter la blouse bleue de Croz. Puis, c'est la descente: non loin du sommet, Hadow perd pied, glissa et entraîna avec lui Croz, Hudson et Lord Douglas; au cri poussé par Croz, les Taugwalder et Whymper qui étaient les derniers à la corde se cramponnèrent aux rochers, la corde — trop faible comme on en peut juger par les morceaux déposés au musée de Zermatt — se rompit et c'est à cela que Whymper et les deux Taugwalder doivent d'avoir la vie sauve, tandis que leurs quatre compagnons disparaissent dans l'abîme.

Tels sont les événements que rappelle le modeste bas-relief de Zermatt: ce monument manquait encore et il faut bien vivement féliciter M. H. Seiler d'avoir contribué à le faire ériger. Une fois la cérémonie terminée, plus d'un assistant s'en fut au cimetière pour saluer pieusement les tombes du guide Michel Croz, du révérend Hudson et de R. Hadow; quant au corps du malheureux Lord Francis Douglas on ne l'a, sauf erreur, jamais retrouvé et il doit encore se trouver dans quelque fissure des rochers ou dans les profondeurs du glacier du Cervin.

(Tribune de Genève.)

Erfolge der schweizerischen Viehzucht. — An der landwirtsch. Provinzialausstellung in Santander (Spanien) hat Viehhändler Jakob Knechtle von Appenzell mit einer Gruppe Braunvieh den ersten Preis mit goldener Medaille, und für die ganze Kollektion einen goldenen Becher erhalten. Die Preise wurden ihm vom König von Spanien eigenhändig überreicht. Die holländische Musterausstellung stand an zweiter Stelle. Der Preisgewinner ist seit Jahren im überseeischen Viehhandel tätig.

(Schweizer Freie Presse.)

A l'Exposition de Berne. — Samedi, au cortège on avait l'impression de feuilleter un album de vieilles estampes. A l'exposition, on se retrouve en plein 20^e siècle. Car seule une organisation poussée à la perfection permet de présenter dans un espace de deux cent cinquante mille m², la quintessence du travail de tout un pays et de préparer cette manifestation en relativement peu de temps.

En entrant dans l'enceinte de l'exposition, le regard est attiré par un beau bâtiment en bois avec le toit bernois en auvent se dressant derrière des pelouses vertes et des parterres de fleurs. C'est la ferme modèle construite, sous les auspices de l'Union suisse des paysans, par l'Office de constructions agricoles qui s'est donné pour tâche d'aider le paysan de ses conseils pour les constructions et de l'encourager à bâtir des maisons à la fois pratiques et agréables à voir. La grande maison d'habitation contient des pièces assez vastes, simplement mais confortablement meublées. Elle doit montrer comment vit ou pourrait vivre les propriétaires d'une exploitation rurale moyenne. A côté, la maison pour le personnel domestique de la ferme, témoignant de l'effort qu'on fait pour retenir la main d'œuvre à la campagne. Dans cette maisonnette, une grande cuisine, qui, selon l'usage bernois, sert en même temps de salle à manger; à côté, une chambre que le Bernois appelle Wohnstube et qui est munie de tout le confort désirable: on y trouve un grand fourneau avec un banc, une table, une machine à écrire et même un petit secrétaire: au premier, les chambres à coucher. Bien des gens de la ville seraient heureux de loger aussi confortablement.

Malgré la partie principale de la ferme c'est la grande démonstration construite par l'Office mentionné de l'Union des paysans. Elle a pour but de montrer aux agriculteurs les avantages des installations modernes. "L'Union suisse des paysans et son Office de constructions agricoles, dit le catalogue, se proposent de lutter contre les fautes encore fréquentes que l'on observe dans les constructions et qui ont pour noms défauts d'hygiène, fautes techniques, distribution et aménagements irrationnels: ils cherchent aussi à donner des idées et des aperçus nouveaux aux agriculteurs en vue de leurs constructions futures. Rien, en effet, n'est aussi regrettable que de voir des agriculteurs construire des bâtiments parfaitement irrationnels faute d'être mieux conseillés, alors qu'avec les mêmes ressources on aurait pu construire de façon pratique et ériger des habitations et des étables répondant à toutes les exigences de l'hygiène."

C'est ici qu'on peut mesurer le progrès réalisé dans ce domaine la juxtaposition des différentes installations (les installations électriques occupent une place importante) permet de se faire une idée de leurs multiples avantages. Une attention toute particulière est vouée à l'étable: bien éclairée, exposée au soleil, elle est munie de tous les ustensiles modernes. L'éleveur pourra ainsi se rendre compte de leurs avantages qu'il ignore encore trop souvent.

Toutes ces constructions sont en quelque sorte la démonstration du résultat des mesures présentées dans le groupe "Encouragement de l'agriculture," un des plus importants de l'exposition. Dans une vaste halle, on trouve exposés les travaux témoignant de l'activité de la Confédération des cantons, des communes, des associations et des particuliers dans le domaine de l'approvisionnement du pays, des recherches scientifiques de toutes sortes, de l'enseignement agricole et ménager, de la protection des ouvriers agricoles, etc. C'est une source inépuisable de renseignements précieux pour tous ceux qu'intéressent l'organisation de l'agriculture et l'effort accompli par le paysan pendant et après la guerre.

Dimanche, second jour de l'exposition, celle-ci a été littéralement envahie par le public. De la gare à la Enge, où se trouve le Vierfeld, c'était un vrai cortège de gens qui montaient. Les trams, qui avaient organisé le service à une minute étaient pris d'assaut. Dans l'enceinte même de l'exposition, on avait de la peine à se frayer un passage.

Sous la présidence de M. Nægeli, conseiller d'Etat de Zurich, la Société agricole suisse a tenu le 13 septembre, à Berne, son assemblée de délégués. Elle a entendu un exposé de M. le Dr. Burgi, chef de l'Office vétérinaire fédéral, sur l'importation du bétail d'abattage et sur l'exportation du bétail d'élevage. M. Burgi a constaté que l'entrée en vigueur de la loi sur les mesures à prendre contre la fièvre aphteuse avaient les plus heureux effets. En revanche, le système de compensation concernant l'importation de bétail d'abattage et l'exportation de bétail d'élevage, ne lui paraît pas favorable.

Le Dr. Koenig, conseiller national de Brugg, a parlé sur le même sujet. Le Dr. Laur, au cours de la discussion, a émis l'espoir que l'exposition nationale d'agriculture contribuerait à rapprocher les villes et les campagnes. L'élevage du bétail, dont la production représente annuellement un milliard de francs est pour notre pays la plus grande source de profit: il faut donc qu'elle soit protégée.

L'assemblée a entendu une conférence du Dr. Lötiger, de la Société "Pro Juventute," sur l'assistance des enfants à la campagne.

Un banquet, auquel assistait M. le conseiller fédéral Schulthess, a réuni la Société suisse d'agriculture et la conférence des directeurs des départements cantonaux de l'agriculture.

(Journal de Genève.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

Our valiant contributor, 'Kyburg,' is still hiding himself from his dear friends of the S.O., recovering, we sincerely hope, from the mental strain to which the recent spirited controversies may have subjected him, and returning, we trust, re-incarnated to take up the cudgels of reviewing and "criticising" topical events at home. While we fully recognise that certain topics do not commend themselves to polemic treatment in our columns, we welcome all reasoned expression of opinions which will give our readers the opportunity of asserting their own point of view, and thus assist us all in forming an unbiased judgment on matters of general interest.

Geneva.

The host of English press reporters who watch the deliberations of the League of Nations meetings are certainly in love with Geneva, to judge from the panegyrics published by a number of English provincial daily papers. I am sufficiently Swiss to digest this glorification with self-complacency, but I believe my Genevese friends will agree with me that there are many other Swiss centres of thought and intellect which can claim a place on the same pedestal for their contributions to the evolution and achievements of Switzerland in particular and the world in general. Where Geneva is destined to score in the future, however, lies in the mission which the League of Nations unconsciously is imposing upon it—a mission which it has already commenced to fulfil. The diversity of the well-to-do foreign officials, who in connection with the many international movements headquartered in Geneva are settling down with their families, is fostering a broader outlook amongst these nationalities and the local population and forms the nucleus of that international brotherhood which in theory the League of Nations is striving for. — To come to the point, here are a few extracts from a long article under the above heading which appeared on Sept. 5th in the *Glasgow Herald*:—

Geneva has been pronounced characterless. Its character, so far, lies in its subdued blending of French and German features. The main business street, from the station to the river, recalls the newer part of Frankfort-on-Main;

old Frankfort is suggested by the sixteenth-century Hotel de Ville and the small Romanesque Cathedral of the thirteenth century. There are few very old houses: the oldest are cleaner and also less picturesque than those of an ancient French town. The river front is a toned-down composite of Paris and Helsingfors. The Post Office, up town, is massively classical. The Theatre, on the north-west corner of the old town, on a fine square facing along the garden promenade, flanked by the University and the old ramparts, is a sober and a brighter version of the Paris Opera House. Along the raised line of the southern ramparts are a tree-lined square, the Ecole des Beaux Arts, the Musée and the Observatory in its garden.

The Musée, built of white stone in the late-classical style, is the handsomest and, next to the University, the largest building in the city. On the ground and "mezzanine" floors are fine collections of antiquities, historical relics, old armour, firearms, coins and china, and reconstructions of furnished rooms in a feudal castle at various periods. Above is a large picture-gallery with about fourteen rooms. It has a fair representation of foreign painting and sculpture, but most of the rooms are devoted to Swiss art. The older specimens of it are mainly of historic and literary interest. Many of the figure studies by the modern men show the Germanic tendency to elephantiasis and metallic colouring. . . .

The writer here is distinctly unkind, but makes up for it by bestowing upon Geneva the halo of the "Mecca of Protestantism," as will be gathered from the following:—

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.		Sept. 8	Sept. 16
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	78.62%	78.75%
Swiss Confederation 5% 1923	...	100.15%	100.17%
Federal Railways A—K 3½%	...	81.85%	81.82%
Canton Basle-Stadt 5½% 1921	...	101.50%	101.87%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	...	75.00%	75.00%
SHARES.		Nom.	Sept. 8 Sept. 16
		Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	691 693
Credit Suisse	...	500	744 751
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	590 585
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	3035 3087
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	1770 1747
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1157 1150
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	709 712
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	916 915
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	350	360 356
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	230 235
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	...	100	237 225
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Geneva is a delightful city to wander about in. When you are tired of monuments and relics (and don't forget those of Rousseau in the University Library) you have the market and the fine shops to fall back on. The second-hand bookshops near the Hôtel de Ville are more fatally alluring than those of Edinburgh. The cafés are cosmopolitan in their ranges of beverages; a lyric mood is induced by the iced beer and the coffee ices. A lazy hour can be spent in feeding the deer and waterfowl in the beautiful Arian Park. And there is always the Rhone. On a hot day you can pass into a Yoga state by leaning on the quay rail and gazing at the intense living blue of the light shining through the water at the weir. There is endless fascination, too, in the stream of motors and foot-passengers on the Pont de Mont Blanc. Every race is represented. The League and the International Labour Office are the centres of a circle of school and conferences that fills the whole year. Americans flock to Geneva, drawn perhaps by the same impulse that draws moths to the candle or flies to a spider's web. The inspection of the parlour is doing much to dispel the bogeys raised by untravelled politicians in the Middle West.

Geneva is honeycombed with international bureaux of all kinds. In many of these our countrymen play a foremost part. There are several Scots names in the Geneva telephone directory. That is in accordance with old tradition. Geneva was the Rome of Calvinism, and Scotland was its Spain. It was the battle-front of democratic Protestantism against the egregious Dukes of Savoy. Calvin set up his Genevan theocracy in 1541. Knox joined him in 1554, and until 1559 acted as English pastor in the Auditoire which still stands beside the Cathedral. Knox is one of the four gigantic figures—the others are Calvin, Farel and Bèze—in the centre of the great Reformation Monument stretching for 100 yards along the high wall facing across the gardens to the University; and one of the subjects represented in the low-relief panels is Knox preaching in St. Giles.

The Reformation Monument (erected in 1917), with the strip of clear water beneath it, the balustrade above, and the continuation of the composition along the sides of the garden steps in front, is the most beautiful and the most interesting object in Geneva. I make bold to say that it is the finest monument of its kind in the world. Its vital artistry has been inspired by appreciation of the inner soul of this unique city, where the rich beauty of the plains is chastened and enhanced by the spiritual strength of the mountains, and where every human instinct finds a response in nature. The Geneva of Farel and Calvin was the nucleus of the modern world. It was the organisation of human will and purpose, under divine aegis, against feudalism, ignorance, squalor, sensuality, and brainless or cynical subservience. It was an attempt to establish the City of God on earth. It failed because the social and mental discipline involved by the conflict was inconsistent with true freedom. But the ideal remained. It manifested itself in the passionate rhapsodies of Geneva's greatest son, Rousseau, whose squalid existence only deepened his yearning for purity, love and pastoral peace. Rousseau's dynamic force gave a Utopian direction to the cynical genius of Voltaire, who in his later years created a model village beside his chateau at Ferney, four miles from Geneva. On the lakeside, eight miles from Ferney and ten from Geneva, is Coppet, once the residence of Louis XVI's Finance Minister, the Genevese Necker, who married Gibbon's old flame, Suzanne Curchod. Their daughter, Madame de Staël, carried on the tradition of Geneva by making Italy and Germany known to France and pleading for intellectual co-operation among the nations. In 1864 a Genevese citizen, who had been moved by the plight of the wounded on the battlefield of Solferino, founded the Red Cross Society, whose headquarters are at Geneva, and which may be regarded as the precursor of the League of Nations.

From 1798 to 1814 Geneva was the capital of a French département. In the latter year it joined the Swiss Federation. The decision was momentous. It saved Geneva from withering into dull provincialism in the shadow of Paris, and reserved it as an independent centre of French culture, a culture simpler than that of Paris, but breathing "an ampler ether, a diviner air." The "Revue de Genève" has a broadly international outlook that is conspicuously lacking in any of the Paris magazines. As a member of the Swiss Federation, also, Geneva was providentially reserved for the great part it was to play as a centre of the efforts towards international peace and co-operation. The augustness of its destiny was made apparent in November, 1920, when the Assembly of the League of Nations held its first meeting in the Salle de la Réformation, a plain old building which recalls the first meeting-place of the Free Church of Scotland.

On the outside of the front wall of the present

Palais des Nations is a monument which is as impressive in its own way as the Monument de la Réformation. It is a large plain slab erected by the citizens of Geneva in memory of an American who inherited Scottish blood and the Calvinist tradition—President Wilson, "Fondateur de la Société des Nations." The English-speaking world has not been kept in ignorance regarding Wilson's shortcomings. He was dictatorial, pedantic, often clumsy, and while he was almost too impartial in his judgment of Britain, he failed to bring the domestic politics of his own country into the big perspective in which he viewed world affairs. He had great faults. So had Calvin, and Rousseau, and Heine. The contrast between a great spiritual aim and its human means and agents is always rather pitiful. But, in virtue of his steadfast adherence to the one thing needful, Wilson was a bigger man than any of his associates. He hitched his wagon to a star, and held on even when to many eyes the star seemed a failing one. He does not count yet for much in Zenith, but in the city of Calvin and Rousseau he has been assigned a foremost place among those who in good or evil fortune remained faithful to their social interpretation of the prayer, "Thy will be done on earth." Wilson may yet be a greater name than Washington. The city that has honoured him has more "magnificent distances" than can yet be glimpsed from the American Capitol: for its lines go out to the ends of the earth. To-day, as in the sixteenth century, the hope of the world lies in Geneva.

The Summer Season.

A short resumé is given in the *Morning Post* (Sept. 8th) with the results of the chief sporting events. The season has not been as lucrative as the hotel proprietors fondly expected, and efforts are being made to prolong it with the assistance of the Swiss Federal Railways, who are urged to give special travelling facilities, i.e., reduce the cost of travelling. However, from what I hear, the boot seems to be on the other foot: the tariffs of many hotels may be a matter of indifference to Maharajahs and belated war-profiteers, but money is not flowing so freely now, and people like to see their *quid pro quo*.

The summer season in Switzerland, taken as a whole, was good, but rather disappointing. This was chiefly due to the unsettled weather, which made climbing almost out of the question in the early weeks of the season. In consequence of this, too, there were a good many accidents and some fatalities.

Lucerne, Interlaken and many of the lower centres did best, while the higher resorts suffered in comparison with last year. The attractions offered everywhere, in the shape of golf and tennis tournaments, boating and bathing, excursions and, above all, dancing, were numerous and varied enough, but unless the weather is fine these are not sufficient to keep all the hotels full for very long.

Golf and tennis were more popular than ever. The open golf championship was decided at Lausanne and fell to A. Ross, a Scottish professional attached to the Geneva Golf Club, while the amateur championships were played on the 18-hole course at Lucerne, that for men being won by Captain T. D. Richardson, the well-known skater, who acts as Hon. Secretary to the Engelberg Golf Club, and the ladies' championship by Mlle. Marietta Beck, of Budapest.

The lawn tennis championships were decided at Champéry, but few well-known British players competed, though the title has often been held by them in former years.

One of the events of the summer was the unveiling of a memorial tablet at Zermatt to Edward Whymper, for the pioneer work he did in climbing in the Swiss Alps in the Sixties and Seventies.

The postal motor-cars carried many more passengers than ever before, and the motor coach is multiplying fast: where, two or three years ago, there was one, there are now fifteen or twenty, but under this heading there are fortunately no accidents to record. Hundreds of private cars toured the country with family parties, and advantage was taken of the reopening of the main roads in the Engadine. In all probability this former "Bluebeard's Chamber" will remain permanently open in the future.

Although the summer season is practically over, many people are staying on through September, which is one of the most delightful months of the year in Switzerland. The mountain resorts, however, are being deserted for lakeside spots, such as Montreux, Lucerne, Geneva, Ouchy, Zurich, Lugano and Locarno, as well as the northern bank of the Lake of Thun, which lies facing the great peaks of the Oberland.

Blessing the Mountains.

Here is a picturesque description of a quaint old ceremony still observed in some districts of the canton of Valais. It is probably unknown to many of our readers; the article is culled from the *Catholic Herald* (Sept. 5th):—

In the month of July, when the cattle are ready to be driven to the high pastures, the

parish priest announces the expected ceremony, and the word is carried over the mountains from house to house. This is a signal for vigorous house-cleaning. The women don their holiday attire, flags are raised, and the children bring in armfuls of rhododendrons for decoration. There is no hope for fine weather, or a good harvest, until the blessing has been imparted.

On the morning of the great day, when the first streak of dawn appears, the priest, knapsack on his back, and accompanied by a Capuchin and a boy, leaves the church, crosses the mountain torrent, and starts his ascent of the mountain. For hours and hours he climbs, on his way to the upper pastures, up steep paths and rocky trails, bordered at this season with a profusion of wild flowers and fragrant mountain mint.

At each house the mother and children stand in line before the door to welcome him. The priest blesses the water and the salt, then the house.

Then comes the most impressive ceremony of all, the blessing of the mountain. By contrast with the mightiness of the snow-clad peaks, the blessing is given with a branch of rhododendron, used as a hyssop, the pearly blossoms of which throw the holy water high into the air toward the lofty summits, while the priest pronounces the words which are intended to ward off storms and avalanches.

The people, kneeling, murmur prayers all the while. Ten and twelve times a day the ceremony is repeated. At nightfall the priest, weary from his strenuous labours, pauses to hear confessions. The penitents, who have finished their day's work and brought home their herds, go to the priest during the night and wait, praying all the while for the Mass which is celebrated at dawn.

The Divine Sacrifice is celebrated in the open, on the mountain side, under the blue canopy of the sky, with the mountain torrents thundering a majestic hymn of praise. Nothing, says "La Liberté," is more impressive than the sight of these mountaineers kneeling to receive their God in this mighty Alpine basilica.

LA SIXIEME SESSION DE LA SOCIÉTÉ DES NATIONS A GENEVE.

Ces "Messieurs" siègent à nouveau et ils sont venus à Genève avec toute leur pompe ordinaire. On a revu les Persans au bonnet d'astrakan, les "Jaunes" à la face arondie et souriante, et même le décoratif Maharajah au turban bleu et à la fortune colossale qui fait l'admiration des foules. Y a-t-il à part ces "curiosités" d'autres choses au d'autres personnes à citer? Un malin et sans doute méchant homme me murmurerait hier à l'oreille que si l'on supprimait ce décorum il ne resterait pas grand chose de cette réunion d'hommes importants. Il exagérerait sans doute, toujours est-il que l'on reste quelque peu surpris à entendre le flot de discours, de paroles qui pleut chaque jour sur ces hommes éminents si l'on compare ces préambules aux résultats finaux. Puis lorsqu'on a causé avec les "grands" de ce monde et lorsqu'on a pesé la réelle valeur de leurs déclarations on se demande s'ils se sont moqués de vous ou bien si eux-mêmes ne sont pas les jouets de leurs propres déclarations et s'ils ne subissent pas une sorte d'auto-suggestion qui leur fait prendre au sérieux des mots qui n'en ont pas.

La grave question du Protocole de Genève semble diviser l'Assemblée et les mots ne couvrent jamais les points de vue totalement opposés. Pour ne pas déplaire à la "plus" Grande Nation du monde on a donc enterré avec toute la douceur nécessaire ce Pacte qui l'année dernière avait soulevé l'enthousiasme des foules. Pour qui se souvient des heures d'ivresse de Septembre 1924 où dans une même pensée tous les peuples fraternisaient déjà dans le sentiment d'une paix définitivement assurée, et lorsqu'on compare cela à la douche versée par le Représentant Britannique sur l'Assemblée de cette année on se demande comment ces "Messieurs" ont le courage de recommencer un essai de conciliation générale.

Et cela vous amène à vous demander si les travaux annuels de Genève valent vraiment ce que la Presse leur accorde comme importance, et si les grandes Chancelleries s'occupent seulement de ce qui se passe à Genève ou si la réunion de ces hommes éminents n'est qu'une suprême habileté pour faire croire aux peuples assoiffés de paix que l'on s'occupe réellement de la leur donner alors qu'en réalité on joue simplement une fine et délicate comédie à laquelle on n'ajoute pas la moindre importance.

Voyez le splendide discours prononcé par Monsieur Paul Boncour! Quel mouvement, quelle allure, quelle puissance, et ajoutez vous quel résultat? Eh bien non! aucun résultat. Après avoir affirmé la foi de la France envers le Protocole; après en avoir montré les avantages et les beautés, on attendait une conclusion. On! mais voilà cette conclusion aurait mis le feu aux poudres et après avoir brillamment expliqué son point de vue l'honorable délégué a conclu en... sens inverse. Il n'est pas le seul et il ne faut pas lui en vouloir. Il paraît