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NOTES & GLEANINGS.

The decision of the International Rhine Commission has been received with satisfaction in the English press, which appears somewhat paradoxical, seeing that the latter has always strongly defended the Swiss point of view. It is, however, not quite clear what will be the immediate outcome of the agreement reached on May 10th at Strasbourg by mutual consent. On the one hand, France is to build the much-discussed lateral canal between Kems and Neudorf; on the other hand, the commission adheres to the Swiss proposal of regularising the Rhine, the plans as regards the latter to be subsequently approved by the commission. The French influence on this commission is predominant, and it can hardly be expected later on to sanction the execution of a project which is likely to compete with, and seriously affect, the earning capacity of the lateral canal. In the meantime the matter has been ventilated in the National Council and will probably be reported upon by the Federal Council. The lateral canal is estimated to cost one milliard francs and would take about twenty years to construct, so that old Father Rhine will not be drained of his life blood just yet.

* * *

A most interesting description of the "Doubling of the Simplon Tunnel" appears in the June number of *World's Work* from the pen of Frederick A. Talbot. The many illustrations assist one in appreciating the greatness of this engineering feat. "The first piercing of the massive snow-mantled hump of the Simplon is regarded as a striking expression of engineering prowess and perseverance against overwhelming odds, and rightly so, too. But in the engineering sense it is paralleled by the doubling of the sub-mountainous artery. The latter had to be carried through under traffic conditions, with all its irksome restrictions, when the slightest miscalculation might have precipitated a catastrophe of far-reaching consequences."

* * *

A report in the *Manchester Guardian Commercial* (June 29th) deals with the outlook of the Swiss export trade, and states that a perceptible, though slight, improvement is to be recorded in silks and ribbons, hosiery and dyes.

* * *

The *Westminster Gazette* (June 30th) publishes a contribution from a correspondent, who deals with trout fishing in Switzerland and who says that "there is hardly a stream in the country, from the large river to the mountain burn, which does not contain trout." He gives a list of the rivers and lakes which he recommends to the lovers of this pastime.

* * *

The tendency and development of modern Swiss literature find an enthusiastic exponent in the current number (June 24th) of *The Nation and the Athenæum*, who reviews four recent publications.

AN ENGLISH CHURCH ON MONT PELERIN.

Overlooking the Lake of Geneva, in most beautiful surroundings, stands a little church waiting for some kind donors to clear it of its incumbrances in order to be able to fulfil its mission.

The church has been built by the Rev. D. Cooper-Hunt in the grounds of the Grand Hotel, Mont Pélerin, sur

Vevey, and will seat about 120 people; a memorial tablet is to perpetuate the memory of the interned British soldiers who died in Switzerland. There is comparatively little money required (about £200) to free the church, which justifies the hope that the consecration will not be delayed much longer. Contributions will be thankfully received by the chaplain, the Rev. D. Cooper-Hunt, Moatfield, Glen Road, Boscombe, Hants, or by the secretary to the Colonial and Continental Church Society, 9, Serjeants' Inn, Fleet Street, E.C. 4.

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