

# Notes and Gleanings

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From Spiez to Montreux, via Château d'Eux, the views of the Niesen, then the Wildhorn, Wildstrubel, etc., are awe-inspiring, much more so than in the summer, when the snow has vanished considerably.

At Montreux I saw the first young ladies wearing diaphanous summery costumes. Montreux in early Spring is already quite a warm place.

Switzerland is a country we are right to be proud of. Each season there has its new surprises for the beauty-loving tourist, and if that tourist happens, as is fortunately my case, to have a proprietary interest in the country and is one of its sons, his heart will swell more and more with deep, unflinching gratitude that a gracious fate has made him choose his parents wisely!

#### New Method of treating Goitre.

One of the drawbacks arising from Switzerland's distance from the Sea is the prevalence of goitre. The absence of iodine in our air is now being artificially corrected, and the following new method is, according to the *Daily Express* (28th April) being employed:—

The value of iodine in the prevention and treatment of simple goitre was demonstrated by experiments conducted recently in Switzerland, which is the most goitre-afflicted of all nations in the world.

More than 700 afflicted children were treated recently with iodine at Zurich, and after fifteen months of the treatment only twenty-eight per cent. showed further signs of the disease.

The treatment of the children consisted in giving them once a week a chocolate containing iodine. More than 90,000 children have been taking these tablets under medical control with considerable success.

#### Fighting Cows.

Wrestling has always been a great sport in Switzerland, and little surprise will be manifested by lovers of our country in reading hereunder that even our Cows have adopted this form of sport to settle matters which could perhaps be put to arbitration only with serious difficulties:—

Not a hundred paces from the spot where, more than a century ago, Napoleon halted before beginning his historic march across the St. Bernard Pass, a great crowd gathered recently to watch four-score fighting cows battle for the coveted title of "Queen of Queens" for the coming year.

Situated on a road leading to the St. Bernard, the arena, with its double row of rails protecting the public, had something of the appearance of a Spanish bullfight. In the centre were planted a number of young fir trees, which the cows, on entering the ring, immediately began to demolish. Thoroughly excited, the beasts then charged down upon each other, wrestled and fought until one trotted away, this being taken as a sign of submission. Other cows were then introduced until a dozen were in the ring at the same time.

Having found opponents, the best fighters set to work to settle their own particular quarrel, after which they went in search of other rivals.

"Quitters" there were which refused combat, and these were unceremoniously hustled out of the ring. Last year's Queen, a handsome cow of twelve years, with glossy hide and long horns, again proved invincible. Paving the ground and covering herself with dust, this bovine Amazon took her stand in the centre of the arena until she saw an opponent worthy of her attention. Then, crouching low, she got underneath her rival's head and pushed her round the ring forefeet off the ground. As in her native home on the flanks of the Great St. Bernard, where she is the undisputed queen of a herd of 200 cows, none could stand against her, and she was proclaimed victor to the accompaniment of tremendous cheering.

The queen of a herd enjoys the respect of all the other animals. She takes the best grazing pasture and chases away any but animals from her own stable.

#### A Cure for Foot-and-mouth Disease.

Talking, or rather writing, of cows, I append a further small article from the *Daily Mail* (April 25th):—

In a letter to the "Gazette de Lausanne" on foot-and-mouth disease, which is again prevalent in Switzerland, a Swiss cattle breeder says he has used the following simple remedy with infallible results during 27 years, in which time, although his herds have been frequently attacked, he has never lost a single head of cattle.

The animals' mouths were washed out with a solution composed of a kilogramme (2 1/5 lb.) of salt dissolved in a litre (1 3/4 pints) of vinegar, while they were given footbaths containing 5 per cent. of sulphate of copper. After a few days' treatment all signs of the malady disappears, he says, and the animals completely recover.

If the cure could really be relied upon, no fortune would be too great as a reward. One hardly dares to hope, having heard of so many cures for this terrible disease, but, then, I doubt not the real cure will finally be found, and may it be this one!

#### German Tourists in Switzerland.

Quite a number of articles describe the very numerous German tourists in Switzerland and Italy. I read in the *Evening News* of April 28th, for instance, that the present number of Germans in Italy is 700,000, which, of course, is sheer rubbish. Even 70,000 would be a very high figure. On the other hand, it is certainly true that the majority of tourists I met in my three weeks' travelling in Switzerland hailed from the "big Canton." The rest were mainly English, Dutch and quite a few Japanese and Americans. The trouble in Germany is, of course, that those who can so ostentatiously spend money, all belong to the same class of people made rich by the late war, etc. I have been told that there are probably not more than 100,000 such Germans all told, and the remaining seventy million odd have to suffer for them. The "Herdengeist," so carefully inculcated into the German

nation during the forty years preceding the war, cannot, of course, be made to disappear in a few years. Otherwise the afore mentioned 70,000,000 German sufferers would ere now have dealt faithfully with the 100,000 or so profiteers.

#### Spring is coming!

Spring is coming, even if you do not believe in it any more, dear reader. Take my word for it and prepare for the various pleasures and sports which will inevitably follow in Spring's wake. What is more annoying than to go home on a Saturday, firmly intending to have a good game of tennis that afternoon, and then to discover that the moths have been first and have played their own little game with your tennis trousers during the long winter months! Listen to one who has learnt from such bitter experience, and remember "Spring is coming" and expects everybody to be prepared.

#### Tennis in Switzerland.

Tennis will again form a prominent part of the Spring Sports in Switzerland, and from the *Bromley District Times* of April 25th I take the following information:—

Tennis in Switzerland is no longer an innovation, but a much catered-for game, thoroughly well organised by the Swiss Lawn Tennis Association, which has arranged a programme of 54 tournaments for 1924. Forty-eight of these matches will be played between May and September at various centres, where excellent courts are available. Inasmuch as large numbers of English visitors during the spring and summer naturally take advantage of the facilities offered, some information as to when and where the games will be played will be of interest. Play began actually on the covered courts at St. Moritz in February, and was continued at Geneva in March, while this month games are being played at Montreux, Territet and Lausanne. In May there will be matches at Vitznau, Lausanne, Lugano, Lucerne and Geneva (two), and in June fixtures have been arranged at Geneva, Territet, Biene, St. Gall, Basle and Berne. The seven tournaments in July will be held at Zurich, Klosters, Davos, Fims, Valpurga, Arosa and Gstaad. Twenty-six games will be played in August, starting on the fourth and at about a week's interval. Château d'Eux, Pontresina, St. Moritz, Villars, Wengen, Adelboden, Les Avants, Gurnigel, Morgins, Mürren, Ragaz, Zermatt, Winterthur, Caux, Champéry, Engelberg, Grindelwald, Interlaken, Maloya, St. Cergues, Berne, Geneva and Lucerne are the centres. In September the tournaments will take place at Lausanne and Montreux. Space will neither permit of all the tournament dates being given, nor the names and addresses of the local secretaries to whom names of entrants must be sent at least two days before the matches, but persons interested may obtain a complete list by writing to M. Louis Dufour, General Secretary of the Swiss Lawn Tennis Association at the Hotel d'Angleterre, Territet, Switzerland.

#### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL NEWS FROM SWITZERLAND.

In the absence, through illness, of Mr. Aguet, the meeting of the Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Condensed Milk Co. was held under the chairmanship of Mr. Dapples, the general manager. The shareholders sanctioned the proposals of the board, already outlined in these columns, in regard to payment of outstanding arrears of interest on the preference shares. In view of the exhaustive nature of the report, which was already in the hands of the shareholders, it was not held necessary to amplify the facts already published, and Mr. Dapples confined himself to a general recapitulation of the proposals as to dividend and the expression of favourable expectations for the future, when the ordinary shareholders may hope again to receive some dividend.

At a meeting of the directors of the Society for Chemical Industry in Basle, which took place on the 25th of April, it was decided to propose payment of a dividend of 15 per cent. on the ordinary shares. The meeting is to be held on the 15th of May.

Figures are now available as to the total expenditure incurred by the Swiss Government and Cantons in providing subsidies for unemployment relief. From 1915 to 1923 inclusive the amount of Frs. 16,286,532 had been thus provided. The State itself was concerned in this total to the extent of Frs. 5,000,000. The largest amounts were required in 1921, when Frs. 5,492,581 was spent, of which the State paid Frs. 1,822,163.

Speaking at the meeting of the Neuhausen Aluminium Company, the chairman, Dr. Neville, stated that in general the situation could not be said to have improved during the year 1923, though it must be admitted that since the middle of last year the position in the industry was more normal. For the first time since the war the French concerns in which the Neuhausen company is interested could look back upon a normal year's working. Unfortunately, the compensation due to these works for the time when they were requisitioned for military purposes has not yet been paid, and the Chairman took the opportunity of contradicting reports which have been current to the effect that this claim has been met. The Roumanian bauxite works in which the company is also interested have not yet been able to resume activities, since hitherto the Government have refused to transfer the rights of the old Hungarian concern to the Roumanian company. Speaking of the future of the aluminium industry, it was mentioned that the

period when household articles formed a principal outlet was now long past, and motors and aeroplanes were the greatest users. An increasing use is being made of aluminium for the conveyance of electric power, where copper has been used hitherto, while it is in great demand for apparatus for the dairy industry and for chemical works.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES.

BONDS.		Apr. 14	Apr. 29	
Swiss Confederation 3% 1903	...	70.12%	70.37%	
Swiss Confed. 9th Mob. Loan 5%	...	100.10%	100.15%	
Federal Railways A—K 3%	...	74.00%	75.20%	
Canton Basle-Stadt 5 1/2% 1921	...	100.25%	100.25%	
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892	...	63.00%	62.00%	
SHARES.		Nom.	Apr. 14	Apr. 29
		Frs.	Frs.	Frs.
Swiss Bank Corporation	...	500	625	623
Credit Suisse	...	500	655	665
Union de Banques Suisses	...	500	527	527
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	...	1000	3135	3050
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	...	1000	2227	2230
C. F. Bally S.A.	...	1000	1109	1105
Fabrique de Machines Oerlikon	...	500	647	635
Entreprises Sulzer	...	1000	640	637
S.A. Brown Boveri (new)	...	500	324	317
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	...	200	135	200
Choc. Suisses Peter-Cailler-Kohler	...	100	130	129
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	...	500	460	480

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