

Notes and gleanings

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été dressé, selon le rite anglican, un autel tendu de violet, portant des cierges et le crucifix. Sur les marches, on avait placé une profusion de plantes vertes, au milieu desquelles se détachaient les corolles blanches de lys magnifiques.

Un public assez nombreux, composé en majeure partie d'Américains villégiaturant en Suisse, remplissait l'édifice. Les premiers bancs étaient occupés par le corps diplomatique en grand uniforme, les trois conseillers fédéraux présents à Berne, MM. Motta, Haab et Haebelin, accompagnés des chanceliers de la Confédération et des principaux fonctionnaires de la division des affaires étrangères du département politique. Les huissiers fédéraux, en robe rouge et blanche se tenaient dans les couloirs.

Le service divin fut célébré par le Révérend Dr. Smith, de l'Eglise américaine de Genève. Un choeur formé *ad hoc* exécuta les psaumes et les hymnes rituels, dont Mme. E. Hugli-Camp chanta de sa belle voix de soprano les parties en solo.

A la fin de la cérémonie, le ministre des Etats-Unis et Mme. Grew recurent, sous le porche de la cathédrale, les condoléances de l'assistance.

Sur la place, une foule considérable assista au départ des nombreuses automobiles emmenant les hôtes officiels.

Le Palais fédéral et toutes les légations avaient mis leurs drapeaux en berne. Immédiatement après le service divin, le ministre des Etats-Unis et le personnel de la légation rendirent au Conseil fédéral la visite qui leur avait été faite le matin.

(Gazette de Lausanne.)

Grisons.—Le joli village de Sent, dans la Basse-Engadine, détruit en partie il y a deux ans par un incendie, est reconstruit. Les nouvelles maisons ont été bâties dans le style du pays. Il ne reste plus qu'à désirer que les ruines encore existantes disparaissent sans trop tarder et qu'on ne les laisse pas, selon la coutume, rappeler longtemps le souvenir de la catastrophe. (Gazette de Lausanne.)

Un fervent de la pédale.—Le 16 août est arrivé à Lausanne, venant de Genève et se dirigeant sur Berne, point terminus de l'étape, un jeune Bernois de vingt-trois ans, M. Robert Moser, qui vient de parcourir plus de 22,000 km. à bicyclette à travers l'Europe.

M. Moser est parti de Berne, le 15 septembre 1922, avec le projet de faire le tour de l'Europe en bicyclette. Il a parcouru la France, l'Espagne, le Portugal, la Belgique, la Hollande, l'Allemagne et la Pologne. Il visita ensuite la Roumanie, la Bulgarie, la Grèce, longea la Méditerranée, regagna le sud de la France, monta la vallée du Rhône et revint en Suisse par Nantua.

(Feuille d'avis.)

Rückgang der Industrie im Thurgau.—Der Thurgau hat unter allen Kantonen den stärksten Rückgang der Industrie, soweit das Verhältnis der Fabrikarbeiterschaft zur Wohnbevölkerung in Frage kommt, zu verzeichnen. Im Jahre 1911 arbeiteten 13,7 Prozent der thurgauischen Wohnbevölkerung in den Fabriken; 1922 waren es noch 10,2 Prozent. Der Rückgang stellt sich also auf 3,5 Prozent, gegen 0,8 Prozent im Kanton Zürich, 1,1 Prozent im Kanton St. Gallen, 2,1 Prozent im Kanton Neuchâtel, und 2,8 Prozent im Kanton Gené. Das schweizerische Mittel beträgt 0,8 Prozent. Das prozentuale Verhältnis der Fabrikarbeiterschaft zur Wohnbevölkerung ist seit 1911 nur in vier Kantonen, Baselstadt, Zug, Wallis und Luzern, gestiegen, während alle andern als Folge der Krise Rückschläge aufweisen; im Kanton Glarus ist das Verhältnis gleich geblieben; es sind heute wie im Jahre 1911 noch 22,2 Prozent der glarnerischen Bevölkerung in der Industrie beschäftigt. Im Thurgau hat neben der Abwanderung von Industriearbeitern auch eine Rückwanderung zur Landwirtschaft stattgefunden; es wäre interessant, wenn die Statistik dafür genaue Zahlen liefern könnte.

(Volksrecht am Bodensee.)

Neue Industrie.—Wie man vernimmt, besteht Aussicht, dass die alten Mühlesteinbrüche am Kastels bei Mels neuerdings zum Abbau gelangen, indem eine finanzkräftige Gesellschaft mit den jetzigen Steinbruch- und Waldbesitzern am Kastels wegen Kaufs in Unterhandlungen getreten ist. Es ist zu hoffen, dass das Unternehmen Wirklichkeit gewinnt und damit die Gemeinde Verdienst und Arbeitsgelegenheit erhält. (Neue Bündner Zeitung.)

Ein neues Kraftwerk.—Im Turttmannthal im Wallis ist unlängst mit den Arbeiten für ein neues Kraftwerk begonnen worden, das Illsee-Turttmannwerk, das wie folgt projektiert ist: Der Illsee, der zwischen Bella Tola, Brunethorn und Illhorn liegt, wird durch eine Staumauer um 15 Meter höher gestaut, so dass er — mit seinem kleinen Bruderssee vereinigt — ein Staubecken von 5 Millionen Kubikmeter bilden wird, das bis 30 Meter unter den jetzigen Wasserspiegel abgesenkt werden kann. Durch einen zwei Kilometer langen Tunnel werden dann noch die Wasser der beiden Seelein auf der Meretschialp sommersüber in den Stausee gepumpt. Im Winter fließt dann das aufgespeicherte Wasser durch den gleichen Tunnel zurück nach Meretschialp und von da durch einen andern Tunnel ins Wasserschloss, das unweit vom Gipfel des Emshorns eingesprenzt wird. Mit einem Gefälle von 1000 M. wird es sodann der Zentrale in Oberems zugeführt, die nur im Winter arbeitet und 8000 Pferdekkräfte liefern kann. Der zweite Teil des hydraulischen

Werkes sieht eine Fassung des Turttmannbaches auf 1400 Meereshöhe vor, im Hübelschweil. Ein drei Kilometer langer Tunnel führt den Bach nach Oberems, wo ein Reservoir von 50,000 Kubikmeter Fassung ihn und das Unterwasser des ersten Werkes aufnimmt. Eine Druckleitung von 740 Meter Gefälle leitet das Wasser zu der zweiten Zentrale in Mühlekern hinunter, die 15,000 Pferdestärken liefern kann. Während des Sommers genügt dazu die Kraft des Turttmannbaches. Im Winter aber, wenn der Bach fest versiegt, wird er durch die im Illsee aufgespeicherten Fluten verstärkt. Die elektrische Energie wird zur Hauptsache in die Aluminiumwerke in Chippis geleitet, zum Teil an die Bernischen Kraftwerke abgegeben. Die Arbeiten im Gebiet des Illsees werden etwa drei bis vier Jahre dauern, in der Region Turttmann-Oberems-Mühlekern etwa zwei bis drei Jahre. Bereits stehen unter der Leitung von Ingenieur Lusser in Susten gegen 300 Arbeiter aus der Umgebung am Werk. (Ostschweiz.)

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By "KYBURG."

A Fool-proof Constitution.

Saturday Review (11th August).—

The following article will, I am sure, interest many of my readers:—

The Constitution presupposes for its successful working a House of Commons, recruited, as regards both the Government and the Opposition, mainly from that part of society in which respect for unwritten laws is hereditary. It is powerfully stimulated by public school and university education or training in the services or a particular kind of social experience, and can be enforced on the individual by social pressure. In presupposes among those in power and among those critical of its exercise the habit, even outside politics, of obedience to conventions ranging from those of honour, in the technical sense, to those necessary for "playing the game." But the Constitution will be temporarily worked somewhere within the next ten years by those who, within politics and outside of it, ignorantly despise tradition, and to whom neither hereditary nor education has given the habit of mind necessary for the working of a Constitution composed very largely of mere conventions. It is not only Ministerial but Opposition respect for understandings that is the condition of success with such a Constitution as ours. Yet, in optimistic blindness, some Conservatives would postpone alteration and strengthening of the Constitutional machinery, and behave as if the new shift of workers were likely to be bound by the conventions of the old.

Taking the Constitution as it has come down to us, framed and developed for the use of men of a mentality very different from that of its future operators, there is scarcely any power which cannot be abused or provision that cannot easily be put aside. Writers like Dicey have sought to show that many things in it which are purely conventional have a certain legal force, and that defiance of usage would at length bring the erring Government into conflict with actual laws. But, for a first consideration, the fear of remote and vague consequences governs daily political action no more than dread of hell-fire determines daily moral conduct in private life. And then, there is nothing whatever to check legislation sweeping aside those consequences, by, for example, the passing of a permanent Army Act or by a vote of supplies for a term of years. Parliament has altered the main conventions of the Constitution so little through the generations, not through anyone's fear of direct consequences, but because Parliament has been a body setting a high value on the flexibility given by conventions and confident that all parties would more or less respect them. Can Conservatives still feel that confidence?

We, at any rate, do not; and we would urge on the Party the importance of a thorough examination of Constitutional machinery with a view both to its improvement for its work and to the limitation of future change. As to the former part of the inquiry, it need not be carried very far, for at its outset there will loom up before inquirers the too long neglected question of the House of Lords. We have no intention of trying to pack a complete scheme for the reform of that House into a sentence. Having mentioned the matter, we will pass on with a warning against plausible schemes for life peerages, which open the way to making a man a peer simply in order that he may take office, and would thus diminish the standing of both Houses, which depends largely on the fact that hereditary membership of the one or considerable experience of the other have usually been the only avenues to Ministerial position. To life peerages for men who will be utilized only in consultative ways there may be no objection, but unless adventurers are to be foisted on the nation and the status of both Houses lowered, there should be some definite check on creations with a view to Ministerial employment, except where the new peer has either sat for a term of years in the Commons or held a distinguished position in the public services. For be it remembered that a Labour Government would take office without backing in the House of Lords, and would insist on securing some in any House with restored powers.

The latter part of the task, which more nearly corresponds to our demand for a fool-proof Constitution, relates to the conditions under which Constitutional changes may be effected. Most countries have taken some thought to make sudden and violent change difficult. France requires the two Houses, after each has agreed thereto separately, to vote in Constitutional change in joint session. Switzerland requires a referendum, the results of which must show a majority for change in more than half the constituencies as well as in the aggregate of votes. Prussia, which was a sovereign State long enough under her modern Constitution to be admitted to this argument, had checks on Constitutional change herself, and in the German Empire enjoyed a veto, since fourteen adverse votes in the Bundesrat were fatal to any proposed change, and Prussia had seventeen. The American Constitution is almost incapable of change. Great Britain alone has left it open to any Ministry which scorns the decencies of public life to pass radical Constitutional measures by the same methods as are used for the pettiest uncontroversial Bills. Again, it is only in Great Britain that limitation of the Monarchy has meant, not the legal diminution of its prerogative with

freedom in use of the residue, but the vague subjection of the undiminished whole to Ministerial responsibility. The powers thus left to Ministers who cared to employ them are immense. Bagehot somewhere amused himself with a catalogue of the things that Ministers might do, without legal hindrance, in the name of the Crown; they began with the disbanding of the Army and the selling of all warships and ended with the cession of Cornwall to secure a peace and the initiation of a war to conquer Brittany. None of these are matters requiring the consultation of Parliament, and though that list was purposely fantastic, it is certain that, given a Ministry willing to abuse the Royal prerogative, gross perversion is possible. The old informal guarantees against exploitation of every weakness and vagueness in the Constitution are disappearing, and it is the merest common sense to provide legal safeguards while opportunity offers.

A New Glacial Period?

When I first had my attention drawn to the following, I thought that somebody was trying to "elongate the lower extremities of my body," as the refined saying has it *not*, but on looking closer, I found that some Professor across the Herring Pond was seriously alarmed! Well, if our good old planet is to undergo all the various experiences which are from time to time predicted for it, it will have a real jolly time by and by, and life ought to become extremely exciting and interesting.

There is not the slightest doubt Professor Gregory, of Yale University, is the champion pessimist.

Speaking at the science congress at Sydney, he predicted a new ice age, in which all high lands will be glaciated, the North American continent will disappear up to the Great Lakes; Scandinavia, Scotland, part of England, and a large part of Asia and Siberia will be wiped out, and Switzerland will be entirely obliterated.

A large slice of South America, including most of Chile, will be overrun with ice. New Zealand will suffer, but Australia has nothing to fear.

He did not say when this was to happen.

Meanwhile, the human mind marches on from progress to progress, and scientific discoveries chase each other at such a pace that we laymen are most of the time hopelessly bewildered. To what end? Even in Steam Engineering great progress is still possible, as is shown by the following:—

At the Congresses of the Associations of German Electricity Works and Boiler Inspection Societies respectively, both of which were recently held at Weimar, some interesting points relating to advances in steam engineering were discussed. Under present economic conditions most German electricity works are compelled to raise, as far as possible, the output of their steam-generating plant, and to reduce fuel consumption to a minimum. This is done by increasing the individual capacity of boilers, engines and power-houses, as well as by using low-grade fuel and resorting to highly improved thermic processes. Another method employed with promising results is the use of very high steam pressures. As pointed out by Professor Loschge, of Munich, the capacity of steam boilers can be raised by increasing the grate area and putting it to higher strains. Step grates are best suited for this purpose. The heating surface of such boilers should, of course, be increased considerably, preferably by using vertical-tube boilers. Up to twenty water tubes can be arranged about one another. Successful attempts to raise steam pressures to 60–100 atmos. and thus to improve the thermic efficiency have been made by W. Schmidt, of Cassel, on the one hand, and by the Atmos Company on the other. While thus increasing about 30 per cent. the output of a given power-house, the amount of water held by the boiler is reduced, which is an undoubted drawback, as it diminishes the ability of power plants to deal with abrupt load fluctuations.

As pointed out in a paper by Mr. Noack, a well-known engineer, (Continued on page 758)

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Canton Basle Stadt 5½% 1921	...	102.12%	69.75%
Canton Fribourg 3% 1892...	...	70.00%	—
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Crédit Suisse	...	500	663 668
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(Continued from page 756)

known firm of Swiss engineers is installing in a Belgian power-house a turbine designed for 50 atmos. and 450 deg. C. superheating, the thermo-dynamical efficiency having been raised to 24 per cent. An intermediary turbine of standard design is arranged in series, with the high-pressure turbine running at very high speed, and the exhaust steam, previous to its entering the standard turbine, undergoes a suitable superheating. Other remarkable turbine installations are the 50,000 kw. units which, according to papers by Th. Reuter and Dr. Th. Meyer have been designed by Messrs. A.E.G. for the Goldenberg Electricity Works. A new arrangement has in this case been devised for the steam path, the exhaust steam from the auxiliary turbine fed with live steam being led into the condenser rather than into a low-pressure stage of the main turbine.

Interesting results obtained with steam boilers having convex heads, which are now being tested at the Stuttgart Engineering College, were made known by Dr. von Bach. Elliptical boiler heads were found to admit of much higher liquid pressure than the strongly curved heads so far used. Tests of the Wadurf boiler were discussed by Dr. Zwiauer, of Stuttgart. The coal in this type of boiler is burnt on the grate from the top downwards, so that the gases of incomplete combustion, being carried to the hottest layer, are burnt without any separation of soot. The grate comprises water-cooled tubes, the heated water serving to transmit the heat of the fuel to the water to be evaporated.

The cycle thus performed is similar to that obtaining in a hot-water or low-pressure steam boiler, the boiler proper being left out of contact with the fire gases. In the tests referred to, as much as 128 kgs. of steam per square meter heat-absorbing heating surface was raised, no evidence of imperfect combustion being noted.

Revival of Basle's Industries.

The Times (11th August):—

The industrial situation in Basle has improved. Production is fairly normal again, although below the unusually high level of 1920.

Sales of ribbons amounted in value to 70,000,000 francs in 1922, against 60,000,000 francs in 1921 and 42,000,000 francs in 1913. This result has been attained in spite of many adverse factors. There has been a slackening of demand from the United States, due to increased home production, and from France because the mills of St. Etienne and Alsace can meet all French requirements. At the same time Swiss makers have had to face strong competition in their own market from German and Italian goods.

Great Britain has saved the situation for Basle, and in conjunction with the Dominions has absorbed three-quarters of its output of ribbon. Prices have been greatly reduced, wages slightly lowered, but quality has been maintained and contracts have been carried out promptly.

The chemical industry of Basle specializes in dyes and drugs. Whilst the former branch has been working only five days a week, exports of coal-tar, dyes, indigo and other colours amounted in value to 68,000,000 frs. in 1921, against 67,000,000 frs. last year. The lack of orders from Germany and Russia has been balanced by larger purchases by Great Britain and China, each three millions more than last year. In the pharmaceutical branches ordinary lines are lower in price, but branded specialties keep steady. It is noteworthy that some of the leading firms have been able to declare higher dividends in spite of uncertain markets and unstable exchanges. The Société pour l'Industrie chimique is paying 12 per cent., as compared with 6 per cent. in the previous year; Sandoz, 20 per cent., against 10 per cent.; Schappe, 15 per cent., against 8 per cent.; and Ringwald, 15 per cent., against 10 per cent.

I am afraid I have found nothing else this week, except a large number of enthusiastic articles from holiday-makers in our beautiful country. Even *Elms*, in the Canton of Glaris, has been discovered at last by some English trippers, who report in the *British Weekly* (Aug. 9th) that, as the Ostend Express passes Ziegelbrück, only two hours' rail journey distant from Elms, the London *Times* can be got at Elms at 1 p.m. on the day following publication here. Some attraction, to be sure! I wonder whether the Rothermere Press have read this, and if so, what are they going to do about it?

Well, although most of my compatriots in London are coming back from their holidays and turn their mind, *volens volens*, to work again, and although they state with some satisfaction that the real summer weather seems at last to have broken for good, "Kylburg" is thinking of going to have a good look at the old homeland, and my readers will be spared my vapourings for some weeks to come, unless I find something really worth writing about from the other side, in which case the Editor will perhaps give me leave to have my words set to print. You, dear reader, must surely have noticed lately that writing this column was beginning to be real work. How could it be otherwise, with all one's friends on holiday, with picture post-cards streaming in from all sorts of wonderful spots somewhere some hundreds of miles away from Town? Just try it yourself once to sit down and write something interesting, when you feel as if you would be much better off somewhere else! Therefore, I, too, am off! Off for the mountains, the lakes, the valleys and hills of our beloved country, and, in a few weeks' time, I know from experience, I shall have no rest until I am back in dear old London Town!

THE HOMELAND RE-VISITED.

"Wenn ich Königsglanz mit deinen Bergen mass,
Wie war da der Bettler stolz auf dich."

"The Swiss Observer" of July 21st mentioned my holiday in Switzerland, and my desire has been fulfilled by a glorious Swiss tour.

From Basle to Winterthur I chose the very charming and interesting Rhine route, which was new to me, passing the Waterworks of Rheinfelden and Laufenburg.

Winterthur is now greatly enlarged by Toess, Wülflingen, Veltheim, Oberwinterthur, Seen, Wiesendangen and the surrounding charming villas; the old town remains much the same. The Town Hall, in best classic style, the new Art and Science Museum, the Girls' School on Heiligberg, the Post Office and Railway Station are outstanding buildings.

Then comes the very picturesque old town of Stein a.Rh. The Rathaus and some other buildings are decorated with pictures and legends of their history (1300—1600 A.D.).

I visited Professor Ferdinand Vetter (Berne) in his retreat Klosters St. Georgen, and was conducted through 20 rooms, filled with art collections from monastic times, and his large library. I had a charming reception and two hours' conversation with him. After this to Castle Hohenklingen and the Rhine Falls, now in massive flow.

In Zürich my friend, A. Huber, president C.S.C. 1875 and hon. member, was my guide. The Landesmuseum, the Art Museum, Polytechnic, University, Gottfried Keller's birthplace, his favourite Oepfelkammer, Zürichhorn Park, with monument to the writer and composer of "Trittst im Morgenrot daher," a round on the beautiful lake will be abiding recollections.

Lucerne, Pension Hermitage, opposite the Pilatus came next. I had a glorious view of the lake and valley behind from the top of the Bürgenstock. Then, a tour Lucerne, Altorf, passing Brunnen, Treib, Seelisberg, Rütli, Schillerstein, Tell's Chapel, all gloriously historic. The Mayor of Altorf conducted me through the Courts of Justice and the Chamber of Deputies, containing the old banners of Sempach, Morgarten, Marignano and various trophies. I greatly cherish that day.

In Lucerne itself the Lion Monument, the Glacier Garden Alpina, Bourbaki Panorama are of absorbing interest.

Berne followed, which I fully explored, guided by an unfiring friend. The Federal Palace, its magnificent interior, Zeitglocken Thurm, Kornkeller, the arcades, fountains, the National Museum, the National Library were my admiration and delight. The Casino Terrace offers also a splendid view of the great Alps. On the 1st August all streets were beflagged, in the evening all bells were ringing, the Federal Palace and Münster were illuminated; rockets in all directions; on the Schänzli a concert with Swiss songs and jollies; above all the views of the great Alpine Peaks, Jungfrau, Mönch, Schreckhorn, Finsteraarhorn, Altels, Niesen, Blimlisalp, were grand beyond description.

I visited Mr. C. A. Loosli, the well-known Bernese writer, now busy with Ferdinand Hodler's works. He well remembers his visit here in 1916 and sends his best greetings.

Of all places I give the palm to Berne, so historic, still so Swiss (eigenartig).

Going next to Solothurn, I was met by our dear friend, Professor Dr. A. Laett, who enquired after all here and who sends his hearty greetings. We visited the celebrated Ursus Church and the Zeughaus, the largest in Switzerland, containing an extensive collection of arms and uniforms from old times up to date. There is a scene of Nicolas von der Flüel, Stans peace parley.

My last Swiss town was Basle. I visited the History and Art Museums, collections of Holbein, Boecklin, Stuckelberg, the Zoological Garden in a beautiful park, the only one in Switzerland; also the Rathaus, with best old-style council rooms, finely carved ceilings and celebrated pictures, which no visitor should omit.

I also visited an old friend, Adolf Linder (82), who was one of the 14 new members in 1866 to rejuvenate the dead and alive club of 1856. A former member here, Mr. Ernst Walter, is now active in the "Volksrecht," Zürich.

Briefly put, the great educational institutions, the care for old and young, the evident general order and comfort, the cleanliness, the up-to-date traffic and home arrangements, combined with the forests, lakes, rivers, pure air, plentiful trees and flowers, white houses and villas, make Switzerland, even apart from the ever-glorious mountains, an earthly Paradise, and one can only repeat with Gottfried Keller: "O mein Heimatland!"

My tour is the event of my life. The small collection of the history, plans and views of the places visited will be a constant reminder of the same. Relations and friends outbid each other to treat me better than the Prince of Wales could have been. Aber "Die schönen Tage von Aranjuez sind nun vorüber." Now to work, rejuvenated!

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Dimanche, 26 Août, 11h.—M. J. Ramseyer.

6.30.—Pir. U. Wildbolz.

BAPTEME.

Anthony Jack OBRIST, fils de Hans et de Bertha
Lydia Obrist, de Rüschlikon (Zürich)—le 19 Août 1923.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m.—CITY SWISS CLUB:
Monthly Meeting, preceded by a Supper, at Nuthall's
Restaurant, Kingston-on-Thames.

Saturday, Sept. 15th, at 5 p.m.—SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY: Outing, with Tea and Dance,
at the Royal Abercorn Hotel, Stanmore.

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