

The devaluation of the Swiss franc [..]

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The most grandiose and almost obligatory excursion for non-climbers leads to the lofty Gornergrat, 10,288 feet a/s. A pleasant path climbs to this noted point in four hours, but a scenic mountain railway accomplishes the same feat in 1½ hours. On the Gornergrat you find a rocky ridge, high above the immense Gorner Glacier, and directly opposite some of the most aristocratic of alpine peaks. There gleamed the Monte Rosa with the Dufourspitze, 15,217 feet, Switzerland's topmost point, the Lyskamm, the shapely twins Castor and Pollux, the majestic Breithorn, the Little Matterhorn -- then the huge glacial region of the historic Theodule Pass, and finally in majestic solitude, the stupendous rock pyramid of the Matterhorn, almost bare in the upper regions, but resplendent with glaciers and snowfields in the lower sections. Other peaks stood in reverent distance to the right and in the far North appeared the Bernese Alps.

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"MADRISA" is the name of a new Swiss opera which recently had an enthusiastically received Première in the Municipal Theatre at Basle. Dr. Johannes Jegerlehner, one of the best known and most beloved Swiss writers is the author of the libretto, and Mr. Hans Haug, eminent Director of Music at the Municipal Theatre at Basle, composed the music.

Native life, customs and legends have always had a special fascination for Dr. Jegerlehner and his many works reveal the profound knowledge he has of all these topics. One of his books "Was die Sennen erzählen" has been translated into English by I.M. Whitworth and is sold under the title of "Alp Legends." "Madrisa," the heroine of the new opera, is a loveable fairy in alpine traditions.

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With the exception of the uninhabited regions of the high Alps, settlements in Switzerland are very close to one another, so that railway stations are quite numerous. The average distance from one station to another is but 3.6 km., making an average of 27 stations per 100 km. The Austrians are the only railways having a higher figure of 28 stations per 100 km. Further, the density of the net-work of roads necessitated the construction of numerous road and rail crossings; they average 249 per 100 km., whereas in Austria they only average 239, in Germany 185, in Holland 116, in Denmark 87, etc.

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The devaluation of the Swiss franc seems to have a very favourable influence on the Artificial Silk industry, which is, thanks to the welcome orders from foreign countries, in full swing. A certain concern, controlled by the Swiss-American Embroidery Industry Company, whose shares had reached a very low level of frs. 170-180 - have been bought lately at frs. 380.

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Embroidery Export during February last deserves special mention, as it has reached the 2 Million mark for the first time since 1933, the actual figure being approximately 2,107,081 frs. in value. - January and February together showing a figure of frs. 3,756,930 compare very favourably with the same period of last year, which shows a return of frs. 1,592,541. Let us hope that the turning point in the slump has arrived and that the near future will bring better times into our beloved homeland.

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