

Notes & gleanings

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antennae, whilst modern stations mostly work with coil or frame aeriels for undamped waves. Two of these latter, designed for a wide range of wave-lengths, are to be fixed near the building of the Physical Institute of Zurich, which will have to be enlarged for this purpose, lest the working of the new apparatus should inductively affect the measuring instruments within the building. The radiotelegraphic station at Berne is also to be utilised for the service.

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It is now possible to book through by air from London to Lausanne, Switzerland, at the office of the Grands Express in the Kingsway, W.C., and do the entire journey with only one halt, at Paris.

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The Fiscal accounts of the Canton of Zurich for the year 1920 disclose revenue of frs. 72,629,913, and expenditure of frs. 80,104,032, thus leaving a deficit of frs. 7,474,118, which raises the total cantonal debt to frs. 32,229,329.

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At a match with the Swiss military rifle, contested at Montreux between six English officers and six Swiss non-commissioned officers of Montreux, the Swiss team proved victorious with 824 points against 542 points.

Speech of the President of the Swiss Confederation,
M. Schulthess, at the opening session of the
THIRD INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE
at Geneva on October 25th, 1921.

Au début de cette troisième conférence internationale du travail, la première qui se réunit sur le sol helvétique, je suis heureux de saluer les délégués des hauts gouvernements, des employeurs et des travailleurs, ainsi que leurs conseillers techniques.

Je remplis un agréable devoir en rendant hommage à l'activité du directeur du B.I.T. et à celle de ses collaborateurs. Judicieux, prévoyants, cherchant toujours à concilier les antagonismes, ils poursuivent leur tâche délicate avec autant de tact que de dévouement.

Ce sera toujours l'honneur de ceux qui établissent les bases de la S.d.N. d'avoir réservé au travail une place toute spéciale. Le B.I.T. et l'organisation qui s'y rattache représentent une des créations les plus significatives du Pacte des nations.

En exalant le travail on a voulu honorer aussi le travailleur. Mais il ne doit pas succomber sous le faix mais avoir la possibilité de vivre dignement. Les conditions de travail équitables auxquelles il a droit sont appelées à élever le niveau moral et matériel de la classe laborieuse.

L'évolution économique qui s'est accomplie depuis la première conférence a singulièrement compliqué la tâche de l'Organisation internationale du travail. Le programme de la première session portait de l'idée que les Etats conserveraient leurs forces économiques et que les entreprises privées continue-

raient à prospérer. Aujourd'hui, nous nous débattons dans une crise dont nous ne prévoyons pas la fin et qui atteint à la fois l'Etat et la production privée.

En présence des graves problèmes de l'heure, les questions de protection ouvrière passent au second plan. Le grand effort de tout gouvernement et assurément de votre organisation doit viser à maintenir la production mondiale et à la relever là où elle est anéantie.

En l'absence d'un programme international, chaque pays en est réduit à sauvegarder autant que possible son activité économique. C'est pourquoi nous voyons s'élever entre les peuples des barrières plus hautes que jamais à une époque où tout esprit clairvoyant doit désirer le développement normal du commerce international.

La crise économique dont je viens de parler a coïncidé, dans tions des travailleurs, en particulier avec la réduction de la durée du travail. Bien qu'il faille reconnaître que de telles innovations ne favorisent pas le développement et ne diminuent pas le coût de la production, il y a lieu cependant de constater les exagérations de ceux qui voient, dans cette coïncidence des deux phénomènes économiques, une relation de cause à effet et attribuent la crise actuelle à la réduction des heures de travail et à la réalisation d'autres revendications ouvrières.

La cause de la crise doit être recherchée dans la guerre et dans l'appauvrissement qu'elle a entraîné surtout en Europe. D'autre part, il est incontestable que l'introduction dans le domaine du travail de règles internationales uniformes en apparence est plutôt de nature à accentuer encore la diversité qui existe dans les conditions de la production, vu la dépréciation des diverses monnaies et l'écart entre leur pouvoir d'achat intérieur et extérieur.

De nombreux milieux, qui approuvaient à l'époque de la paix et même encore lors de la première conférence du travail l'application de dispositions uniformes en matière de protection internationale des travailleurs n'en sont plus partisans aujourd'hui en raison des difficultés pratiques. En particulier, la réduction de la durée du travail rencontre une résistance de plus en plus vive. Un revirement paraît s'être produit. Le balancier menace de pencher trop fortement en sens inverse. On doit aussi chercher à comprendre les travailleurs. Ayant beaucoup à souffrir précisément aujourd'hui, ils sont plus susceptibles qu'autrefois. D'autre part, la classe laborieuse a intérêt à tenir compte des courants économiques et des conceptions qui se font jour dans les autres classes de la population et à ne pas empêcher par un doctrinarisme intransigeant la concorde sociale, si désirable pour le monde.

Permettez-moi d'émettre encore une pensée et d'exprimer un vœu. Le labeur intensif accompli joyeusement est sans contredit un des plus puissants facteurs de relèvement du monde. C'est pourquoi je voudrais que votre organisation proclamât le grand devoir et encourageât l'amour du travail. Elle pourra ainsi se prévaloir d'un nouvel argument précieux pour consacrer ses efforts à l'amélioration du sort des travailleurs. Elle gagnera à sa cause des disciples recrutés dans les milieux qui, jusqu'ici, se tenaient à l'écart. Puisse l'organisation internationale du travail obtenir un succès sécond dans un monde véritablement pacifique.

NOTES & GLEANINGS.

From an article in *The Times* (Oct. 31st) headed "The Mountaineering Season" we cull the following survey of Alpinism in Switzerland:—

"In the Alps, except for a fortnight of unsettled weather during the latter half of August, the season was exceptionally kind. It is the more regrettable that so little advantage was taken of this rare opportunity to make novel or notable ascents. British mountaineers appear to be still shy of Switzerland. The passport difficulties have almost disappeared, thanks to the altruistic efforts of Sir Martin Conway and his collaborators; and presumably the rate of exchange, the cost of living, and the high mountain tariffs—in some cases almost double their pre-war figure—must be held responsible. Vigorous guideless parties were to be heard of across the French and Italian frontiers; but the Swiss Alps remained too noticeably deserted by all but the old Alpine habitués.

The honours of the year, the great ridge traverses—and notably an attempt to cover the ridge from the Zinal Rothorn to the Weissshorn in a single day—fell to several Dutch mountaineers, one of whom has well earned the local name of "der fliegende Holländer." To Swiss climbers belongs the credit of traversing for the first time the whole of the Mischabel range, from the Südlenzspitze to the Windjoch, in a single expedition.

CITY SWISS CLUB.

ANNUAL BANQUET & BALL

Friday, 25th November, 1921, at

Princes' Restaurant, Piccadilly, W.1.

Hon. Chairman:

His Excellency C. R. PARAVICINI

Envoyé Extraordinaire et Ministre Plénipotentiaire de Suisse
en Grande Bretagne.

Reception 7.30 p.m.

Tickets: £1 1s. 0d. each

May be obtained now from the Members of the Committee or from
the "Swiss Observer."

The guide Fritz Ammater's dogged patience and mechanical ingenuity found their due recompense: with his employer, a young Japanese gentleman, and two other Grindelwald guides he succeeded at last in ascending the great Mitteleggi arrête of the Eiger, hitherto only descended. But for a change of weather this last great crux of the Oberland might have been climbed, without mechanical aids, in 1914, and doubtless in other years; and it may still be so climbed.

English Alpinists of the classic generation were active once again in the Zermatt valley; and here and there, on Mont Blanc, in the Oberland, and elsewhere, English parties made some fine individual ascents. But it is unsatisfactory to have to record that in this, the kindest of seasons, when ice-free chimney and snowless crest challenged invitingly, and new routes revealed themselves with alluring obviousness, the big unclimbed ridges and mountain faces, assailable possibly this year for the first time within mountaineering memory, were left unexplored."

In this connection a contribution from the Geneva correspondent of *The Observer* (Oct. 30th) will be found to be very interesting:—

"The long drought and the long, hot summer have caused the glaciers and the snowfields to melt so much that bodies of climbers have been found who have been lost for many years. In some cases all hope of ever finding them had been abandoned. At Zermatt it is even hoped that the remains of Lord Frederick Douglas, who was killed on July 14th, 1865, during Whymper's first ascent of the Matterhorn, may now be discovered. It will be remembered that during the descent of the Matterhorn on that occasion Mr. Hadow, the Rev. Charles Hudson, the guide, Michel Croz, and Lord Frederick Douglas were all killed, and that the bodies of the three first-named were recovered, but not that of Lord Frederick Douglas. It was assumed that he fell some 6,000 feet on to the glacier below, where he may very well have fallen into a crevasse.

Recently the body of Josef Tresch, belonging to a well-known family of Swiss guides, was found at the foot of the Kliserstock, in the Gotthard range, after he had been missing for eighteen years. The remains of a Swiss school teacher, who disappeared in an accident towards the end of 1914 in the Piz Languard range (Grisons), have also been found, after seven years. Bodies of other long-lost tourists and climbers have been found not in the Swiss Alps alone, but in the French Alps and in Tyrol.

In the opinion of Alpine guides and climbers, if the coming winter is as snowless as the last, then next summer it should be possible to discover all the bodies of persons who have disappeared in years gone by on glaciers and snowfields. As yet, the mountains have been merely powdered with snow, whereas generally the first heavy snowfalls have occurred by this time."

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The new "Putsch" of the ex-Emperor Karl has subjected the Swiss Government to some criticism in the English press—criticism which possibly is not altogether unjustified. Negligence on the part of the local authorities at Hertenstein (Canton of Lucerne) and the Federal Council is the general keynote, and it is asserted that in face of his former escapade the ex-Emperor's formal declaration of May 18th (reiterated on October 15th) to abstain from political propaganda and give three days' notice of intended departure should have been taken "cum grano salis"; it is also pointed out that the Swiss Government gave the Allies most definite assurances that the ex-Emperor would be strictly watched and prevented from engaging in any further restoration enterprises or any political intrigues. An article in the *Evening Standard* (Oct. 24th) contains the following references:—

"Is it not time for the Great Powers, who are in some sense responsible for the peace of Europe, to talk very plainly to the small States which harbour refugees likely to be a source of danger and disturbance to their neighbours?"

If the Swiss authorities had been interested in stopping him, it is not easy to see how he could have eluded them. The only inference is that the Swiss authorities had no such interest, and felt no responsibility to Europe for any troubles which might ensue from the breach of Karl's parole.

Switzerland is just as much responsible for all the damage ensuing from the enterprise of the ex-Emperor Karl as England

was responsible for all the damage ensuing from the enterprise of the Alabama."

Less censorial is the following from the *Daily Telegraph* (Oct. 25th):—

"Though the Ambassadors' Council in Paris has sent a protest to the Swiss Government against the second escape of this deposed Monarch, it is difficult to withhold a certain measure of sympathy from the President of the Federation and his colleagues. They believed that they were dealing with a gentleman—a man whose word was his bond. They were mistaken. The ex-Emperor has proved that his character has suffered by the associations into which he was thrown during the war. He was on parole, and he has broken this parole."

A leader in the *Western Daily Press* (Oct. 25th) begins by eulogizing some of the modern achievements (Red Cross, League of Nations) which have originated in Switzerland, but doubts the wisdom of still extending to political and other refugees the right of asylum in the old ideal form not modified by present-day experiences. "Switzerland has given harbourage to many eminent persons who are intriguers against the peace, . . . Her attitude towards this phase of a complicated question is not perfectly clear. . . . The irony of the whole business is that Switzerland, ostensibly the home of pacific intentions, is at the same time the breeding place of international strife."

All's well that ends well, and Emperor Karl has probably ceased to be a reality and has entered the domain of legend invested with that halo of romance which is such a necessary adjunct to every Pretender. Posterity records our misfortunes in a more charitable spirit; this note is struck—like a voice crying in the wilderness—in the concluding sentence of the leading article on this subject in the *Daily Express* (Oct. 25th), when the writer says: "Karl is down, but Englishmen will certainly not be disposed to kick him. Rather will they be inclined in their heart of hearts to think better of him for having made a bold attempt to win back a portion at least of the great heritage which his ancestors created and held for so long."

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Philatelists will find interesting particulars in a contribution to *The Times* (Oct. 24th) about new stamp series in course of issue all over the world; the correspondent also mentions the "Pro Juventute 1921" stamps which will be issued by the Swiss Post Office this coming Christmas-tide.

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The strong movement in Switzerland in favour of the abolition of the visa on passports is finding a sympathetic echo in most of the English papers; until the desired change is brought about we may find some consolation in the fact that the penalty imposed on Americans entering the United Kingdom is a fee equivalent to ten dollars.

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The Birmingham Post (Oct. 27th) gives a minute description of the burial ground offered by the Municipality of Vevey (see "S.O." 22nd Oct.) stating that "no more suitable spot for the burial of our seventy-two soldiers could have been selected in Switzerland than this old, lakeshore town, than which few Swiss places have more or closer links with England."

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"Light and Cold—A Swiss Lesson" is the title of a series of articles in *The Medical Press* (Oct. 19 and 26) by Dr. C. W. Saleeby, who has spent several weeks lately on the Lake of Geneva. He visited Leysin, "the most wonderful thing in Switzerland" from a medical point of view and saw the "most beautiful and seeming-miraculous and simple and mysterious thing he has ever seen in his life."