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NOTES & GLEANINGS.

All the great English dailies have published gratifying comments on the recent Report and Balance Sheet of the Swiss Bank Corporation, some of them recording the history and development of this concern since its foundation fifty years ago.

Dr. W. Waldvogel's book on Anglo-Swiss relations has also received complimentary references, the most comprehensive review being given by *The Financial Times* (March 17th).

* * *

The following figures, compiled by the *Schweizerische Arbeitgeberzeitung*, have recently been published and compare the railway freight rates in Switzerland with those of France, Belgium, Italy and Germany; the table gives the rates for the transport of one ton in each case:—

	Switzerland Cent.	France Cent.	Belgium Cent. (for 100 kilometres)	Italy Cent.	Germany Cent.
Wheat	24	10.2	8	5.7	5.6
Raw cotton... ..	24	12	10.2	8.9	7.2
Coal	15.8	6.2	4.8	5.9	2.3
Pig-iron	16	6.2	4.8	5.9	2.3
Merchandise in cases	49	21	34.4 (for 300 kilometres)	19.9	11.6
Wheat	13.6	6	3.6	4.2	4.7
Raw cotton... ..	16.7	9.7	5.3	6.4	6.2
Coal	10.7	3.9	2.9	7.2	1.7
Pig-iron	10.7	4.6	2.9	9.2	1.7
Merchandise in cases	34.7	18.1	20.8	16.1	10

It will be seen that the rates for freight in Switzerland are two to three times higher than those in France, Belgium and Italy, and four to six times higher than those in Germany.

* * *

The Times Literary Supplement (March 16th) reviews Karl Stamm's "Dichtungen" as follows:—

"These two volumes contain the collected works of a Swiss poet, who was carried off by the influenza epidemic of the winter of 1918-1919. He was twenty-nine when he died, but earlier promise had already been fulfilled in him, as certain of these poems will show. That he would have advanced beyond them is also unquestionable; but there is enough here for anyone to see that a truly poetical mind was at work, a remarkably sensitive soul with an anxiety to reveal its sorrows, its longings, and its ecstasies simply and clearly, with no forced enthusiasm or pathos. Volume I. contains Stamm's poetry—considerably superior in every way to the prose pieces printed in the second volume. The two chief poems are sequences of lyrics, mostly in sonnet form, entitled respectively 'Das Hohe-lied' and 'Der Aufbruch des Herzens.' If the critic were looking for a convenient description of Stamm's poetry, he would name it the 'poetry of inwardness.' The poet, it is true, looks at the fields, the mountains, nature generally; but these are to him but a curtain behind which is the reality. For such a comparatively young man, imaginative power kept surprisingly equal pace with intellectual and spiritual apprehension. Karl Stamm's death, we cannot but think, robbed Swiss literature—for a national, not nationalist, Swiss element is unmistakable—and contemporary German poetical literature generally of one of its most promising exponents."

AUSLANDSCHWEIZER-TAG.

The full programme of this year's session, which takes place on 24th April in the exhibition building of the Basle Fair, is now issued. Apart from the multifarious discussions, which to us have always appeared as one of the features and chief attractions, the following three lectures have been arranged, viz.:—

"Der rechtliche Schutz der Auslandschweizer"

by Dr. Carl Ludwig;

"La Société des Nations et les Suisses à l'étranger"

by Dr. Ernest Bovet;

"Erinnerungen aus Schweizerkolonien"

by Redaktor Ernst Schürch.

The lighter side includes entertainments offered by a

double quartette of the Basler Liedertafel, another by the Jodler section of the Bürgerturnverein, a film exhibition of Swiss mountain views, etc.

At last year's gathering the English contingent was poorly represented as far as numbers were concerned, and it is hoped that the improved travelling facilities will secure from the English colony a large representation at this congress which is destined to become an important factor in our relations with the home country. We cannot do better than publish a letter which we have received from our old friend, Mr. Henri Stucki, who is the moving spirit of the organizing committee, and we shall be very pleased to carry out the suggestion and arrange for a special party train if sufficient applications are received by us in good time:—

To the Editor "The Swiss Observer."

Cher Monsieur, — L'année dernière, au printemps, à l'occasion de notre 4e Journée, M. Stauffer et vous m'avez promis un train spécial de Londres, en passant par Paris, pour la prochaine Journée consacrée aux Suisses du dehors. J'en ai pris acte; il était 11½ h. du soir au Braunen Mutz.

J'espère que Londres, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow (y compris M. Oswald) diront: "Présent" le 24 avril 1922.

Vous trouverez le Programme de la Journée sous se pli. Nous n'avons manqué aucun effort pour la parfaite réussite de cette Journée.

Nous discuterons très sérieusement, le matin surtout. Il y a des questions à liquider. Nos autorités seront représentées.

L'après-midi sera consacrée à des questions plus générales, très intéressantes. M.M. Bovet et Schürch parleront.

Et le soir, ce sera mieux que l'année dernière. La Liedertafel nous chantera notre Hymne National et l'Hymne de Suter; nous entendrons des œuvres de Hans Huber, et nos Jodlers et notre Olympia bâloise (Morgen- und Zapfenstreich), mais ces derniers après 11h. — L'Office Suisse du Tourisme nous donnera les meilleures vues cinématographiques des nos montagnes.

Mais, nous n'oublierons pas l'intimité. Nous causerons, nous discuterons, en famille. — Nous chanterons, comme du temps de Londres, du Swiss Institute.

Nous comptons, cette année plus que jamais, sur notre Colonie de Londres, modèle d'unité et d'action féconde.

Oublions les déresses de l'heure; Regardons vers l'avenir. Bataillon de Londres: Les Suisses t'appellent!

Bons souvenirs à tous mes amis de cette bonne, vieille Angleterre.

Bâle, le 16 mars 1922.

HENRI STUCKI.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The *Anglo-Swiss Review* for March contains a verbatim report of the proceedings at the annual meeting of the British Chamber of Commerce for Switzerland which was held in Berne on February 11th, the British Minister, the Hon. Theo. Russell, C.B., C.V.O., being in the chair. — The eternal question of the freedom of the Rhine is thoroughly thrashed out in several articles, and it is hoped that the English Board of Trade may be able to influence the Foreign Office, which appears to reveal a regrettable misapprehension of the situation. — An essay by Dr. A. Latt deals with British influence during the time of the Sonderbund war and lifts the curtain on the diplomatic game played by representatives of other powers. — The editor of the *Review*, Mr. Charles L. Freeston, describes in fascinating language a motor tour which he has recently undertaken in his Rolls-Royce over the "Two St. Bernards." — "Ski-ing in the High Alps" by Prof. F. F. Roget will strongly appeal to every follower of the king of alpine sports.

Schweizer Mustermesse, Basle. — The second number of the official bulletin enlarges on the utility of the Basle Fair. Other articles deal with the pottery industry in Berneck and the industrial film which, the writer anticipates, will before long constitute a necessary adjunct to the organization of every large manufacturing concern.