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The Conquest of the Matterhorn.

This tragic feat is now to be exploited by the film industry; while we all admire the wonderful achievements of the film studio we cannot help feeling that this can only be a ludicrous representation of the great epic. The necessary spectacular elements were without a doubt absent in the first successful ascent, but the modern picture producer hesitates at nothing and could no doubt stage the scene of the temptation of man much better than it was enacted in Paradise. The following is reproduced from *Discovery* (January):—

"The story of the first climbing of the Matterhorn has now been recorded in a cinema film shortly to be released in Switzerland. In the Zermatt Museum can be seen a small portion of rope which recalls the tragedy of this first conquest by Edward Whymper. The great British Alpinist's name holds deep significance in the Swiss Mountains, where his memory is kept ever green by the splendid guides who have now reconstructed the story for the film.

Until 1865 the majestic Matterhorn had defied all climbers. But in that year, urged on by the knowledge that a well organised attempt was to be made by the Italian Government, Whymper attacked the climb, without special preparation, and succeeded. The victory was hailed as an event of international interest. Whymper had set himself the task of mastering the mountain as his life's objective. On his first attempt he had a bad fall, and was only saved from death by the chance intervention of a big boulder which held him from falling over the edge of a terrible ravine. Later, when back in London and recovered from the mishap, he learned that under the guidance of an expert Alpinist an expedition was preparing to attack Matterhorn from the Italian side. Whymper left immediately for Zermatt.

Under the leadership of Jean Antoine Carrel several Alpinists started from the Val Tournanche, on the Italian side, hoping to gain the laurels for the first ascent of the great peak. A day later Whymper, in all haste, set out with three English tourists, and three Swiss guides named Gross and the Taugwalders, senior and junior. After a tremendous climb with many a bad moment, Whymper and his party were successful. The Italians were beaten and retired to Breuil.

But success was not achieved without loss. The mountain claimed its toll. Owing to the breaking of the rope the three English tourists and the guide Gross were hurled into an immeasurable abyss to their death. The shock completely unmanned the two Taugwalders. Whymper wildly endeavoured to move them and start the descent, but they were numbed with terror. At last he had to drive them down with his ice-axe. It was a terrifying experience, but eventually, held fast by the rope round the indomitable Whymper, they succeeded in reaching safety. The dramatic character of the story is well brought out in the new photographs."

Davos and the Treatment of Consumption.

It is generally believed that the treatment of pulmonary tuberculosis at Davos is based on contributive local climatic conditions, but surgery enters into practice in most of the cases. Several successful cures have recently been described in detail in *The British Medical Journal*, and the following case is picked out from a few referred to on January 10th:—

"A man, aged 33, was admitted in October, 1927, suffering from very extensive disease in the left lung. The patient obviously had long-standing disease, and had been in bed already for nearly a year before admission here. He was very ill, thin, with a considerable amount of sputum and cough, and thoroughly toxicæmic. X-ray examination showed the left lung to be practically opaque, although signs of cavitation could just be detected in the upper lobe. The temperature range was very consistent, always about 100 to 101 deg. F. each evening. Artificial pneumothorax had been attempted in England, but had failed owing to the presence of strong adhesions. It was attempted again here by me, with the same result. The condition of the right lung, although the apex was slightly affected, was very good. As the patient was obviously going downhill, a consultation was called with a view to the advisability of surgical intervention. A plastic operation was decided upon, and on November 4th an extrapleural thoracoplasty was performed in one sitting, under local anaesthesia, parts of every rib being removed.

The patient stood this very severe operation remarkably well, and six weeks after was able to get up and lead a quiet, ordinary life, for the first time for over a year. His condition after four months (March, 1928) was extremely good; he had gained two kilos in weight, and the sputum had almost ceased, what there was being tubercle negative. The temperature range was never higher than 99.2 deg. F. (rectal) at night, and all symptoms of activity had disappeared. The patient returned to England, for urgent reasons, during the summer, and followed his profession (solicitor) in London without any ill

effects at all. He returned to Davos in November, 1928, for the winter. His condition is now excellent; he weighs 86 kilograms, as against 73 a year ago. He has steadily improved since the operation."

A Shortage of Waiters.

This short notice is taken from the *Yorkshire Post* (Jan. 10th). It seems strange that prejudice and red tape should be allowed to interfere with the development and expansion of an industry hitherto neglected in this country.

"The complaint made by a Belfast hotel manager that there is a scarcity of waiters of the right type is hardly calculated to help the "Come to Britain" Movement which the new National Travel Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is being formed to encourage. But the complaint is true, and not only of Belfast and Northern Ireland, but of Britain generally. The causes of the shortage are partly national prejudice against waiting as a profession and partly the refusal of the Home Office to allow foreigners to accept salaried posts in this country, which has cut off the once plentiful supply of Italian, Swiss and French waiters.

The London County Council, it is true, has a small school for the training of British cooks and waiters, and in co-operation with the Hotels and Restaurants Association is considering a scheme to enlarge it. Facilities for exchange also exist by which young English and foreign waiters can acquire the languages which every *maitre d'hôtel* must have at his command. Better waiters in English hotels, waiters as efficient in fact as they are abroad, would certainly do something to attract foreign visitors, as the National Travel Association must be well aware. The Association, incidentally, should have held a meeting to-day (Jan. 10th) to discuss its constitution and appoint a director, but with several members abroad and one or two ill this meeting has been postponed until early next month."

The Klingnau Generating Station.

The exploitation of the latent water power in Switzerland offers in the first instance lucrative employment to the legal profession, for the prerogatives of the cantonal and local authorities are a matter of uncertainty and speculation and seem to be interpreted according to circumstances. An existing dispute is referred to in the *Electrical Review* (Jan. 4th) as follows:—

"The erection of the new hydro-electric station at Klingnau, in Argovie, has been the subject of much controversy, not only between the Swiss and the Confederation, but also between the Swiss themselves. The Canton of Argovie had taken up negotiations with a Westphalian electric company, whereby it was agreed that the latter should aid in the setting-up of the power station at the junction of the Aar and the Rhine. At first it was stipulated that the Germans should pay half the expenses of installing the plant, and that in return the Forcas Motrices of the Rhine and Westphalia should use all the current. But before the protests of other Argovians the authorities were forced to modify their plans, all the more because permission to export Swiss energy must be obtained from the Federal Council, and the Argovian State Council shrewdly suspected that the Government would refuse a permit under the form first conceived. A new arrangement was therefore proposed to the German company. The F.M.R.W. was only to supply 40 per cent. of the cash necessary to set up the works at Klingnau. Argovie would find 50 per cent., and a Swiss bank would furnish 10 per cent. Even this, however, did not altogether please, as it appeared that the bank in question was also lending the German company the capital necessary for its participation in the work, and that, once the latter was in full blast, the Westphalians were to have all the electric energy of Klingnau, for a period of forty years, at cost price! At this point the Federal Council intervened, recommending the Canton to try and find a more national solution of the problem. Meanwhile the Government had been approaching some of the big electric concerns in Switzerland to see if they could not collaborate and undertake the construction and operation of the Klingnau works. But even this arrangement raises difficulties because of the guarantees already given by the Argovian authorities to the Westphalian company. A second scheme has been brought forward whereby the latter would be allowed to join the united collaboration of certain Swiss concerns, but at a much reduced share in both construction and use of current."

PETITE REVUE DE L'ACTUALITÉ SUISSE

On est au Palais Fédéral fort annuyé de la menace que les communistes font actuellement planer. Ils prétendent organiser dans un avenir rapproché une grande manifestation antifasciste dans le Tessin.

Vous savez combien l'affaire Rossi, après d'autres de moindre importance, a rendu difficiles les rapports entre Berne et Rome. Ces derniers, malgré les apparences, le sont d'autant plus que l'é-

change des notes diplomatiques, qui suivirent l'élévation du trop célèbre député, est resté franchement à notre avantage, M. Motta ayant maintenu et victorieusement confirmé toutes ses déclarations.

La presse italienne, qui ne s'était tue qu'à contre-cœur et qui continuait à "manger du suisse" chaque fois qu'elle le pouvait, a sauté sur cette nouvelle source de querelles et l'exploite avec une joie hargneuse. Elle ne cherche pas à savoir si le gouvernement fédéral interdira, comme c'est certain, semblable manifestation. Elle parle au contraire comme si cette dernière avait présentement lieu. Et ses paroles agressives dépassant toute mesure de courtoisie, s'en vont jusqu'à mettre en cause le siège de la Société des Nations.

"Le Giornale d'Italia" croyant obtenir de cette façon tout ce qu'il voudra de notre petit pays, va jusqu'à dire que la Suisse est indigne de la grande institution internationale, que l'atmosphère qu'on y respire n'est point celle qui doit entourer d'aussi importantes conférences et laisse sous-entendre que si le siège de la Société des Nations n'est pas transféré en quelque autre lieu, l'Italie se verrait obligée de se retirer de ce Cénacle des Nations.

Que voilà un habile chantage! Je sais bien que le "Giornale d'Italia" parle pour son propre compte et que sa mauvaise humeur lui est personnelle. Mais n'oublions pas cependant qu'en Italie, la presse est soumise à de draconiques dispositions et que rien de ce qu'elle écrit n'échappe au gouvernement. Alors! que nous veut-on?

Le parti socialiste suisse mène chez nous une violente et méthodique campagne contre la Légion Etrangère. Il y eut durant l'année écoulée des cas regrettables et scandaleux. On n'a pas oublié l'aventure de ces deux jeunes bâlois, qui, malgré des interventions supérieures, ne purent que déplorer la tragique escapade à laquelle ils s'étaient livrés à la suite d'un trop rapide emportement.

Aujourd'hui, le Département de l'Instruction Publique du canton de Berne adresse à toutes ses écoles une circulaire qui stigmatise et attire l'attention des élèves comme des professeurs sur les terribles dangers d'un "enrôlement." Le Conseil fédéral lui-même aurait entrepris par l'intermédiaire de notre ministre à Paris d'attirer l'attention du gouvernement français sur certains faits regrettables dont la presse suisse a longuement parlé.

De son côté, le parti socialiste est décidé à intervenir auprès du parti socialiste français et à l'engager à une violente campagne contre la Légion Etrangère. Et pour renforcer leur démarche, les députés de ces partis interpellent successivement devant les grands Conseil des différents cantons.

Il faut que je vous dise deux mots des Fêtes du Rhône qui seront célébrées cet été avec un faste inaccoutumé à Genève. Vous savez qu'il existe une Union des Rhodaniens qui groupe les communes, les cantons et les Etats traversés par le grand fleuve depuis sa source jusqu'à son embouchure. Genève a revendiqué par l'organe de son Conseil d'Etat dès 1927 à Lyon l'organisation de ce troisième Congrès du Rhône.

Ce Corps auguste, dont la majorité est radicale, a accordé la présidence du comité d'organisation à un de ses membres malheureux, qui avait mordu la poussière aux récentes élections. Ce dernier reprenant l'antique adage latin "Panem et circenses" s'imagina qu'en offrant de grandioses spectacles de cirque à la populations genevoise, il reconquerrait auprès d'elle son prestige et parviendrait de ce fait à se rasseoir sur le siège qu'il regrette tant.

Malheureusement pour lui, il n'a pas joué assez franc jeu. Il s'en est tenu à une suite de petits comités, travaillant pour la plupart en huit-clos, et ses adversaires politiques n'ont pas manqué de lui porter un coup direct en prétendant qu'il tenait la population genevoise à l'écart de ses projets alors que son budget était tout près d'atteindre le demi-million. D'aucuns s'en vont même dire que les Fêtes du Rhône sont gravement compromises, presque à l'eau! et, malgré tout, elles ont lieu pour notre plus grand joie, le tremplin électoral que l'on avait dressé pour leur président paraît, lui, être parti... à la dérive!

Erik.

EIDGENÖSSISCHE GLOSSEN.

Erschütternde Tage und unerschütterte Männer.

Wenn wir uns mit dem Kino im Adtsweggen abgeben, so geschieht es nicht im produktiven Sinne. Statt schöpferisch zu sein, begnügen wir uns mit der Zensur. Und diese Zensur ist nicht etwa gegen das Gefährlichste in gewissen Filmen, gegen das Uebermass von Seichtheit, Lüge und Sentimentalität gerichtet (wie dankbar wäre man für eine derart eingestellte Zensur), sondern gegen jene hundert Meter, von denen man eine Schädigung unseres politischen Sinnes, ja vielleicht des inneren Gleichgewichtes unseres Staates befürchtet. Besonders wenn der Bolschewismus in Frage kommt. Das Problem tritt noch schärfer hervor, wenn es gerade das bolschewistische Russland ist, das die in künstlerischer Hinsicht besten Filme macht.

In Zürich ist der russische Film "Zehn Tage, die die Welt erschüttern" seinerzeit verboten worden. Nun hat man ihn von neuem geprüft und das Ergebnis heisst: Zulassung. Er wird also demnächst in einem Kino zur Aufführung gelangen (ohne Kürzungen, sagt die eine Zeitungsmeldung, mit 700 Metern Kürzung, sagt eine andere.) Darum