

Notes and gleanings

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Il s'agit d'un Italien, âgé de 25 ans, arrivé jeudi de Granges. Au cours de son interrogatoire, il a reconnu être venu à La Chaux-de-Fonds pour y commettre un mauvais coup.

EXAMENS FEDERAUX.

M. Henri Goldstein, professeur de chimie organique à l'Université de Lausanne, a été nommé membre de la commission des examens d'histoire naturelle pour les médecins, dentistes et vétérinaires, et membres de la

LIBERTE PROVISOIRE.

Charbonnet, l'ex-directeur du Crédit de Lausanne, a été remis en liberté provisoire jeudi après-midi, sous caution.

TUE PAR L'EXPRESS.

Le train Brigue-Lausanne, arrivant à Lausanne à 19h. 45, a atteint et tué, jeudi soir, près de Villette, M. Pache père, vigneron, de Montagny, 55 ans, qui traversait la voie à un passage à niveau.

LIGNES OUVERTES.

La date d'ouverture du chemin de fer Zermatt-Gornergrat a été fixée au 1er juin. D'autre part, grâce à la clémence de la température de ces derniers jours, il a été possible de pousser très avant les travaux de déblaiement de la voie de la ligne Furka-Oberalp, de sorte que l'ouverture complète Brigue-Gletsch-Andermatt-Disentis pourra avoir lieu le 3 juin prochain.

M. MUSY A BEX.

Quittant la clinique Victoria, à Berne, où il a subi l'opération de l'appendicite, M. Jean Musy, conseiller fédéral, et Mme Musy sont arrivés mercredi soir au Grand-Hôtel des Salines et du Golf à Bex-les-Bains, où ils avaient retenu un appartement.

DANS NOTRE INDUSTRIE AUTOMOBILE.

Il se confirme que les deux importantes fabrications suisses de camions, les maisons Saurer et Berna, vont conclure un accord qui leur permettra de travailler de concert et de lutter contre la concurrence étrangère. Il n'y aura pas fusion ni absorption de la fabrique Berna par Saurer, mais collaboration seulement et les deux organismes continueront à exister séparément.

Ce sont les exigences des méthodes de travail moderne et de rationalisation surtout qui ont rapproché Berna et Saurer.

AU CONGRES HOTELIER DE ROME.

Le Dr. Hermann Seiler, de Zermatt, président de la Société suisse des hôteliers, a été élu sur la proposition de la Suisse, président du congrès de l'Alliance internationale de l'hôtellerie, qui a lieu actuellement à Rome.

TRAFIC AERIEN.

L'ouverture des lignes aériennes Lausanne-Berne-Zürich (exploitées par Ad Astra), et Berne-Bienne-Bâle (trois fois par semaine, exploitées par Alpar, société de la place d'aviation de Berne) a été fixée au 10 juin 1929. L'ouverture officielle à l'exploitation de l'aéro-port de Berne aura lieu probablement le 6 ou le 7 juillet.

POUR ENTRER A CUBA.

D'après une communication du consulat suisse à la Havane qui vient de parvenir à l'Office fédéral de l'émigration, Cuba, a édicté, par suite des conditions de travail dans le pays, de nouvelles prescriptions sur l'immigration. Celles-ci interdisent l'immigration à tout étranger ne pouvant présenter une garantie écrite de deux maisons solvables y établies assurant qu'il sera reçu. Les recommandations de consulats ne sont plus admises comme déclarations dans ce sens.

POSTES ALPESTRES.

Dès le 1er juin, le service automobile postal sera repris sur les routes du Grimsel entre Meiringen et Handegg et du Simplon entre Brigue et Iselle. Une réduction de taxe de 25 p.c. est accordée jusqu'au fin juin.

NOTES AND GLEANINGS.

By KIBURG.

Alpine Bathing Beaches.

The sweltering existence we have been enjoying of late has not only produced deep and heartfelt thirst, which made the watching of the watering of the 13th green a tantalising affair and which made one's shots too much in an effort to reach the 19th in good time—it has also turned our thoughts towards those lovely "Strandbaeder" on the shores of our Swiss lakes. Anyhow, it produced, strange to relate, sufficient energy in a friend of mine, with whom I hope to frolic about on one of those beaches by and by, to write to that particular hotel and make sure of our rooms.

And we two are not the only ones who think longingly of the delights of those little paddle boats, the limpid water, the "Eggl" and other charming creatures we hope to catch, the refreshing breezes from the higher Alps and the even more refreshing waters with a flavour of hops and the bottled sunshine we hope to enjoy of an evening. I find that some lads in Lancashire have tasted of those delights as well, as witness the following from the *Lancashire Daily Post* (17th May):—

Switzerland, the most "inland" country of Europe, is becoming a vast bathing resort. Few people in England will be able to visualise Switzerland in this light yet. And indeed, it is only within the last two years that Switzerland herself has realised her possibilities in this direction. But now, suddenly awakened to the large number of ideal bathing spots on the shores of her lakes, Switzerland is constructing places with up-to-date bathing equipment in a hundred hitherto neglected centres.

At Montreux, on the shores of the Lake of Geneva, one of the finest bathing places in Europe has been built. There are artificial islands a comfortable swimming distance from the shore. One can career down a water toboggan into the cool green waters of the lake. The sandy plage is dotted with gaily painted huts. In the magnificent glazed-in pavilion facing the Savoy Alps an orchestra plays for dancing, and meals can be obtained at any time.

At Villars, high among the mountains, huge artificial bathing pools have been made. At Locarno the sandy delta of the Maggia is being converted into a plage where the sun beats down more brilliantly, and very much more invigoratingly, than at the famous Florida resorts.

Fortunately, our Lancastrian friend does not mention the particular dreamy little spot we have in mind! Our beach is too lovely to be advertised just yet, although, even last year, signs were not wanting to show that we might enjoy our own idea of earthly paradise for a few summers only, ere the streams of international tourism got hold of it. (Estavayer, perhaps?—Ed.).

Swiss Guides

I am glad that Mr. G. S. Hutchinson, a member of the Swiss Alpine Club, has written the following letter, published in the *Observer* on 19th May:

The report from your correspondent concerning the Matterhorn fatal accident to a young German last year, and the subsequent sentence of six months' imprisonment upon a "guide" for negligence, might give the impression to the uninformed that the convicted person was a Swiss guide.

I was climbing in the Zermatt district at the time of the accident, and am familiar with all the details. The fact is that this person was in no sense of the term an Alpine guide. Every climber knows that, even for the most skilled, an attempt to scale the Matterhorn without ropes and proper equipment would be a monstrous risk to life. When it is realised that this person was in charge of a party of boys the criminal negligence of his act can be understood. No Swiss guide could even have contemplated so foolhardy an enterprise. They are obliged to pass strict tests before they are permitted to act as guides, and these have entailed apprenticeship without remuneration, or for very small pay as porters.

It is not on record that any Swiss guide has ever been found guilty of negligence, and the corps of guides which has developed during the last half-century, largely under the tutelage of and in the companionship of the pioneer British climbers, guards its badge and prestige with the utmost jealousy.

We all know how absolutely reliable and trustworthy our Swiss Guides are and how utterly we can and do rely on their skill and strength and experience.

The aeroplane, that droning monster-bird which we all dreaded so much during those anxious days of the Great War, can also be pressed into the service of suffering humanity, as is shown by the following, from the *Daily News* (17th May):

Dash Home by Air Ambulance.

A British air liner was converted into an ambulance yesterday to carry an invalid woman from Switzerland to London. The patient was accompanied by her husband, a nurse and a London doctor. They flew from Zurich to London in 6½ hours, and completed the journey to Bath by motor ambulance.

Even more diversified use of this modern means of annihilating space will be made according to *Flight* of 16th May:

Berne and Air Traffic

On June 3rd next, Berne will find itself connected with the many-branched system of international air-traffic. The new air-port is situated at a distance of 3¾ km. from the centre of the city, and may be rightly considered as occupying a position which as regards beauty is second to none in Europe. The geographical location of the Swiss Federal city has long made it famous as the natural gate of the beautiful Bernese Oberland, and this attraction will be still further enhanced by means of the new traffic possibilities, which will unite it more closely with its Hinterland, especially as it will be possible to reach the Bernese Alps by air in little over half-an-hour, and to enjoy a grand flight over the Alps, from which an impression will be gained of transcendent beauty.

Moreover, the Berne air port will prove of incalculable benefit not only to the citizens of Berne themselves, but also to the numerous visitors who flock to the picturesque old city each year, and who will be able in the future to fly straight from Berne to the great centres: Paris, London, Brussels, Amsterdam, Berlin, Munich, Vienna, Budapest, etc. Another advantage lies in the fact that all those who are interested in flying as a sport may become proficient pilots at the Bernese School of Flying. With the opening of the new International Tourist air-line Lake Lemman-Tyrol-Vienna, via Berne, lovers of nature and of the Alps will have delightful flights from Berne itself.

Finally, I like you to enjoy the following pretty description by Mr. Scholes, in the *Daily Express* (1st May), of

A Different Sort of Spring.

Five months of snow, snow almost continuously on the ground, so that at 2,000 feet above sea level we who had leisure could put our skis on in the house and, stepping out, dash straight away down the mountain side.

Then, after ten or fourteen days of timid hesitancy, spring came complete—the spring of flowers. Wild crocuses were everywhere, primroses and cowslips, violets, purple and white, hepatica, gentian, celandine.

And with the flowers came the butterflies, tortoiseshells, sometimes in groups of four or five waling in the air, and the sun, brilliant and hot, blazing on youth in the vineyards, hoe in hand, stripped to the waist.

Then suddenly—winter is here again! The butterflies go back to bed; the flowers are covered with a counterpane of snow; the work in the vineyards is at an end.

What strange pranks Nature plays, and how she fools man and beast and bird. It almost seems as though the seasons have gone clean awry; as though our week or ten days of green fields represents the whole of this year's spring.

Three days ago the birds were pairing. In the tree outside my window seven bullfinches sat all the morning. We had no bullfinches for months. Three sorts of tits, chaffinches, jays, a little friendly band of three crows (always the same three), a one-legged sparrow—these and other birds have waited on us for daily alms of seed and crumbs and cocoanut. But bullfinches. No!

Yet there they were three days ago, seven of them, four scarlet-breasted males and three modest grey-clad females, sitting the whole morning, almost without motion, in one tree. What were they up to? Was it a deliberation on the unequal distribution of the sexes and the knotty arithmetical problems it poses for solution by tiny bird brains?

But the snow has wiped that problem off the blackboard and the bullfinches are gone. Five months without them, one day with them, and then all over! Perhaps they, too, think that spring, summer and autumn have for once been telescoped, and that 1929 is to be a year uncheered by infant chirps. And then people talk of Mother Nature...a kindly mother, to be sure!

We human beings are just as puzzled. Last Sunday the café above us held a much-advertised open-air dance. But from Tuesday onwards all the advertisement of the district is of warm soup.

Here, as everybody knows, each healthy female child is born with a little wooden ladle in its right hand, that grows as it grows, and in its head a thousand instinctive recipes that enable it, when it marries, to give its husband a different soup for every day of the year.

A day or two more, however, and we shall wake again. The fields will be green once more—with the promise of soon being white again, but this time with their annual carpet of wild narcissus.

(Mr. Scholes is the well-known music critic and writer. His talks from 2 LO were for a long time a popular feature of the B.B.C. programmes.)

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