

A year at boarding-school in Switzerland

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SWITZERLAND'S MOTOR VEHICLES.

Switzerland has 66,310 motor-cars, 1,273 motor-coaches, 18,258 lorries, 2,176 tractors, and 31,434 motor-cycles, making a total of 119,451 motor-vehicles.

LOCAL.

ZURICH.

Six notorious communists, all of foreign extraction have been arrested in Zurich, they will be charged for conspiracy against the security of the state.

LUCERNE.

Dr. Florin Decurtins-Baumann, from Herisau, has been elected head of the "Heil und Pflegeanstalt St. Urban."

BERNE.

The cantonal government has suspended M. Dällenbach, administrator of the Asylum "Waldau" from his function, the investigation has not yet been completed.

FRIBOURG.

Professor Jakob Benninger, a prominent teacher at the "Landwirtschaftlichen Schule" at Grange-Neuve has died at the age of 45. M. Benninger was for many years Editor of the "Freiburger Bauer."

GENEVA.

M. J. Bouvard from Rumilly, a cheese merchant was robbed in Geneva of over 5,000frs.

A YEAR AT BOARDING-SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND.

("La Roseraie" s/Coppet — Lac Léman.)

Accompanied by my father I arrived at Coppet on September 1st, 1932. I was not at all pleased at the prospect of being left there alone, where I knew nobody. However, my father was obliged to leave again and I was now to start upon one of the happiest years of my life, although I was quite unaware of the fact, at the time. After a few days I felt quite at home at "La Roseraie;" Madame, the mistresses and the girls were all very nice to me and helped me as much as possible. I soon began to understand and to speak a little French, and each day I felt I made progress. I slept in a lovely little room, overlooking the lake of Geneva, framed by the Mont Blanc and the Dents du Midi in the distance. "La Roseraie" is a Household School (Ecole Menagère) and the Directrice is Mme. Dr. C. Rittmeyer-Pailler; the time-table includes lessons in cooking, washing, cleaning, ironing, mending and sewing. The girls have to do all the work of the house themselves, but the rough work is done by two maids. We used to work in three groups, cooking, sewing and gardening, changing round every week. Three times a week we had our French lessons with an excellent mistress; one can also take German, Music and Gym. The sewing lessons are also very good indeed and the mistress is extremely patient. Every fortnight we did our own washing and ironing and every Saturday we cleaned our bedrooms and the other rooms thoroughly. Let me hasten to add that "La Roseraie" is not all work and no play and I should like to add something about our many and lovely outings, excursions and games.

During the first week of my stay we went to the Château de Bon Mont in the Jura, where we picniced and made tea. About the middle of September we visited the Comptoir Suisse at Lausanne. During the winter months we took season tickets for Concerts and the Theatre at Geneva; these performances we visited about every two to three weeks. In October we assisted the peasant of the adjoining farm to pick the grapes, which grow very abundantly round here. According to an old custom the girl who leaves a grape on the vine has to receive a kiss from one of the young peasants. This always caused great amusement and, needless to say, almost everyone managed to get "punished" in this fashion. The weeks, until Xmas approached, soon flew by and a few days before the festive days we lighted a lovely big Xmas tree and everybody received a present from Madame. The next day we left for home, to spend a fortnight with our parents.

Soon after our return to "La Roseraie," we started on our winter sports at Les Diablerets s/Aigle, in the Rhone valley. We spent 18 days up there, in a beautiful new Chalet, which Madame hired for us and, during our stay there, did all the work ourselves; thus putting into practice all that we had learnt during the previous six months. Every day we went skiing and skating, while two girls stayed behind, to see to the kitchen and prepare the meals.

The time up in the mountains simply flew and, if we returned to the low land with many regrets, it was also a fact that we were the richer for many beautiful souvenirs.

Back at "La Roseraie" we were pleased to take up the old routine again and by the time spring came along, we had to say good-bye to four of the girls from our happy little crowd.

We accompanied them to Geneva and then we went from there for an excursion into Haute Savoie, on the French side of Lake Geneva. The plains were covered with all sorts of spring flowers: daffodils, violets, gentians, soldanellas and primroses. We started mounting and after several hours arrived in the region of eternal snow. On the last lap and during about one hour we often sank into the snow up to our thighs, but eventually we reached the Châlet where we were to spend the night. The view from there was wonderful, all around us snow-capped mountains and right opposite us the massive of Mont Blanc. It was just Easter time and, on descending, we reached Geneva on Easter Saturday. We slept well that night in our good beds and next morning celebrated Easter at Geneva. After dinner we returned to "La Roseraie," where we had to seek for coloured Easter-eggs, which Madame had hidden for us all over the large garden.

During the week following the new girls arrived and so the house became full again. Our next excursion was to Les Pleiades s/Montreux, where we saw, for the first time, the marvellous snow-white fields of narcissi, with just here and there, a touch of gold from the shining globe flowers. We all picked heaps of these lovely, starlike messengers of spring and sent them, in special boxes, to our parents and friends.

In July we returned to Les Diablerets just for a week-end and were delighted to meet again our various friends we made up there the previous winter. On another cloudless day we travelled round the lake by steamer and also visited the impressive Château de Chillon. Yet another time we crossed to Excenvex, on the Savoyan shore of the lake, where there is a fine, sandy beach. We stayed there all day and could bathe to our heart's content.

Some time later another excursion took us to visit the chocolate factory Peter-Köhler-Cailler-Nestlé at Broc, where, on leaving, we were all presented with a cake of their product. Afterwards, we proceeded to Gruyères, where we visited the wonderful old castle. Then we drove over the Juan Pass into the German-speaking part of Switzerland (Simmmenthal) and eventually mounted the Col du Pillon, descending to Diablerets, where we had tea. Then down to Aigle and along the borders of the lake back to "La Roseraie," where we arrived very sleepily, but happy over the lovely day's events. About the middle of August my father came to visit me and we passed a very happy time together. On the last Sunday I spent at this school two of my friends and I were confirmed in the lovely little chapel at Chavannes. Each one of us had some of our near relatives present for the great and solemn occasion. It was a befitting conclusion to my happy stay at "La Roseraie."

The following week we were all busy cleaning and packing and on October 14th I left for England, with the English mistress as my travelling companion. After a day at Paris, with old friends of my parents, we reached dear old London safe and sound.

These lines are being written at "La Roseraie" for, at the moment, I am here on holidays and happy to renew all my old friendships with dear Madame, my teachers, the lovely garden and the dear old house itself.

I am sorry to find that, owing to the crisis, Mme. Rittmeyer has only 10 pupils this summer. She tells me that she will gladly give special terms to girls from England, in view of the adverse rate of exchange. If these lines should reach the eyes of parents who would like to send a daughter to Switzerland, to learn French and all household duties, might I ask them to remember "La Roseraie?" As one of the many who has been here and has been happy, I can almost guarantee that any young girl would love it and spend her time profitably, too. The S.O. will be pleased to put you into touch with people in a position to furnish personal references and prospectus.

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ECHOS DU 1er AOUT.

L'anniversaire de la fondation de la Confédération a été célébré dans toute la Suisse avec un ferveur et un enthousiasme particuliers. Un souffle de sain, d'ardent patriotisme a passé sur le pays, du Rhône au Rhin, des Alpes au Jura, faisant vibrer à l'unisson les cœurs de tous ceux — et ils sont encore, Dieu merci, la très grande majorité — qui en dépit de la malice des temps, comme disaient nos pères, de la crise économique aiguë, de l'incertain lendemain, ont gardé jalousement le culte de leur petite patrie qu'ils sont fermement résolus à défendre contre tout ennemi, extérieur ou intérieur.

Aucun incident grave n'a troublé la solennité de cette belle soirée du 1er août sur laquelle planait aussi l'ombre — douloureuse celle-là — du 1er août 1914, date que partout également, dans nos villes comme dans nos campagnes, on a commémoré en rendant un pieux hommage à nos soldats morts au service de la patrie, et en exaltant l'armée, rempart de notre indépendance et de nos libertés.

Certes, et nous nous en voudrions de le dissimuler, il y a bien eu çà et là quelques taches au tableau, et singulièrement à Genève où les conjonctures politiques sont malheureusement telles qu'elles ont empêché que se réalisât, sous le signe de l'amour du sol natal et de la fraternité entre concitoyens, cette union, symbole de la force, qui, seule, peut sortir notre petite république du pétrin où elle s'englué chaque jour davantage. Oh est le Nicolas de Flue qui jouira d'un prestige suffisant pour pacifier les esprits échauffés et faire en sorte qu'en un futur 1er août, les deux cortèges qui se tournaient le dos, crainte de s'affronter, s'amalgament pour communier d'un même esprit et d'un même cœur, sur l'autel de la patrie?

Citoyens d'un pays libre, où la vie, quelque difficile qu'elle soit pour un grand nombre, un trop grand nombre, est cependant moins dure et moins amère qu'en beaucoup d'autres lieux — il n'est que de jeter un coup d'œil par delà nos frontières pour s'en convaincre — nous ne pourrions conserver cette liberté acquise par nos ancêtres au prix de tant de difficultés qu'en serrant les rangs, en nous groupant autour du drapeau à la croix blanche, le seul qui symbolise, et avec quel éclat, notre idéal de paix et de bonne volonté envers les hommes.

Tâchons à oublier ce qui nous divise; cherchons sincèrement à nous rapprocher les uns des autres. Tel a été, en bref, le leit motiv des discours prononcés le 1er août aux quatre coins de la Suisse. Comme l'a si bien dit, avec toute l'autorité que lui confère sa haute fonction, le président de la Confédération: "Rejetons les germes de découragement, de division et de haine que d'aucuns tentent de semer parmi nous. LIONS en un faisceau solide les forces dont nous disposons. Gardons confiance..."

Car nous ignorons quelles épreuves douloureuses un avenir peut-être prochain nous réserve. Le ciel international est chargé de lourds nuages. Une étincelle suffirait à faire éclater la foudre. Chacun le sent, plus ou moins consciemment. Et c'est aussi pourquoi la fête de la semaine dernière a revêtu un tel caractère de solennité. Malgré tout, elle a marqué un réveil réjouissant du sentiment patriotique dont l'engourdissement apparent n'était que de surface, et c'est pourquoi nous gardons quand même confiance, comme nous y a exhorté M. Pilet-Golaz, confiance dans l'esprit de civisme et de dévouement du peuple suisse, confiance dans les destinées de notre chère Suisse.

Edgar Junod.

UNION HELVETIA

1st of August Celebration.

This function took place as usual, with an attendance of about 250 compatriots. We were honoured by the presence of Messrs. Schneider and Pernet from the Swiss Legation. Our President, Mr. A. Indermaur, was in charge of the evening and introduced the well-known Terry Cabaret. No patriotic speeches were made, but the gathering was outstanding in its joviality, everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, helped by the excellent entertainment.

The Hall was suitably decorated, the background being decorated by a specially devised Swiss cross with electric lamps giving a very lively and unusually attractive effect. Hanging flower baskets and flowers on the tables all in red and white decorated the Hall, as well as the flags of the 22 cantons.

It was regretted, that a good many of our old friends and supporters, were away, either on Holiday or on business, as for the most part the assembly consisted of the younger generation and a number of students.

The evening concluded with the usual onion soup, a good many expressing their appreciation of a pleasant evening spent.

J.J.K.