

# William Martin †

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## A CASE OF CONFISCATION.

Resolutions passed at a recent meeting at Basle of the shareholders of the Basle Trading Co., Ltd., a Swiss incorporation, protest vigorously but justly against the conduct of the Government of India in connection with the unwarrantable confiscation of the company's properties in that country. The affair is part of a scandal which was fully exposed in these columns some years ago, but it is necessary to explain again very briefly how it arose. Founded in the middle of last century in close association with the Société Evangélique des Missions de Bâle, the trading company for a long period before the War carried on extensive operations on the Gold Coast and in India, the shareholders receiving a modest return of five per cent. on their capital and surplus profits being devoted to the industrial training and social welfare of the native populations. The excellence of its work has never been questioned; in the Gold Coast it did much to promote the remarkably successful native cocoa-growing industry. After the outbreak of War, however, complaints were made that the company had a number of German employees, and on that ground, though its directors complied with all the requirements of the British Colonial Office and the Indian Government, it was treated as an enemy organisation. Both in India and on the Gold Coast, the company's properties — valued at no less than £1,500,000 — were sequestrated and eventually handed over in 1919 to the Commonwealth Trust, a company formed for the purpose, with the approval of the British Government, to continue the business on philanthropy and 5-per-cent. lines.

Sir John Simon, Mr. Maugham (now Mr. Justice Maugham) and other eminent lawyers gave a very emphatic joint opinion that this confiscation of property belonging to nationals of a neutral country, Switzerland, was entirely contrary to the principles of international law. In their opinion, even if there had been enemy control — which was denied — expropriation of neutral ownership could not be justified. The French Government recognised this by restoring to the Swiss company in 1921 properties which had been similarly seized in the former German Cameroons. The British Government was more reluctant to acknowledge its error, but in 1928, as the outcome of discussions in which "Truth"

took some part, the wrong that had been done was remedied so far as the Gold Coast was concerned. The properties in that Colony were restored to the Swiss company and its claim to compensation was settled by a payment of £250,000.

In making the Gold Coast settlement, the Colonial Secretary frankly admitted that the British Government had been advised by the Law Officers that it would be impossible to justify in an action or arbitration this war-time confiscation of the properties of citizens of a neutral State. The case of the company's Indian properties was — as Sir John Simon and other authorities advised — on precisely the same footing. But the Indian Government is less responsive to the demands of honour and justice. As was explained in the debate which Viscount Templeton initiated in the House of Lords last November, the Indian Government, after protracted negotiations, could only be brought to the point of offering to deal with the question on conditions which were manifestly inequitable. One condition was that the Swiss company should accept the return of its Indian business as a going concern in full satisfaction of all claims — this, after a lapse of fourteen years, without any adequate assurances as to the value of the assets or the extent of the liabilities to be so accepted! Another condition was that the company should bind itself as to the expenditure in India on missionary and philanthropic purposes of all profits above a small fixed percentage. The company was prepared to make a voluntary declaration that it would follow its established practice in that respect, but it declined to go beyond that. Some months ago the Government sent the company an ultimatum to the effect that, unless its offer was accepted *in toto* by December 31, 1933, it would be withdrawn. Under this threat it was accepted provisionally by the directors, but the meeting of shareholders at Basle refused to agree, claiming that they are entitled to the return of their properties in India free from any such conditions as have been proposed. The shareholders instructed the directors not only to pursue that claim, but to reserve the right to claim compensation in addition to the return of the properties.

The Indian Government is in an awkward position, because in 1920 it procured an enactment which purported to validate the transfer of the property of the Basle Trading Co. to the Commonwealth Trust. But clearly one country cannot by an enactment of its own legalise a wrong which it

has done to the nationals of another country, and in the present case there is no doubt whatever that the confiscation of the Swiss company's property was a violation of international law. In the same situation the British Government made restitution, and it is incumbent upon it to see that the Indian Government — which, after all, is not yet completely independent — takes the same course.

Truth.

## WILLIAM MARTIN.†

We regret to announce the death of M. William Martin, the distinguished journalist and former foreign writer of the "Journal de Genève." The deceased was a brother of M. Henri Martin, Swiss Minister at Istanbul, a former Commercial Attaché at our Legation in London.

After studying law at Geneva and Berlin, he was attracted to journalism and began by supplying letters from Berlin to the "Journal de Genève." During the War he was for some time employed in the Press service of the Swiss Army, but in 1915 he was appointed correspondent of the "Journal de Genève" in Paris, where he remained until 1919. During the Peace Conference he became a firm supporter and admirer of the League of Nations, which he then thought was the only means for assuring the independence of many countries and for preventing a new war. When the League settled in Geneva he willingly accepted the post of director of the Press service, but was soon transferred to the International Labour Office, where he became technical adviser. He was for many years the collaborator of M. Albert Thomas.

But M. Martin could not feel easy under official discipline and mentality. He left the International Labour Office in 1924, and once more devoted himself to journalism. He was then appointed political editor of the "Journal de Genève," and his articles were always interesting and well-informed, and were eagerly read and discussed during the meetings of the League at Geneva. Their weakness was that they showed too frequently signs of personal bias. He believed in the mission of the League, but he often criticized it when it seemed to him to lack courage. He was one of the most eloquent

## LE "FASCISME SUISSE" EN ITALIE ET ALLEMAGNE.

Le 17 janvier a été fondé à Milan le premier groupement fasciste suisse à l'étranger.

L'assemblée, groupant environ 200 personnes, était présidée par M. Otto Bühler, président de la Chambre de Commerce suisse en Italie. Des discours ont été prononcés par MM. Arthur Fonjallaz et Nino Rezzonico.

M. Arthur Fonjallaz a déclaré en particulier que l'action fasciste en Suisse poursuivait un programme identique pour toute la Confédération et n'admettait pas de différence d'un canton à l'autre. Il ne veut pas que la Suisse devienne la proie de la franc-maçonnerie et du marxisme.

M. Otto Bühler a été nommé chef du fascisme suisse dans le nord de l'Italie (Lombardie, Piémont, Ligurie). M. Aarrogio Giambonini a été nommé chef pour Milan. On prévoit la fondation d'autres groupements fascistes suisses à Rome et à Florence.

On annonce d'autre part qu'une "garde d'assaut nationale-socialiste suisse" aurait été créée à Berlin par un jeune zurichois, Erich Maey, un écervelé qui a été mis sous tutelle en 1928 et qui a été même interné pendant un an à l'asile d'aliénés de Burghölzli.

Toute la presse suisse désapprouve avec véhémence ces mouvements contraires à notre esprit démocratique et à toutes nos traditions.

Le "Journal de Genève" s'exprime comme suit :

"Il y a quelques mois, le colonel Fonjallaz, qui eut dans sa carrière plus d'idées singulières que d'initiatives heureuses, se rendit en pèlerinage à Rome avec une quarantaine d'amis pour porter aux autorités italiennes l'hommage des fascistes suisses dont il est le chef; ce voyage, suivi de fréquents séjours en Lombardie, où l'ingénieur tessinois Rezzonico, bras droit du colonel, a déployé une vive activité, vient de porter ses fruits. A Milan s'est constitué le premier *Fascio svizzero*, au cours d'une assemblée fréquentée par deux cents personnes. M. Otto Bühler, président de la Chambre de Commerce suisse en Italie, oubliant que son poste lui impose une certaine réserve, a été désigné comme chef du fascisme suisse dans le nord de l'Italie. On prévoit la création d'autres groupes dans les principales villes de la Péninsule.

"Ces formations nouvelles, au sein de nos colonies, ont provoqué une pénible impression dans le pays. Les autorités fédérales les désapprouvent et la Presse juge avec sévérité l'action inconsiderée entreprise par le colonel Fonjallaz et à laquelle certains de nos compatriotes ont trop légèrement prêté la main. La constitution de sections fascistes dans nos colonies ne peut que créer une situation difficile à l'ensemble de nos compatriotes qui vivent en Italie; elles provoqueront des divisions entre eux, et placeront dans une position très délicate les Suisses, qui, tout en observant la réserve qui s'impose dans un Etat dont ils sont les hôtes, restent attachés à leurs convictions politiques et ne regardent pas le fascisme comme le régime idéal pour leur propre patrie.

"Les Suisses vivant à l'étranger n'ont pas à s'immiscer dans la vie politique des pays qui les hébergent; ils l'avaient très bien compris jusqu'à présent, et leur neutralité ne les avait point desservis. C'est pourquoi nous regrettons vivement de voir certains de nos compatriotes oublier cette règle traditionnelle et s'aventurer dans une voie dangereuse. Personne ne leur ferait grief de manifester personnellement leur sympathie pour telle ou telle forme de gouvernement et de reconnaître, par exemple, si telle est leur conviction, les avantages d'un régime. Mais, aussi bien la création de la section nationale-socialiste suisse de Lörach que la formation de *fascio* helvétiques en Italie sont des manifestations déplorables au point de vue national. Les gens qui dirigent ces organisations méconnaissent les devoirs qu'ils ont à l'égard des colonies suisses dans leur ensemble; le voulant ou non, ils s'assurent une situation privilégiée par rapport à leurs compatriotes qui sont restés neutres, et ils compliquent la tâche déjà très difficile de nos ministres dans les Etats où règne la dictature.

"Et ce qui paraît le plus regrettable, c'est que de telles initiatives révèlent un affaiblissement du sentiment national. Avons-nous besoin de regarder vers Berlin ou vers Rome, d'aller chercher des inspirations au dehors, d'imiter servilement ce qui se passe à l'étranger, de donner au monde le triste spectacle d'un peuple divisé, oublieux de ses traditions, incapable de trouver lui-même les formules de sa régénération? Ces courants divergents diminuent l'influence que seules peuvent procurer l'unité et la concorde des vœux, en matière de politique extérieure.

"Nous espérons vivement, dans l'intérêt du pays comme dans celui de cette quatrième Suisse à laquelle va toute notre sympathie, que le mou-

vement déclenché par le colonel Fonjallaz se brisera contre le bon sens de nos compatriotes expatriés, et qu'ils ne se rangeront pas sous la Bannière autour de laquelle il n'a pu rassembler personne en Suisse."

De son côté, M. Georges Rigassi écrit dans la "Gazette de Lausanne" :

"Ainsi que la 'Gazette de Zurich' le remarque avec raison, nous ne vivons pas dans des temps normaux. Le désordre des esprits est tel que c'est l'imprévu qui, actuellement, risque de se produire. Sans doute il ne s'agit encore que d'un commencement, mais d'un commencement qui comporte de réels dangers, et *Principitibus obsta* demeure une maxime de l'art politique qui mérite plus que jamais d'être observée."

"Il y a un point sur lequel les 'Basler Nachrichten' ont raison d'insister: c'est que l'agitation à laquelle se livrent les Fischer, les Fonjallaz et les Morganti peut devenir désastreuse pour l'existence même de nos colonies suisses à l'étranger. Non seulement celles-ci risquent d'être décomposées par les tendances contraires qui vont les diviser, mais ceux de nos compatriotes qui ont émigré en Allemagne et en Italie se trouveront peut-être contraints de se prononcer pour ou contre le régime du pays dont ils sont les hôtes, et l'on devine d'après certains précédents ce qu'il pourrait leur en coûter de proclamer leur fidélité à la démocratie suisse; d'où la possibilité de voir refluer vers la mère-patrie un grand nombre de Suisses de l'étranger au moment où tant des nôtres souffrent du chômage.

"Nous sommes persuadés pour notre part que les Suisses d'Italie et d'Allemagne, dans leur très grande majorité, ont conscience des graves dangers que leur font courir des agitateurs sans scrupules et qu'ils resteront fidèles à leur patrie suisse. Mais cela ne dégage en aucune façon les autorités fédérales du devoir qui leur incombe de soutenir nos compatriotes exilés dans les efforts qu'ils font pour rester bons Suisses, et de protéger nos traditions républicaines contre les menées d'un quarteron de têtes brûlées et de pêcheurs en eau trouble."

Le Conseil fédéral a décidé de vouer à la question toutes l'attention qu'elle mérite. Le Département politique, agissant de concert avec le Département de Justice et police, étudiera les moyens de réagir contre les manifestations intempestives de ces enfants terribles de la Confédération, et les consulats suisses en Allemagne ont été invités par le Département politique à veiller au grain.

La Revue Suisse.

supporters of the Disarmament Conference, and was bitterly disappointed at the time of the Sino-Japanese dispute, at once taking the part of China against Japan. At the same time he urged the League to adopt a clear and strong attitude in the matter, and it was a real grief to him when it was unable to prevent the annexation of Manchukuo by Japan. Though he admired Great Britain as a country, he could not believe in the disinterestedness of British politics, and openly accused the British Government of having impeached the League action in the Sino-Japanese conflict and of having wrecked the Disarmament Conference.

Last spring he spent several months traveling in China. In the autumn he was appointed Professor of History at the Zurich Federal High School. Among his works he wrote a book on Mme. de Staël and her political friends, and another on the history of Switzerland. His "Statesmen of the War in Retrospect," which appeared in London in 1928, contains descriptive essays on such men as Lord Grey, M. Poincaré, Baron Sonnino, M. Venizelos, and Cardinal Mercier.

### ETWAS ABWECHSLUNG IM SPORT.

Wenn ich den Swiss Observer lese, kommt es mir immer vor, als ob Fussball der einzige bedeutende Schweizersport sei. Doch glaube ich bestimmt, dass sich mancher Englandschweizer z. B. auch für Leichtathletik und vielleicht auch für den ältesten Sport, das Ringen, interessiert. Das Freistilringen ist in der Schweiz auf eine ganz neue Grundlage gestellt worden. Der grosse Eidgenössische Turnverein mit seinen über 160,000 Mitgliedern hat sich der Sache angenommen, indem er das Erbe des Schweizerischen Amateur-Ringerverbandes übernahm. In der verhältnismässig kurzen Zeit wurden auf diesem Gebiete schon bemerkenswerte Erfolge erzielt.

Im Herbst 1931 kämpften 4 Schweizer für ihre Landesfarben, an den Europameisterschaften im Freistilringen in Budapest. Noch war das Ringen nicht so weit gediehen, um jede der 7 Gewichtsklassen zu beschließen. Doch bedeutete es einen ungeheuren Erfolg, als von den 4 Ringern 3 als Europameister gekrönt wurden. Im Schwergewicht war es *Bürki Werner*, der sich an erster Stelle plazierte. Der anerkannt beste Ringer der Welt, *Ernst Kyburz*, erhielt den Europameistertitel im Mittelgewicht. Im Leichtgewicht wurde *Minder Hans* mit seinen 23 Jahren Meister. Der Ex-Weltmeister *Gehri Hermann* konnte sich wegen Rippenbruch nicht in den ersten Rängen platzieren. Den Nationspreis erhielten Ungarn, aber mit nur einem Punkte mehr als die Schweiz.

### VINES AND WINES OF SWITZERLAND.

"Switzerland is a land of the grape!" Perhaps that will strike you as a new view to take of the country of the Alps. Yet no observant tourist can visit Switzerland in July or August and fail to notice the long terraces of vines rising tier above tier on the hillsides he is passing, whether he enters by Geneva, Neuchâtel, Zurich, Biel or from the south.

To start with, then, let me state that so general is the cultivation of the grape that vineyards are to be found in some twenty out of the twenty-two cantons into which Switzerland is divided. Practically, wherever the hills slope towards the south and enjoy an uninterrupted expanse of sunshine, you will find vineyards. The total area occupied by them at present is 34,000 acres, and the total production of Swiss wine in 1932 amounted to over nine million gallons.

The most prolific and extensive area is that which stretches down the Rhone Valley, pas Bex, and along the whole northern shore of the Lake of Geneva. These three cantons of the Valais, Vaud and Geneva furnished last year eight-thirteenth of the total yield. The entire area under cultivation of the grape around the Lake of Geneva alone is approximately 10,000 acres, and it is estimated that if all the terraces were arranged in one straight line, they would measure over 600 miles.

The most highly valued wine district of the Vaud is the stretch of land, nine miles in length, between Vevey and Lausanne. It is known as Lavaux, and so valuable is its soil for the growing of vines that vineyards have changed hands at over 25,000 francs an acre. Hence no meadow nor cornfield breaks the monotony, scarcely even a solitary tree. Vineyards alone are to be seen; protected by innumerable walls, they adjoin each other up and down the steep hillside.

The most coveted spot of all the district is the hill called Dézaley, which gives its name to the most famous of all the Vaudois wines. Two of its many vineyards, Dézaley de la Ville and Dézaley d'Oron, are the property of the town of Lausanne. West of Lausanne the whole district

Nach diesem ungewöhnlichen Erfolg wurde mit viel Mühe und Arbeit an den innern Ausbau der Ringerei herangegangen. Es fanden Kurse statt. Die Führer und Leiter wurden sich immer mehr bewusst, dass es von grösster Wichtigkeit sei, sich mit ausländischen Mannschaften zu messen und das Gelernte daheim zu verwerten. Da die Schweizer die Ungarn als gute und gewandte Kämpfer kennen gelernt hatten, forderte der E.T.V. diese zur Austragung eines Länderkampfes heraus. Auf der andern Seite sollte es aber auch eine Revanche sein für den in Budapest so knapp verlorenen Preis der Nationen. Am 11. Dezember 1932 schickte der Ungarische Ringerverband eine Mannschaft nach Basel, wo in der grossen Mustermesshalle der denkwürdige Kampf Ungarn-Schweiz vor über 3,000 Personen stattfand. Es war ein überaus harter Kampf. Die Ungarn wehrten sich prächtig und kämpften wie Löwen. Doch gewann die Schweiz 5 von 7 Kämpfen. Es war ein grosser moralischer Erfolg, leider aber ein finanziell negativer durch die vielen Auslagen. Denn die Schweizer bezahlten den Ungarn Reise sowie Verpflegung.

Trotz dem Sieg über Ungarn sahen unsere Ringer in ihnen noch immer eine Gefahr. Darum hiess es energisch vorgehen. Das Kurswesen wurde ausgebaut. Die Wettkämpfe waren bis dahin noch in 3 Gewichtsklassen ausgetragen worden. Nunmehr wurden 7 Klassen gebildet und in 7 Gewichten "ausgekegelt."

Und endlich der grosse 3. Erfolg der Schweizer Ringer: Ende November 1933 errang die Schweizer Mannschaft an den Europameisterschaften in Paris den grossen Preis der Nationen. Die Schweiz beschickte sämtliche 7 Gewichtsklassen. Von den 7 Kämpfern gingen *Bürki Werner* in Schwergewicht und *Perret Denis* im Leichtgewicht als Europameister hervor. *Hans Vordermann* klassierte sich 2. in Federgewicht. Dem in letzter Minute eingesprungenen *Minder Hans* (Europameister im Leichtgewicht 1931) gelang es, sich im Weltergewicht als 2. zu plazieren. *Aeschli* und *Bron* hatten Pech. Sie kämpften gut aber unglücklich wie Maria Stuart. *Krebs Ernst* musste sich leider am Anfang auf römisch-griechische Kampfricht einlassen und verpasste so den Moment. Doch ist Krebs einer der besten und vielversprechendsten Ringer. — Die Organisation liess in Paris viel zu wünschen übrig. Doch konnten die Schweizer viel lernen, nicht nur durch die ungemessen harten Kämpfe, sondern auch in organisatorischer Hinsicht. (In diesem Falle aber wie man es nicht machen soll!) Für die Zukunft sind allerhand wichtige Veranstaltungen vorgesehen. Zuerst einmal die Meisterschaften. Bereits sind kreisweise Ausscheidungen im Gange. Im Februar werden die Regional-, und im März die Schweizermeisterschaften ausgetragen. In Un-

garn soll die Revanche für den Länderkampf in Basel 1932 stattfinden. Von ganz grosser Bedeutung wird für die Schweizer Ringer die Olympiade 1936 in Berlin sein.

Zur finanziellen Sicherung der Ringerei ist ein Fonds gegründet worden. Vielleicht hat einmal der eine oder andere der Englandschweizer ein paar überige Schillinge. Und wenn er diese dem Ringerfonds möchte zukommen lassen, gebe ich für alle Fälle das Postcheckkonto an: Basel V 972. (Ringerkommission des E.T.V.). Die Schweizer Ringer werden Ihnen gewiss von Herzen dankbar sein. Denn wenn auch noch so fest gearbeitet und ehrlich gekämpft wird, er hängt eben gar viel vom Finanziellen ab.

Die Schweizer Ringerei steht auf gesundem Boden. Die Leiter sind sich der grossen Verantwortung voll bewusst. Die Ringer arbeiten treu und fleissig und werden immer wieder ihre volle Kraft einsetzen, um für das weisse Kreuz im roten Feld auch in der Zukunft nur ganze Arbeit zu leisten.

Mariann.

### SWISS CLUB, BIRMINGHAM.

The General Meeting of the Swiss Club, Birmingham, was held at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham, on February 8th.

M. P. Brun, in opening the meeting, expressed his pleasure at the large attendance and acquainted the members that the accounts of the Club, as well as those of the Relief Society, show a satisfactory balance; both accounts were accepted with acclamation.

M. Robert Schenkel, who acted as President *pro temp*, informed the Meeting that the Committee has resigned *en bloc*. M. C. J. Reinhart expressed the thanks of the members to the outgoing Committee, and M. Brun in his turn thanked his colleagues for the great help which they have given him during his year of office.

M. Brun was then re-elected as President of the Club for the sixth year in succession, and the Committee for the ensuing year consists of the following members:—

|                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| President:      | M. Peter Brun.                       |
| Vice-President: | M. Emil Brunner.                     |
| Secretary:      | M. Paul Duvoisin.                    |
| Treasurer:      | M. Frederick Beer.                   |
| Relief Officer: | M. Emil Brunner.                     |
| Trustees:       | Messrs. C. J. Reinhart and Schenkel. |

That most excellent and popular wine, Fendant, the best known of all the Valais wines, is produced here from a specially cultivated species of Chasselas grape. Other species of this valuable grape form the basis of all the white wines of the Vaud and Neuchâtel also.

A favourite brand of red wine is the Dôle. It is much sought after as an excellent table wine, and is also valued for possessing certain valuable medicinal qualities. The price is fairly high, owing to the limited supply. Nor must we omit to mention the Glacier wine, a local speciality which is quite a tradition in the neighbourhood. The wine is kept stored for twenty, even forty, years in long, narrow cellars among the mountain villages of the Val d'Anniviers, and the effect of this storage is to impart to the wine a peculiar and most agreeable bouquet. But a strong head is required to tackle more than two glasses with comfort.

The wines of Neuchâtel circulate widely in Switzerland. North and south of the lake, along the sunny slopes of Chaumont and of Chasseron, between the levels of 1,400 and 2,000 feet above the sea, vineyards flourish and abound. Great care and thought are bestowed on the production and treatment of wine in Neuchâtel, and consequently they have earned a high reputation. They are almost exclusively of the variety of sparkling wines. Indeed, a certain brand of Swiss "Champagne" is supplied in Neuchâtel.

For quantity produced, the canton of Zurich takes a high place. By the shores of its lake, from Rapperswil to Zurich itself, there stretches an area of some 2,500 acres in extent, on which it is estimated that at least 1,200 million vines are growing. The several vineyards are for the most part small in size, and the wine produced is almost entirely for home consumption. It has a peculiar acidity which appeals to the palate of the Zurichois, but the wine has little circulation outside of the canton.

The district of the Tessin also produces a large amount of wine, called Nostrano. In character it resembles the Italian wines. It is very rarely bottled, but is supplied and drunk as an "open wine"—that is, drawn for consumption straight from the cask.

A. B. WINTER.

(Revue Touristique Suisse.)

as far as the township of Coppet is called La Côte, and the wines of La Côte rival those of Dézaley in importance. They are produced in very much larger quantities and are popular all over Switzerland. It should be noted that these are all white wines; indeed, red wines form only a small percentage of the Swiss vintage.

Valuable prizes are offered for competition among the vine dressers, while the celebrated Vintage Feast at Vevey, with its time-honoured procession, culminating sometimes in an impressive dramatic representation on the shore of the lake, attracts thousands of spectators from beyond the confines of Switzerland, and, in fact, from all parts of the world.

Scarcely less fame attaches to the wines of the canton of Valais. Only one-half of the surface of this canton is cultivable, and that half forms the extensive Valley of the Rhone — an area of nearly a thousand square miles, enclosed between the two highest mountain ranges of Europe, the Bernese and the Valais Alps. From Roman, if not from Celtic days, the grape has been cultivated in the rich soil of this valley girdled by eternal snow and ice, where, as the saying goes, a giant might stand with one foot on a glacier and the other in a vineyard.

Three-fourths of the vineyards of Switzerland have been constructed at a tremendous cost of labour, and certainly the vineyards of the Valais show what can be accomplished by the patient industry of man. Before a vine can be planted on these steep and rocky slopes, the peasant must dig down six or eight feet deep; then with the larger stones he must construct low walls, one above another, far up the mountain side. Further, because the soil is very dry, he must make narrow conduits to lead the water from the glacier streams.

But the toil brings its reward. The vineyards at Visperterminen are 4,000 feet above sea level; are, in fact, the highest in Europe; but do they not grow the Traminer grape, which yields the famous Heiden wine? Still, it is further down, where the valley widens, around the picturesque towns of Sion and Sierre, that the most fertile districts of the Valais are situated. Owing to the hot climate, the vintage in these parts begins on the first of September, a fortnight earlier than elsewhere.