

"La fondue"

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good on those rock peaks whose steepness does not allow snow to hang very long.

The real climbing season began last week, though somewhat hindered by violent thunder storms. Nearly all the big peaks have been climbed since then, and conditions are generally reported to be good, as the glaciers are covered with snow, except in their lower parts, and the rock mountains are comparatively dry.

The first crossing of the season of the Zinal Rothorn (13,855 ft.), from Zinal to Zermatt, was made on July 5 by MM. J. Hayoz, of Vevey, and M. Buro, of Sierre, with the guide F. Theytaz. The first ascent of the Dent Blanche (14,318 ft.) was made yesterday week by a Swiss tourist and the guide J. Georges, but abundant fresh snow rendered the ascent difficult. On July 3 four climbers, MM. G. Luy, E. Anker, F. Veuthey, and M. Rossy, of Monthey, ascended the north wall of the Cime de l'Est of the Dent du Midi (10,434 ft.).

The north wall of the Eiger is this year the goal of at least four parties of German, Austrian, and Italian climbers. Two unsuccessful attempts have already been made, in the second of which the guide lost his life. After the catastrophes which occurred on this vertical rock wall in 1935 and 1936 the Berne Cantonal Government forbade climbers to attempt it, but the ban was found to be illegal. The Berne authorities, however, have relieved the local guides of the obligation to rescue marooned or injured climbers on the Eiger. Those in charge of the rescue-post must warn intending climbers of the danger. Nevertheless, the devotion of the Alpine guides is so great that they will never refuse to assist their fellow-climbers. This was shown when the Grindelwald guides rescued one of the Salzburg guides who was marooned on the Mittellegi ridge a few days ago.

SWISS ARMY COMMANDS

The commands of the new Army units coming into force at the end of this year, will be as follows:

1st Army Corps: Army-Corps commander Colonel Guisan; under his command will be: 1st Division, Colonel of Division Combe, 2nd Division, Colonel of Division Borel, 3rd Division, Colonel of Division Graffenried, 10th Mountain Brigade, Colonel Schwarz.

2nd Army Corps: Army-Corps commander Prisi, under his command will be: 4th Division, Colonel of Division Scherz, 5th Division, Colonel of Division Bircher, 9th Division, Colonel of Division Tissot, 11th Mountain Brigade, Colonel Buhler.

3rd Army Corps: Army-Corps commander Miescher, under his command will be: 6th Division, Colonel of Division Constam, 7th Division, Colonel of Division Lardelli, 8th Division, Colonel of Division Gübeli, 12th Mountain Brigade Colonel Hold.

LOCAL.

BERNE.

Watches to the value of 12,000 frs. were stolen from a watch manufacturing firm at Bienne.

FRIBOURG.

At Salvenach died at the age of 58, M. Peter Benninger, a member of the National Council since 1928. The deceased was a Justice of the Peace and held the rank of major of infantry in the army.

* * *

Dr. Séverin Bays, Professor of Mathematics at the University of Fribourg has been elected rector of the University. Professor Bays holds the rank of colonel on the General Staff, he is also a member of the Grand Council of the canton of Fribourg.

* * *

The University of Fribourg has conferred the degree of *doctor honoris causa* upon M. Charles Koch, a member of the Superior Court of the canton of Aargau.

ST. GALL.

An unknown donor has sent amounts totaling 10,000 frs. to various charitable institutions of the canton of St. Gall.

* * *

The death is reported at the age of 63 of M. Jakob Zäch, since 1929 "Bezirksammann," and for many years a member of the "Kantonsrat." The deceased has played an important part in the political sphere of the canton of St. Gall.

* * *

The late Mme. Reust from Rapperswil, has left her house, valued at 50,000 frs. to the community of Rapperswil, to be used as they think fit.

THE SWISS GRAND-PRIX MOTOR TRACK AT BERNE.

The racing course on which the Swiss Automobile Club is to carry out its fourth annual meeting on August 22, was built in 1934. The Bernese round track has been invariably pronounced by foreign experts as *one of the most beautiful and satisfactory motor racing grounds on the continent*, if not of the whole world. Numerous indeed are its qualifications to that effect. Its situation in the immediate outskirts of the town allows it, first of all, to be reached in few minutes, either on foot, by tram or motor car. The track is laid out through one of Berne's most beautiful city woods, the Bremgarten forest, and nevertheless affords all along an open view from the favoured standing places, as well as from the many stands erected.

From the racing view-point, the Bernese round track excels as a trial field of the first order, inasmuch as it allows maximal speeds to be effected on the straight sections, besides possessing many curved portions, on which a driver's skill is seriously put on trial. Some of the curves give occasion for a good deal of braking and switching. It may at all events be affirmed that on the Berne Grand-Prix track, it is ever for the best driver on the best machine to win.

The Bremgarten round track at Berne forms a closed circular course of 7,280 meters (about 4½ miles). It consists (excepting a stretch of about 800 meters) of well-built public roads, which have, in addition, been specially prepared in view of racing requirements. Appropriate modern materials have been employed and broadenings up to a minimum of about 9 yards effected.

The longitudinal section of the course shows a maximal gradient of 9.14%. It is situated in the handicap stretch by the "gravel-pit." The variation in altitude between the lowest and highest points of the entire track amounts to 66.1 meters.

Spectators find sheltered accommodation in a large stand with about 4,500 seats. This structure contains also refreshing rooms, offices and a spacious press room with telephone cabins and telegraph apparatus. In building the racing stand, 200 tons of iron work have been employed. A number of minor stands are also made available in view of the spectacular events which the great races of August 21 and 22 promise to be; seating accommodation is thereby provided for over 10,000 spectators.

Facing the main stand, are the extensive rows of competitors' boxes, the tanking stations and timing cabin, spectators being thus afforded a commanding view of the whole proceedings. The boxes are in a retreated position in regard to the track, which avoids the possibility of stationing drivers interfering with the progress of the race. For the protection of spectators, a reinforced concrete wall, 2.2 meters in height, has been erected in front of the great stand, and further protective fixtures are guaranteeing the safety of the public all along the course.

The Bremgarten racing course has been established at a total cost of 900,000 Swiss francs, but the city of Berne now possesses a first rate sporting institution which, without exaggeration, may be said to suit its purpose ideally.

D'HEIMAT.

S'isch nume es chlys Mätteli
Im einsame Tal,
Druf blüet tusig Blümeli;
Rot, gälb, wyss und blau
Lueget sanft eim i d'Auge-
Tief lüchtets its Härz
U zeige mit de Chöpfli
Zum Licht, himmelwärts.
Viel heimeligs G'sum u stille Rege
Verbreitet a wohlīgi Rueh,
Wär da nid cha d'Sorg chly ablege
Dem fallt gwüss d'Schuld sälber zue.

H.E.

"LA FONDUE."

"What's a fondue?" Occasionally, I have been asked this question, by an innocent English person back from a trip to the mother country. Naturally that person was not to know through what mental and intestinal anguish, I always undergo whenever somebody breathes this magic and potent word in my ear.

For it has always been my opinion that the "fondue" is the most advanced dish in our civilisation, the apex of culinary discoveries and the ninth wonder of the world!

To make a good fondue it needs thought (with the pepper), patience (with the bread), prudence (in the choice of the cheese), initiative (with the kirsch) and in fact all the qualities to make the perfect husband!

Of course, attempting to explain to anybody else but a Swiss, what a fondue is to us, is about as futile as attempting to explain a game of cricket to a Frenchman!

"L'union fait la force" and especially when it comes to cheese. Why what holds our democratic cantons together? La "fondue" of course.

Some time ago (after my 199th fondue) I made the acquaintance of a Welshman, who claimed to know what a fondue was. After an heated argument, his fondue turned out to be a common Welsh Rabbit! Upon explaining further about our national dish he exclaimed: "Why, but that's a barbarian's dish." At this flagrant insult, my legs seemed to flag under me and I had to clutch the nearest object (it happened to be a mug and a real at that!) for support.

Needless to say, that very person, ate a few months later, in my kitchen, the very thing he had condemned and reviled.

This typical example simply proves, that we Swiss, although possessing no empire or Abyssinias, excepting Liechtenstein, have nevertheless 'l'esprit colonisateur.'

Last year, a dozen Swiss and little me, celebrated the 1st of August with a fondue. This happened to be in Germany, and we had invited some of the close partisans of the 'fureur' to partake this dish (or rather cauldron) with us.

My respect for their taste was enhanced that evening, for these guests of ours (who had provided the drinks) appreciated our bubbling attraction so much, that they began a cheating match by dipping all out of turn their forks plus bread in the cheese! Order was soon restored, however, when we drank to the health of their supreme chief, this kept them out of mischief for a few minutes.

I have heard it said, that the last war (not the Ethiopian massacre) was one to end all wars. Since people are disinclined to believe this statement, why not arrange an international fondue to end all strife, and bring once more everlasting peace on this miserable world of ours? Of course how forgetful of me, it might mean competition and unemployment for the "Société des nations" and that would never do!

Although I have yet to find 5 ft. 6 of England that will be evermore Swiss, the choice of a tombstone has given me no trouble whatsoever, for, strictly in confidence, my "casserole" will have served a twofold purpose. On it is already inscribed the following epitaph: "Ci-git dessous celui qui a mangé dessus. K.I.P. (Kirsch in plenty.)"

(JEREMIAH).

NEWS FROM THE LEGATION.

Mme. Paravinici, wife of the Swiss Minister, has left London for abroad. Like many other people, she is including Salzburg in the places she will visit, but first she has gone to Carlsbad. About the middle of next month she will leave for Salzburg, where she will be joined by her husband. Later they will go to Berne.

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