

Swiss wines

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SWISS WINES.

By ROBERT-C. MORAX,

Secretary of the

"Swiss Wine Growers Association."

In Switzerland the wine has a history almost as ancient as that of the ground upon which it feeds. Archaeological research enables us to affirm that already during the Roman epoch it was cultivated in Helvetia. A precious document of the VI century, the "Gombette" law, promulgated by Gondebaud, King of Burgundy, to which was, at that time, attached a considerable part of present day western Switzerland, witnesses to the solicitude and respect which surrounded this cultivation on the shores of Lake Léman and in the valley of the Rhone. At a later date, in the Middle Ages, these vineyards, proceeding from the conquest of the rough ground which was not very suitable for any other form of cultivation, took on a considerable extension, thanks to the care which was bestowed upon them by the inmates of the various convents and abbeys of the country, refuges of tradition, learning and science in these troubled times of the feodality.

To-day the Swiss grape ripens on the same ground as in former times; on the sunny banks of Lake Léman, on the sloping sides of the Lake of Neuchâtel and in the warm valley of the Rhone, to mention only the important wine-growing regions of the country. Each district offers a rich selection of exquisite wines which are distinguished by their perfume, their flavour, their delicacy; wines, each invested with a real personality, without however departing from a certain air of relationship.

First of all the vineyards of the Canton of Vaud, the most extensive; divided into three zones of production:

The "Aigle region," which comprises the vineyards to the north of the valley of the Rhone, and of which the wine has certain features in common with its neighbour and first-cousin of Valais; warmth, golden reflection, distinctive taste; in fact so many qualities that it has become a high-class beverage sought after by connoisseurs.

The "Lavaux region," the most important of the Vaud vineyards, extends over the eastern part of Lake Léman, it rises from the lake in tiers separated by old walls, bathed in the mild reflection of the great reservoir of light which stretches out at its feet. Reputed wines, full flavoured, wines faithful to the image of the magnificent region of which they are the reflection.

The "Côte vineyard," extending from Lausanne to Geneva is situated in a quiet and calm countryside of noble and almost feminine aspect. Here the climate and the soil give to the wine a well-balanced, light and agreeable character.

The variety of Vaud wines amazing as it is, does not exhaust the list of Swiss wines.

The "Valais vineyard" crowns with its vine-branches the slopes of that tremendous groove at the end of which the Rhone, descending from the glacier, flows towards Lake Léman. The vine, that delicate and capricious plant which demands almost daily attention, seems to have found there, from the most remote antiquity, conditions particularly favourable to its cultivation and there is not a foot of ground on the mountain side where the plant does not attach itself; there to ripen a fruit of which the golden juice reflects the warm sun of the Valais. The Valais wine will give to the connoisseur diverse joys according to the variety tasted. Some of these white wines, highly coloured, have a finesse and a remarkable flavour; others are of a mellowness which makes them a choice drink for delicate stomachs; others again, which come from the high ground scorched by the sun, are powerful, velvety wines with an intoxicating perfume. The red variety cultivated with success in certain regions where it was imported from Burgundy in the ancient times, has been able, in contact with this burning nature, to establish a noble personality which makes it worthy to appear on the table of the most difficult to please.

With the "Neuchâtel vineyard" we leave the southern region to enter a more temperate country, one of shaded landscapes which caress a soft light. This vineyard, resembling a patched cloak, covers the slopes of the Lake of Neuchâtel and the foot of the Jura. It is a living witness to the victorious struggle that has been carried on, against the elements too often of a contrary nature, by laborious generations of wine-growers. The reward of much labour is found in the bunches of grapes swollen with sugar which, every year, give a grey wine, slightly coloured, but how sparkling; a wine of a freshness which caresses the palate, a wine full of roguishness.

We could also mention, in addition to the important wines of Vaud, Valais and Neuchâtel, those of the Tessin, near relations to the Italian wines, with their sonorous names and rich magnificence, juice of the beautiful dark-coloured bunches of grapes which ripen on the pergolas; and also the wines of Eastern Switzerland.

Swiss wines, of which we hope to have given a faithful description, present a collection so

varied that any dish may find its indispensable complement in one or the other of them.

Certain of the Vaud wines admirably set-off a cheese dish or an hors d'œuvre; certain of the Valais wines uphold the taste produced by a speciality or give a grill its full flavour, and certain Neuchâtel wines form a harmonious accompaniment to the delicate flesh of fish or give to a "bowl" a delicious pungency.

But it may safely be said that all, just as they are, may be enjoyed for themselves alone, for the simple pleasure of their taste and relish.

Sample these wines with respect, treating them as friends, so that their spirit will sing in you and the sun which is in them will put warmth into your heart.

S. I. & T.

TECHNISCHE CHRONIK UND INDUSTRIELLE NEUHEITEN.

Die Gesellschaft Lebon & Cie., Kairo, bestellte in der Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon in Oerlikon eine 6000 kW Kondensationsdampfmaschine für die Zentrale in Kairo; dort befinden sich bereits mehrere Turbinen-Dynamogruppen verschiedener Stärke von derselben Firma.

Gebr. Sulzer in Winterthur hat die neue Kälteanlage der grossen Brauerei Union Brewery Ltd., in Shanghai montiert. Die Union Brewery Ltd. ist die grösste bestehende Brauerei in China. Die Kälteanlage umfasst zwei Ammoniakkompressoren. Jeder Kompressor ist direkt mit einem Brown-Boveri-Motor gekuppelt.

Die Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon erhielt von der Cia. An. de Electricidad, Borburata, Venezuela den Auftrag, deren hydraulische Zentrale von 1000kW, sowie gleichzeitig eine entsprechende Verteilerstation auszurüsten.

Von den 50 bestehenden Luftseilbahnen für Personentransport in Europa sind mehr als ein Viertel, worunter die grössten, mit elektrischen Apparaten der Firma Brown, Boverie & Co. in Baden beliefert worden.

Die rumänischen Staatsbahnen haben bei der Firma Gebr. Sulzer in Winterthur eine 4400 PS-Diesellokomotive, welche für den Schnellzugsdienst auf der Linie Câmpina-Brasov bestimmt ist, bestellt.

Die Cia. de Electricidad del Sud Argentina hat der Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon ein 2600 kW-Dreiphasenstromdynamo für 13.200 Volt zur Kupplung mit einem 2600 PS-Sulzer-Dieselmotor bestellt, bestimmt für die Erweiterung der Zentrale in Mar del Plata.

Gebr. Sulzer in Winterthur erhielt den Auftrag, nach Russland eine 12-stufige Hochdruck-Zentrifugalpumpe mit vollautomatischer Betätigung zu liefern. Diese Pumpe wird durch eine Dampfturbine der Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon angetrieben.

Die Frigorificio Nacional, Montevideo hat der Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon den Auftrag erteilt für zwei synchrone Dreiphasenmotore zum Antrieb von Sulzer-Kompressoren.

Die Silos in Cork (Irland) haben bei der Maschinenfabrik Oerlikon 12 elektrische Motoren mit Anlasser- und Verteileranlage bestellt, welche in einen von der Firma Gebr. Sulzer in Uzwil erstellten Silo bestimmt sind.

Die wärmetechnischen Anlagen des Justizpalastes in Ploesti (Rumänien) wurden von der Firma Gebr. Sulzer in Winterthur ausgeführt. Das Gesamtvolumen der geheizten Räume beträgt 45.000 m³. Stündlich ist ein Wärmebedarf von über 1 Million Kalorien erforderlich.

SWITZERLAND.

Oh, yes! it is a godly sight to see — what heaven has done for this delicious land! what fruits of fragrance blush on every tree! — what godly prospects o'er the peaks appear!

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Mary E. Brandwood.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Tuesday, January 26th — Swiss Mercantile College — Students' Dance at the Royal Hotel, Russell Square, W.

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11h. — Ecole du dimanche.

6h.30 — Culte, Prédication: M. le pasteur Christol.

7h.30 — Choeur.

M. R. Hoffmann-de Visme reçoit à l'église, 79, Endell Street, W.C.2, le mercredi de 11h. à 12h.30 et sur rendez-vous à son domicile, 102, Hornsey Lane, Highgate, N.6. S'adresser à lui (téléphone: ARChway 1798) pour tous renseignements concernant les instructions religieuses, les mariages et autres actes.

SCHWEIZERKIRCHE

(Deutschsprachige Gemeinde).

St. Anne's Church, 9, Gresham Street, E.C.2.

(near General Post Office.)

Sonntag, den 17. Januar 1937.

11 Uhr morgens, Gottesdienst und Sonntagsschule.

7 Uhr abends, Gottesdienst.

8 Uhr, Chorprobe.

Anfragen wegen Religions-bezw. Confirmandenstunden und Amtshandlungen sind erbeten an den Pfarrer der Gemeinde: C. Th. Hahn, 43, Priory Road, Bedford Park, W.4 (Telephon: Chiswick 4156). Sprechstunden: Dienstag 12-2 Uhr in der Kirche.