

Our next issue

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Apart from the 66,000 refugees which were forced to find a refuge in Switzerland, there are at present 7,000 emigrants in our country. For the relief of the civil internees a collection is now in progress in order to grant increased assistance to these poorest of the poor of war victims.

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A sportsman of singular achievements is the epitaph of Ernst Kaufmann, who died in Zurich at the age of 49. A cyclist of merciless enthusiasm his name is recorded in the annals of all the international cycle races where he was in the habit of carrying off top honours. His performances have been described in articles and books which serve as classics for would-be-emulators. Like with most athletes the forced expenditure of the natural powers of endurance and resistance in his early days cut short his chances in later life. Kaufmann had retired from active sport about ten years ago and became interested in a local cycle business.

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A skiing camps for girls has been organised and inaugurated at Grindelwald by the association of Swiss skiing clubs, where 500 maidens of between 12 and 14 years are taught the rudiments of this exhilarating sport; it is under the patronage of Madame Guisan, the wife of our general.

* * *

Our good friend Mr. G. Wüthrich has been on a visit to Dublin, and a man of his imposing stature cannot walk about without being noticed by any enterprising reporter. "The Irish Press," January 4th, has succeeded in buttonholing him and extracting from our generally not very talkative compatriot some interesting information especially about one of his not commonly known hobbies. From the article which is headed by his likeness — somewhat in line with his latest hobby — we reprint the following: "Before he left for London yesterday, Mr. Wüthrich told an Irish press reporter that further electrification of rivers in Ireland would be very useful in bringing power to farms, homes and small factories.

He considered that small industries on the Swiss model were much more suitable to this country than industries concentrated in large centres.

As, he said, there was not sufficient water power here to supply the country's full needs in electricity, new steam generating stations would be necessary, some probably in the near future.

From the defence point of view, it would be advisable to have several small steam stations rather than one or two big stations. Water was not always available, and when they had low rainfalls they must have steam.

In Switzerland they paid very high prices for hydraulic stations so that they would be less dependent on foreign fuel. By the development of our own power resources in Ireland we could place ourselves in a similar independent position.

A native of Berne, Mr. Wüthrich has studied the influence of Irish saints in Switzerland. He said he was surprised that "they do not seem to be as important in Ireland as they are in Switzerland."

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The first ski club in Switzerland was founded towards the end of November 1893 in Glarus, and nine

years later the first Swiss ski races took place in Glarus to which soldiers from the St. Gotthard were sent to partake. In 1904, on the solicitation of Glarus the Swiss Ski Association was formed which to-day numbers many tens of thousands of members. The jubilee assembly on November 21st last year was saddened, as the President of the Swiss Association for Physical Culture, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Simon, died from heart failure whilst addressing the assembly. The deceased was an outstanding personality in Swiss Sport; he was Central President of the Swiss Ski Association for physical culture with 36 sports associations and a membership of roughly 600,000.

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

We hope to go to press again on February 25th, and we take this opportunity of gratefully acknowledging the many expressions of goodwill and support so lavishly bestowed upon the Editor during the festive season. Moreover we are indebted to the following subscribers who have added substantial amounts to the ordinary subscription rates:

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