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NOTES & GLEANINGS.

A short article which appeared in "The Observer" of May 1st, called for a correction from the pen of Dr. P. Lang, which, however, was not granted space in "The Observer."

For the information of our readers we append both article and reply hereunder:

PAN-GERMANISM ON THE REBOUND.

(By our Diplomatic Correspondent.)

The result of the Tyrolese plebiscite seems to have started a general move on the part of the German minorities in Austria, SWITZERLAND, Czecho-Slovakia, and Poland for reunion with Germany. Salzburg decided to hold a plebiscite last Friday, and Upper Austria and Styria intend shortly to follow suit. Simultaneously the irredentist agitation in Italian Tyrol and the German parts of Czecho-Slovakia is being systematically stimulated from Vienna.

The liberal policy pursued, for instance, by the Czecho-Slovak Government towards the German minority has had no effect, apparently, on such Pan-German leaders as Dr. Lodgman and Herr Korec, who are increasing their agitation for reunion with Germany.

To the Editor, "The Observer,"

22, Tudor Street, E.C.

Sir,—Would you kindly allow me to correct the article entitled "Pan-Germanism on the Rebound" which appeared in your issue of 1st May. Your diplomatic correspondent states that as the result of the Tyrolese plebiscite "a general move seems to have started on the part of the German minorities in Austria, Switzerland, Czecho-Slovakia and Poland for reunion with Germany."

So far as Switzerland is concerned, let me state clearly once again that there is no such thing as a "German minority" in Switzerland, and still less is there one moving for reunion with Germany. The idea that any real Swiss should look forward to a reunion with Germany is simply ridiculous to everyone who knows anything about our country and its population. The "German minority" your correspondent seems to aim at probably consists of the majority of our fellow-countrymen, 70% of whom speak the so-called German-Swiss or Alemannic dialect, a tongue at least as different from the German of Germany as German is from Dutch. The ancestors of these Swiss seceded from the old German Empire more than six centuries ago. To call those people a "German minority" is far more confusing than to call the Americans an "English minority" because they happen to speak a similar tongue. The average Berliner does not understand a word of the genuine Swiss dialect, whereas a native of Boston can get along pretty well with London English—so I have been told at least.

There are neither German, nor French, nor Italian minorities in Switzerland, there are but SWISS—different from any other people in this: they have overcome altogether racial rivalries amongst themselves and are inspired by the

higher ideal of a commonwealth wherein people of different languages live in harmony and peace.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. PAUL LANG,

Secretary of the London Group of the Nouvelle Société Helvétique.

2rd May, 1921.

From the "Glasgow Herald":— SWITZERLAND AND THE WORLD MARKET.

"Switzerland as a Distributing Centre for the World Market" was the subject of an address delivered by Mr. Alfred Oswald, Swiss Consul in Glasgow, at the City Business Club luncheon in the Royal Polytechnic yesterday. Mr. J. F. Austin occupied the chair. Mr. Oswald explained how business relations between Britain and other European countries might be developed through the medium of Switzerland by means of a central office through which business transactions might be arranged. In this way it might be ascertained what was required by the various countries, and trade would be facilitated. He pointed out that the chief obstacle to trade was the difficulty of transport. Switzerland had no direct communication with the sea, but he suggested that much could be done to overcome this difficulty by making the Rhine more navigable by means of deepening its bed and removing certain bridges which prevented the passage of large vessels up the river. Another hindrance to trade was the lack of an international currency by means of which transactions with foreign buyers might be assisted.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

"DIE GARBE."

Unter diesem Titel erscheint seit vier Jahren im Verlag von Friedrich Reinhardt in Basel eine Zeitschrift, die sich in der ganzen Schweiz überraschend schnell eingebürgert hat und auch den Schweizern im Ausland aufs wärmste empfohlen sei.

Der Schriftleiter der "Garbe" ist der bekannte humor- und gemütvoll Berner Schriftsteller Rudolf von Tavel, der wie kaum ein zweiter Schweizer Dichter mit der Heimat verwachsen ist. Etwas von seinem Geiste ist auch auf die Zeitschrift übergegangen, denn sie entspricht nicht nur bezüglich der literarischen und illustrativen Darbietungen höheren Ansprüchen, sondern gibt, was bei einer Familienzeitschrift besonders wichtig ist, Herz und Gemüt ebenfalls volle Befriedigung.

"Die Garbe" bringt ausschliesslich Originalarbeiten, und es ist erfreulich, sehen zu können, welch grossen Stab hervorragender Mitarbeiter aus allen Wissensgebieten sie, neben den bessern Schweizer Schriftstellern, um sich zu scharen verstanden hat, sodass sich ihr Inhalt nicht nur durch grösste Vielseitigkeit, sondern auch durch absolute Zuverlässigkeit und Gediegenheit auszeichnet.

An der Spitze jeder Nummer steht ein Roman oder eine Erzählung, dann folgt ein illustrierter Artikel historischen, kunstgeschichtlichen, naturwissenschaftlichen oder biographischen Inhalts. Diesem schliessen sich Novellen und Skizzen an, sowie Reisebeschreibungen,

Erörterungen über Zeitfragen und allgemein belehrende Aufsätze. Eine ständige Rubrik "Was die Zeit bringt" bietet Rundschauen über die kirchlichen, sozialen und wirtschaftlichen Bewegungen der Gegenwart und orientiert besonders über Neuerscheinungen des schweizerischen Büchermarktes. Den Schluss bilden abwechslungsweise Anleitungen von Frauenarbeiten oder eine Rätselcke, die von den Lesern besonders geschätzt werden. Von den politischen Fragen hält sich die Zeitschrift prinzipiell fern, da sie nicht trennend, sondern einigend wirken möchte.

Ganz besonders anerkennend sei noch hervorgehoben, dass Text und Illustrationen so ausgewählt sind, dass alle Hefte der "Garbe" unbedenklich in jugendliche Hände gelegt werden dürfen, ohne dass befürchtet werden muss, dadurch irgendwelchen Anstoss zu erregen. Erst dadurch wurde es ihr möglich, ihre Aufgabe als Familienzeitschrift zu erfüllen, und das ist vielleicht neben der guten Druckausstattung auch das Geheimnis ihres Erfolges.

Der Bezugspreis beträgt jährlich Fr. 17.50, halbjährlich Fr. 9.—, wozu noch die Portospesen von Fr. 7.— resp. Fr. 3.50 kommen. Der Verlag der "Garbe" hat sich aber bereit erklärt, die Zeitschrift Interessenten kostenlos 2 Monate zur Einsicht zu senden, sofern ihm die Adressen zugestellt werden. Der Herausgeber des "Swiss Observer" ist gerne bereit, diesbezügliche Wünsche weiter zu leiten und damit an der Verbreitung der Zeitschrift mitzuwirken.

SWISS BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

Following we publish a few details from the 50th Annual Report of the above institution, whose silent but good work is deserving of widest publicity in the Swiss Colony, many members of which are probably unconscious of the Society's existence and its struggle to cope with the constantly increasing numbers of the necessitous.

Founded in the year 1870 under the title "Fonds de Secours pour les Suisses Pauvres à Londres," the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, on which occasion a special appeal resulted in donations totalling nearly £800, which amount was attached to the "Fonds Carlin," a fund created and endowed by our former Minister, M. Carlin, for the purpose of guaranteeing payment of regular pensions to a number of deserving aged Swiss.

During the long period of the war the society's work increased tremendously, severely taxing its resources; many families being deprived of their breadwinners, who had hurried to our native country's call to protect its frontiers, became destitute and had to be provided for out of the funds of the Swiss Benevolent Society.

Unfortunately, the post-war period, instead of relieving the difficult situation, has rather intensified same, social unrest, industrial and commercial crises fostering unemployment enormously, and many of our compatriots, especially those engaged in the hotel industry, became subsequent victims of the "Employ British Labour" movement, necessitating repatriation in a good many instances, while many other