

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1922)

Heft: 54

Rubrik: Here and there

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HERE AND THERE.

By J. H. Corthesy.

"I can't help it. When you tell me not to move, I feel I just must do it," explains an American admiral's lady at the studio of the fashionable "portraitist" in the early hours of the morning after the first court of the season at Buckingham Palace, when she, in silver and satin gown with train of white brocade shot with gold and the three white feathers in her hair curled at the proper angle, is about to be photographed for the benefit of expectant posterity.

All fashionable "camera" professionals have their artistic talents supremely tuned-up at such a time.

The Court itself was a most brilliant function. The attendance was large, including that of the Diplomatic Corps, in which we find the names of H.E. the Swiss Minister and Madame Paravicini, MM. Borsinger, Ritter, Preiswerk and Martin.

* * *

England is gradually ousting the Continent in the field of amusement and, for one thing, London is going to teach Paris how to dance. Among the novelties accepted at the annual congress of dancing teachers, held in Paris a few days ago, were two of English origin. The two hundred experts from France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, Italy, Greece and Turkey will teach during the next dancing season La Gyda and the Tangona, invented by the Hurdalls, of London. La Gyda is a waltz-time with cross-over or "scissor" steps, a reminiscence of the polka, and a figure in which the couples hold hands. The Tangona is simpler and merely a languorous fox-trot with a glide in it.

* * *

Brighton is going to be brighter than ever. Carnival week will start on June 24th. Revellers—a quarter of a million of them—are expected from the Continent. Switzerland is going to provide its share. Brighton is going to have a non-stop round of gaiety without a moment of dullness. Beauty competitions, bathing costume parades and mannequin displays are in the programme. Music will be plentiful. Sir Harry Lauder and other "stars" will contribute to the general mirth.

* * *

The sunny weather may continue to favour us—in accordance with the desires of pleasure-seekers. The water-controlling authorities, however, take a serious view of the situation and advise economy in the use of water, as reservoirs are dwindling, rivers declining and streams drying up.

London is to have a new reservoir at Littleton, near Ashford. It will be the largest in the world—7 miles in circumference. But this is not yet, and if water famine comes, it will bring with it its evils of epidemic diseases and in any case discomfort and hardship in every home.

* * *

The heat waves, as now experienced in England, are something new. What is their cause? America is suspected of having altered the British climatic conditions in deviating the course of the Gulf Stream by a sea railway, seventy miles long, running from the tip end of Florida to Key West. Mr. John Harrison, of the Observatory, Clapham, says so in a letter to the "Daily Express." He points out that the centre of the northern branch of the stream, which formerly struck the west coast of Ireland and touched the west coast of Scotland, now passes south of Ireland and runs up the English and Bristol Channels.

This would explain the phenomenally low temperatures in the Shetlands, the frost in Glasgow, and the heat waves in the south of England.

There may also be other powerful factors behind it all, and it would be unfair to level an accusing finger at the apparently innocent masonry of a relatively short railway at a moment when America is otherwise shocked at its own load of crime. New York alone, in the first fourteen weeks of the year, has had just one hundred murders and 126 hold-ups! Unemployment is said to be the principal cause.

* * *

Unemployment! "Each man to found his own business," was the maxim of a well-dressed man in black who was seen to enter a shop in the Strand the front window of which indicated that it specialized in "inners" and "uppers." He soon reappeared, with a step-ladder and stuck a "D" before one word and an "S" before the other. Questioned, he said that his new trade was the result of a "brain wave." He was out of work and became a window-cleaner. People seemed shy of employing a well-dressed man, so he started this new manner of introducing himself by supplying missing letters, his clothes in this case helping him by leading to his being mistaken for a customer and receiving immediate attention.

* * *

If industry, commerce and useful work generally suffer from want of "backing," "every thinking person"—says J.M.D. in "The Evening News"—"who was at Epsom on Derby Day must have been astounded at the size of the crowd, its jollity, its patience, its indifference to discomfort, its venturesomeness." He says further: "It is not possible to guess, even roughly, at the amount of money that changes hands over racing in the course of a year, but I dare to affirm that the sum total would chip a considerable chunk off the National Debt."

Every gambler has perhaps the idea of "getting rich quick." The temptation to know how it feels to be a millionaire may be due to an identical inspiration and have impelled two London visitors at Geneva to go to the Bourse and paying £14 for a million crowns and less than 6 shillings for a million roubles. Their taxi-driver refused to accept a handful of these notes and insisted in being paid "in decent money."

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