

Notes and gleanings

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cheaper. Once the whole of Europe is united in some sort of Federation or at least Customs Union, the benefit of such cheap transport will, of course, be more evident. So let us rejoice that something some time is being done in the right direction.

The Lighter Side of the League of Nations' Meetings at Geneva.

Evening Standard (30th Sept.):—

The serious business connected with the meetings of the League of Nations does not prevent the delegates from indulging in a little mild frivolity in their leisure hours, and their presence in Geneva is being made the excuse for a good deal of very pleasant entertaining.

Among the most prominent hostesses are the Comtesse de Noailles and the Duchesse de Vendôme, whose salons are regularly attended by the League representatives.

Mrs. Wilson, widow of President Wilson, is staying at the splendid Villa Bartholoni, built by Collet in 1825 to the order of M. Bartholoni, a rich descendant of Florentine refugees.

Both the gardens and the villa are extremely ornate in character, and the latter contains a good deal of sculpture, including some of the works of Canova. From the grounds on the lake front one gets a magnificent view of the mountains.

A Continental paper tells an amusing story about a smart and pretty American credited with wealth and originality.

While boating on the lake at Geneva, a valuable brooch fell overboard. Without the smallest hesitation and in all seriousness she asked for the lake to be drained at her expense.

The authorities, who seem to possess a sense of humour, sent an official reply regretting their inability to comply with the request, for two reasons: Firstly, for fear of possible complications between France and Switzerland, who share the lake. Secondly, because, owing to a regrettable shortage of bottles, there were not sufficient of them in which to store the water drained.

I particularly liked the above story, which *si non è vero*, etc.

The Capital of the World.

More and more Switzerland tends to become the Capital of the World. The latest international "Bureau" or "Secretariat" to be transferred to our homeland is the Secretariat of the L.S.I., according to the following paragraph from the *Daily Herald* (1st Oct.):—

The Executive of the Labour and Socialist International decided in Marseilles to transfer the Secretariat of the L.S.I. from London to Switzerland. This decision was reported to and approved by the International Congress.

As the Swiss authorities have now granted permission for the entry and residence of the secretary of the L.S.I., Friedrich Adler, the removal of the Secretariat has been fixed for December 1st. The seat of the Secretariat will be in Zurich.

By and by, when the League of Nations has developed into the real thing and embraces all the nations of the world, when arbitration and round-table meetings between different members of the human family become the rule rather than the exception, Switzerland will, no doubt, develop into a regular Headquarters of the new World State. The influence on our population will be twofold, i.e., good and bad, but by the time these things come to pass, ideas will have progressed a good deal, and we can hope that the good influence will be in the ascendant. Apart from geographical advantages, Switzerland is trusted by the other nations because it has no foreign policy worth speaking of and certainly none to arouse jealousy in any quarter. May it ever be so!

The Swiss Radio Industry.

Electrical Review (2nd Oct.):—

Steadily increasing interest is being shown in radio-telephony and broadcasting in Switzerland. So far the bulk of the receiving sets in use have been imported, but a home wireless industry is gradually being built up. One of the principal Swiss manufacturers is the Société Televox, of Neuchâtel, which, in addition to two-, three- and four-valve sets, is producing transformers and variable condensers. Apparatus under Marconi licences is also being turned out by Favarger & Co., of Neuchâtel. The Fabrique Suisse d'Isolants, of Bretonbac, manufactures all classes of enamelled and barbe wire and various insulating materials. The Société des Câbleries et Trefileries, at its works at Cossonay, turns out wires and cables from the smallest to the largest size, while the Société Leclanché, of Yverdon, is specialising on primary batteries for dull-emitters, h.p. batteries and condensers, the last being a class of goods which the company has supplied for many years to the Swiss telephone and telegraph authorities. Finally, it may be mentioned that the H. Weidmann Co., of Rapperswil, has a speciality in "Cornite" moulded insulation for valve sockets, etc.

Well do I remember the thrill I felt when, some two years ago, I listened in, one Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, to Lausanne and heard somebody

talking about the Société des Carabiniers Suisses. Since then various broadcasting stations have opened in Switzerland, and, in spite of the rather heavy cost of "sets," a large number of good sets are in use. Most wireless fans in Switzerland go in for high-class sets, so as to be able to get London and other European stations.

These last few days have brought us drizzle, morning mists, fog even in some favoured parts, and with the passing of summer-time the evenings have, all of a sudden, become very long. Now and again conversation, especially in places where children are about, drifts to Christmas. In the garden the bulbs are planted, or ought to be, the rose order is made out and the beds prepared for planting in a few weeks' time. The easy-chairs are drawn up to the fire in the evening, and a cosy room is much appreciated again. Outdoor sports, except golf and football, have lost much of their "ci-devant" charm. In other words, and not to put too fine a point on it, although I hesitate saying it outright, *Winter* is coming. Now you know. What confirms me in the belief that the cold season is close upon us is the fact that a number of British papers are beginning to refer to Winter Sports in Switzerland. Here and there pictures of Davos, etc., have already appeared, and we are told in the *Evening Standard* of 3rd Oct.:—

Swiss Winter Sports.

The prospects for the Swiss sports winter season, I am told, are good, as snow on the mountains has fallen much earlier than usual. In some places there was frost at the very beginning of September.

Indeed the early winter has broken up the summer season at several places, and visitors have left for more sunny climes.

While *The Sphere* of the same day prints a picture of snow-clad Davos, taken a few days previously!

I keep telling myself that my little holiday of a few weeks ago was merely for the sake of my nerves and not meant as a real holiday during which one enjoys oneself properly, and that, therefore, a few weeks' Winter Sports would do me a world of good. Strangely enough, Mrs. 'Kyburg' shares this opinion. Oh, is it not beautiful to get two minds to have one single idea, to agree so completely, to be convinced that each is absolutely right! Well, I really think that such precious unity of mind, such touching agreement with each other's thoughts merits a special mention and a special holiday. And—turning towards the Editor—think what wonderful inspiration 'Kyburg' would, no doubt, get from the contemplation of our snow-clad, sublime, sunny Alps! ('Kyburg' evidently thinks of the glories of ruby-like Valtellina, which tastes nowhere better than somewhere up, high up, in the Grisons, after a good day's tobogganing or ski-ing.—*E.L.*) Anyhow, I hope that such a holiday will come our way this season, and it will then be much nicer to write about Winter Sports. Why, oh why, don't our readers club together in order to send a mission to the Alps to find out whether Winter Sports are really as nice as they are made out to be, and to settle that vexed question once and for all. 'Kyburg' would be quite willing to persuade Mrs. 'Kyburg' to join him as a missionary of that sort. And each reader helping the mission will receive an autographed picture post-card from Switzerland from 'Kyburg,' and that is more anyhow than they would get for sending old stockings, etc., to our heathen brethren in Africa.

QUOTATIONS from the SWISS STOCK EXCHANGES

BONDS.	Oct. 6		Oct. 13	
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Confederation 3% 1905	78.90	79.00		
5% 1917, VII. Mob. L. n	100.60	102.00		
Federal Railways 3 3/4% A—K	81.50	82.50		
Canton of Basle (City) 4 1/2% 1910	100.30	100.35		

SHARES.	Nom.		Oct. 6		Oct. 13	
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.	Fr.
Swiss Bank Corporation	500	695*	696			
Crédit Suisse	500	750	760			
Union de Banques Suisses	500	595	595			
Société pour l'Industrie Chimique	1000	1758	1742			
Fabrique Chimique ci-dev. Sandoz	1000	3087	3073			
Soc. Ind. pour la Schappe	1000	3385	3392			
S.A. Brown Boveri	350	359	362			
G. F. Bally	1000	1115	1127			
Nestlé & Anglo-Swiss Cond. Mk. Co.	200	287	249			
Entreprises Sulzer S.A.	1000	893	899			
Comp. de Navig'n sur le Lac Léman	500	565	565			

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