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how few Swiss peasants take the advantage of it they might, for windows are closed rather than open both by day and by night. These good people pursue the even tenor of their way as truly as did those English peasants whom Grey had in his mind when he wrote his famous Elegy. Their lives are praiseworthy if only for their simplicity and peacefulness, and many a man has envied the simple contentment of these innocent people.

Is not the above a truly idyllic picture? Some of us could point out other advantages enjoyed by our folk in the homeland and sadly missed by us "pioneers" in the diaspora—but, then, I don't like to get homesick.

An Echo of the Bellinzona Railway Disaster.

The Times (13th April):—

An agreement has been reached by the Swiss Federal Railways with the heirs of Dr. Helfferich, the former German Chancellor, for the payment of an indemnity of £10,000. Dr. Helfferich was killed on April 23, 1924, at Bellinzona, on the St. Gothard line, when two express trains ran into each other.

Now is Your Chance to Buy a Castle.

And one, too, in which poor Karl and his Queen, Zita, the ex-Emperor and Empress of Austria, spent two years of their exile, and which, moreover, belonged to Prince Louis Napoleon. What a chance for somebody wishing to live like a prince! For, according to the *Daily Express* (13th April) the historical Château de Prangins, with its park, old masters and furniture, is to be sold by public auction next month.

If one of our readers profits by my drawing his attention to this opportunity, I'll claim that he invites me and Mrs. "Kyburg" for at least a fortnight's holiday next year!

Motoring and the Alps—Fewer British Climbers—

Swiss Guides' Lament.

Daily Telegraph (15th April):—

Many of the leading guides in the Alps, especially those belonging to the older generation, agree that the number of British Alpinists has declined of late. The class of young man who used to visit the Alps annually during the summer climbing season has disappeared. Guides who used to be engaged a year in advance from June 15 till about Sept. 15 by men of letters, men of art, senior wranglers and senior classics, or leading lawyers and barristers, no longer find patrons. Only some of the old guard of the Alps are to be found in the climbing season in the various climbing centres, and they visit the Alps for easy ascents and excursions.

In the opinion of the guides it is motoring which has killed mountaineering; so many young men who used to take their vacations in the Alps in summer have taken to motoring, and cannot afford both the expense of a climbing holiday and the upkeep of a motor-car. Possibly also the Great War has been the cause of the breaking of the habit of many young men in continuing their favourite sport of climbing. Some well-known young Alpinists who began their climbing career in the years 1912—13 have either been killed during the war or been maimed. Others of the younger generation who belonged to a class which supplied climbing recruits belong now to the new poor, and consequently cannot afford to engage in mountaineering.

However, for the Swiss tourist industry the absence of real climbers does not matter. I should say that the country in general benefits more from the motorist than from the mountaineers; but for the guides indeed it is a very serious matter. Even the mountain hotels are not affected by the lack of climbers; on the contrary, they are probably earning more money by selling petrol and by their garages than they did when they supplied provisions for climbers and their guides when taking a climbing expedition. In fact, those who have known the Alps for a quarter of a century cannot help noticing that a change has taken place in Switzerland as regards the type of tourist who visits the country now. I have been living in Switzerland for fifteen years, and have been visiting it for more than a quarter of a century, and never before have I been so much struck by the strange and incongruous mixture of people now coming to Switzerland. Some apparently come for no other reason than because they think they might as well be in Switzerland as anywhere else. Not a few come because they find that by joining in conducted parties they can have a holiday and meet socially some of their fellow-creatures; while a few seem to come solely for the purpose of sending picture postcards to their friends at home.

These remarks apply not to any particular nationality, but to all nationalities alike. Since Sir Leslie Stephen's days Switzerland has become the playground not only of Europe, but also to some extent of the East. The summer visitors now include a good sprinkling of Japanese, Chinese, and even a few Indians, Ranees, Rajahs, and even Maharajahs, with their dusky suites, and also an occasional Siamese of a very high rank, besides Persians, and here and there some Egyptians and Moroccans. Americans constitute

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probably between 10 and 15 per cent. of the total number of summer visitors; while the number of tourists from South America, notably from the Argentine and Brazil, is steadily increasing every year, although still not very large.

This summer climbing season will probably be an early one. For one reason, the amount of snow in the high Alps is not very great, and there is every reason to hope that the winter snow will settle down by June, so that the peaks will be fit for ascents one month earlier than usual. Moreover, the spring this year came prematurely, and the buds and flowers unfolded earlier than usual—a precocity which, however, was followed by an unseasonable cold; but I seldom remember such a spring of abundant blossoming in the Alps as this one.

Where the younger generation of climbers is to come from I am not sure. The Dutch are certainly showing much energy, and I should say that they are now the best customers of the guides, but there does not seem to me to be any considerable number of young people now growing up who are taking to climbing, at any rate, any young English people. Many of those who do make ascents come to a climbing centre with the intention of merely going up one special mountain. They spend a week-end or so, then rush away again. No knowledge of mountains can, of course, ever be acquired in this wise. Excellence in mountaineering requires more perseverance and more qualities of a high order than excellence in any other form of sport; and it also requires patience and a certain amount of leisure. The tendency of the times may be said, therefore, to be against it.

And the *Manchester Evening News* (8th April) reported the visit to Cotonopolis of the well-known Grindelwald guide Hans Burgener as the guest of enthusiastic Muncanian Alpinists. Interviewed by the paper referred to, Hans is reported to have come to the conclusion that in Manchester one had to think of trams and motor-cars all the time. I just wonder what his impression would be of a traffic block in Aldgate on a Tuesday morning, when they hold the hay-market there?

To-night's Great Thought.

"Sufficient for the day is the work thereof."

UN JUBILÉ CINQUANTENAIRE.

Les Suisses sont connus pour leur instinct migrateur. Partout, sous toutes les latitudes, ils ont fondé des Colonies nationales, en plein steppe de la Pampa comme sous les bambous de Malacca. Et ces Colonies sont prospères, la plupart du temps: on y cultive l'esprit patriotique, les traditions de chez nous, le parler du terroir comme aussi le sens des affaires. Il en est, de ces groupements helvétiques de l'étranger, dont tous les membres ont su se créer une belle position sous le soleil.

Aussi bien commence-t-on, grâce aux efforts des patriotes éclairés qui ont lancé le mouvement des "Suisses à l'Étranger," à s'intéresser largement à ces Colonies commerçantes qu'abrite un peu partout la croix fédérale. Mais sait-on suffisamment que le Suisse a créé encore une autre "Colonie," colonie étonnamment prospère si l'on y songe, où le nom de Suisse est chéri et le drapeau rouge à croix blanche vénéré doublement parce que emblème de l'Helvétie d'abord, et ensuite parce qu'il porte le signe immortel de l'amour qui s'est sacrifié.

Cette "Colonie," elle n'est pas précisément composée d'enfants de Tell, pour parler avec le poète, car ils ont la peau noire, ceux qui en sont les membres, et ils ne parlent point le "Schwyzerdütsch"!... Mais s'il est vrai qu'il existe quelque chose comme l'affinité des cœurs, ou l'adoption des âmes, alors ces milliers de Thongas du Sud de l'Afrique auxquels certains des meilleurs et des plus courageux fils de la Suisse ont porté l'Évangile depuis cinquante ans, sont bien un peu les enfants de la patrie helvétique, en même temps que nos concitoyens sur le plan céleste.

Et c'est cette entreprise toute d'amour, de désintéressement et de sacrifice, qui a célébré cette semaine son jubilé.

Voici ce que le *Journal de Genève* en dit:

Fondée en 1875 dans le nord du Transvaal, la première station, Valdezia, en a vu six autres se constituer autour d'elle, dans un rayon de quelques centaines de kilomètres. Une église

vivante existe aujourd'hui dans cette région, comptant environ 1800 chrétiens, 2400 églises, possédant son conseil et son corps directeur.

Mais la tribu Thonga, de la race bantou, que les missionnaires suisses connaissaient à peine lorsqu'ils se mirent à l'évangélisation, on découvrit que son véritable centre était dans la colonie portugaise du Mozambique, et que son noyau au Transvaal était le résultat d'un exode partiel de ce peuple. Quelques nouveaux convertis, retrouvés au Mozambique, y furent les premiers témoins du Christ au milieu de leur peuple, et en 1887 M. Paul Berthoud, un des fondateurs de la Mission avec M. Eugène Creux, s'établit à Rikatla, première station de la côte. Lourenço-Marquez, chef-lieu de la colonie portugaise, eut bientôt son église, la plus importante actuellement. Les stations au Mozambique sont au nombre de 11 avec 5300 chrétiens et 2700 élèves.

L'extension de l'œuvre en Afrique a eu son parallèle en Suisse. L'Église libre vaudoise, qui avait pris l'initiative de cette mission, ne pouvait à elle seule en assumer les charges grandissantes. Les Églises libres de Genève et de Neuchâtel s'unirent à celle du canton de Vaud en 1881; l'Association chrétienne évangélique de Genève entra en 1907 comme quatrième membre de la fédération. Comme des souscripteurs nombreux appartenaient à des Églises nationales, les statuts révisés en 1918 comprirent, à côté des Églises adhérentes des groupes d'amis nationaux, qui envoient eux aussi des délégués à l'assemblée générale et au Conseil directeur. C'est tout à fait conforme à la tradition suisse, représentative et fédérative.

Le jubilé que la mission Suisse romande va célébrer sera un acte de reconnaissance envers Dieu pour les grandes choses qu'on y pourra proclamer. Toute une église constituée dans le peuple thonga, des pasteurs indigènes dont l'un, M. Calvin Mappé, représente son église au jubilé, des milliers de chrétiens, l'influence de l'Église s'exerçant bien loin, c'est une réalité bienfaisante à contempler. L'œuvre est commencée, elle doit être poursuivie, et longtemps encore la Suisse sera le pays d'où viendront "nos pères" comme les noirs appellent si joliment leurs missionnaires. Le jubilé est une étape encourageante. Il doit être aussi un appel à l'intérêt et à la sympathie de toutes les Églises de notre petite patrie romande pour la mission qui porte son nom.

Peut-être nos concitoyens de Londres désireront-ils en savoir plus long encore sur l'activité de leurs compatriotes au Sud de l'Afrique? L'occasion leur en sera donnée Dimanche matin à l'Église Suisse, où nous nous associerons en pensée à nos amis, pour fêter leur jubilé avec eux. Et le soir, Mr. J. Bennett, jadis au service de la Mission au Transvaal, nous contera ses souvenirs personnels, que plusieurs assurément, désireront entendre. R. H. V.

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