

A correspondent's impressions of the U.S.A.

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An Ideal Present - - - A PESTALOZZI KALENDER

die sozialen Spannungen in diesem Kanton wahrscheinlich schon zu gross für den mehr familiären Landsgemeinderung. Aber kein Volkstag mehr in Stans, keiner in Sarnen, keiner mehr in Trogen? Bis das geschieht, wird allerdings noch viel Wasser rheinabwärts fliessen. An einer der letzten Appenzeller Landsgemeinden waren wir oben in Trogen, sahen auf allen Strassen des Landes endlos das Einerschreiten der bewehrten Bürger, erlebten auf dem Trogener Platz mit seinen edlen Häusern das unvergessliche Schauspiel eines souveränen, selbst über sich herrschenden Volkes. Wie viel Würde, wie viel Eigenart und Eigentümlichkeit, welches Labsal gerade heute!

Unsere kleine Schweiz ist stark und lebendig durch ihren Artreichtum, ihre Vielheit, eine Welt liegt zwischen Basel und Lugano, eine Welt zwischen St. Gallen und Genf, selbst zwanzigmal grössere Länder wie Deutschland und Frankreich sind nicht von fern so vielfältig. Politische Rationalisierung, mehr oder weniger abstrakter Zentralismus sind wohl nirgends weniger am Platze als bei uns, wo das Mannigfaltige und die Freude am Mannigfaltigen Bürgerschaften der Liebe zum Vaterland sind. Formvoller Ausdruck dieser Verschiedenartigkeit sind die Kantone, die kantonale Individualität ist geradezu Voraussetzung des Artreichtums, alles, was diese Individualität verletzt, ist ein Schlag gegen die lebendige Schweiz. Föderalistische Zöpfe sollen ruhig fallen, viel Föderalistisches kann vor der Zeit unmöglich mehr bestehen, dennoch ist das föderalistische Prinzip bei uns nicht wie anderswo zentrifugal, sondern zentripetal, es hält zusammen, statt zu trennen, der Schweizer hat das Vaterland um dessen Formenreichtum ganz besonders lieb. Sollten die Landsgemeinden fallen, dann würde unser Land um eine seiner schönsten und bedeutendsten Lebensformen ärmer. Das darf nicht sein. Die Landsgemeinden sind unantastbares Gut, es sollten sich Mittel und Wege finden, dass auch die gefährdete Urner Landsgemeinde weiter bestehen bleibt. Das sollte der Urner Staatsrädel doch noch vermögen! Dass er den Urserentälern wenigstens die Reise Altdorf retour erszeit.

Nat. Zeitung.

The Corn Laws in Switzerland.

Switzerland has been submitted to the monopoly system in regard to corn, which monopoly was given to the State. The system was to be modified in the sense that the right of importing was to be given not to the State itself but to a mixed body acting with the co-operation of the Confederation, the various cantons and private groups. So that, in fact, the corn monopoly was to be kept up. But as the introduction of the new system involved a modification of the Federal Law, the proposal was submitted by referendum to the Swiss population, which rejected it on the 5th December, 1926. Nevertheless, the old monopoly was kept up temporarily until a new solution, acceptable to the Swiss people, could be found. In the course of the year 1927, negotiations were resumed between the different circles interested with the object of discovering a system other than of monopoly, one which would meet with a favourable reception. These negotiations led to the drawing up of a Bill by the Federal Council, the main features of which are as follows: In order to stimulate the growing of corn in Switzerland, the State will purchase all home-grown corn. This home-grown will have to be purchased from the State by the millers, who dispose of it after turning it into flour, together with imported corn. The importation of foreign corn will be free, save that only firms recognised by the Confederation and submitted to its control will be allowed to import. Corn reserves will be constituted by the Confederation; millers will be compelled to keep such reserves. The expenses incurred by the running of the system and resulting from the payment of bonuses to home corn-growers will be covered by the levy of a tax on flour or the introduction of a duty on imported corn. To compensate the sacrifices consented to by millers, the latter will be protected by a special customs duty on flour.

This plan, the broad lines of which have just been described, is being submitted to an extra-Parliamentary assembly at which the principal circles interested are represented.

—Bis.

A CORRESPONDENT'S IMPRESSIONS OF THE U.S.A.

(The writer left England on a second visit to America, and, benefiting by the first visit, which was a short one, took more notice of conditions and looked into them with more interest.)

I left Southampton on the 15th October last by the *Acquatania*, and excepting one storm, had a very pleasant trip among congenial company, including many Americans who were returning home. Although they encountered much that was pleasant, a few petty grievances existed which could easily be

remedied by some of our enterprising tradesmen. An instance was the difficulty of getting their favourite brands of cigarettes, cigars, etc., and the lack of ice-water or iced beers in the hotels.

We duly arrived in New York, and found that if one's papers are in order no trouble need be feared at Ellis Island. The Customs officials are most courteous. I went straight to a hotel—just an ordinary Commercial hotel—which I found most reasonable in its charges for America, viz., \$3 per night, which included separate bathroom, lavatory, etc., hot and cold water, telephone in your room, writing table, radiator if you wanted the room hot and an electric fan if you wanted it cool. As at that time it was rather warm I put the fan on. At night time Broadway, with its millions of different coloured lights, was like fairyland, the main object of the lights being, of course, advertisement, but to me they were just a sight and made me think that electric lighting must be cheap, which it is. The price of food in restaurants is very reasonable considering the generous helping they give one. The first thing they do in the restaurants (excepting the cafeterias) is to place in front of you a glass of ice-water, rolls of various kinds of bread, and a liberal supply of butter; if you order a steak, vegetables of assorted kinds come along. A good six course dinner can be got for \$1. The huge buildings, like the Woolworth Building, which is 63 stories high, amaze one, and the interiors are designed in such a lavish way as though space was of no value, the ground floor being really a magnificent reception hall, with marble pillars. It reminds one of a grand temple rather than business premises. There are a number of lifts, some going to the fortieth floor without any stops in between.

Travelling on the subways is, to my mind, not so clean as on the London tubes, but certainly much cheaper. I travelled at least fifteen miles for 5 cents (2½d.) and believe one can go much further. No tickets are issued; you simply put 5 cents or a nickel in the box and can then go all the way or get out at the next station. Travelling one day, I noticed what a mixed lot the passengers were: Niggers, Jews, Chinese and Americans, and they were all chewing (no smoking is allowed on the trains, so that might account for Wrigley's being so popular). One party—a lady—sitting opposite was chewing so vigorously that I almost laughed at her, as every time she chewed, her hat kept time by going up and down with the movement of the jaw.

The picture palaces are really palaces, and again no smoking is allowed in the theatre, but smoking lounges are provided for gentlemen and rest lounges for ladies. You can have a free supply of hot water for washing your hands, etc., which I took advantage of; they provide liquid soap. When my hands were ready for drying I looked around for a towel and found none. Then I discovered that one had to press a pedal and dry one's hands with hot air, which, of course, obviated the labour of washing towels.

I went into a picture theatre, The Paramount. The orchestra was about 150 strong, with two huge organs. When they play the interlude, the whole floor they are on is actually a lift and they are all raised in full view of the audience. The news talking pictures are really wonderful, and will no doubt get common over here; for instance, two comedians will be shown on the screen, in fact they almost fill it so you can realise how large their faces are. They begin their patter, and you watch their lips move in perfect time with, I should think, some kind of record, only very much amplified, so that anyone, no matter how far back from the screen, can hear every word. A well-known actor told me that when this form of picture is popular many of our present 'movie' stars will find it difficult to hold their positions in the cinema world where they have to speak as well as act their parts.

As to road traffic—trams travel through Broadway (about 11 miles long), the fare being the same for any distance, 5 cents (or 2½d.) The conductor gives no tickets; you simply put a nickel in a big machine at the entrance, and if you have no change the conductor gives it to you; you then place the coin in the cup and pass into the car. When you wish to get out you do so by the driver's entrance so that the conductor's work in checking those coming in is made easy. When the car is running the doors are shut so that no one can enter.

On one side of Broadway all streets are numbered; for instance, 42nd on the right will be 42nd East, and on the left 42nd West. When traffic is stopped all the cross streets free their traffic at the same time, thus for some distance all Broadway being held up. When cross street traffic is stopped all Broadway moves freely.

'Dry land' in New York is to us a joke; all private families I came into contact with took a great pride in always offering you either bootleg whiskey, gin or their own made wines or ale; in fact, I have at times had to refuse their drinks because I did not want any. It seems that no young lady cares to go out with a young man to a dance unless he is provided with a flask.

It came as a surprise to me to find one could get so many English goods there—boots, tobacco, tailor-made suits made up of Scotch tweed, etc.; Americans readily buy anything that is genuinely Old English in the way of furniture, pictures, works of art, etc.

It is only when one observes the police that the realisation comes that there is a very rough element in New York; they all carry heavy staffs in their hands as well as side arms (revolvers). All the banks are well guarded inside by police, and the pay clerks, whom they call 'tellers,' are in well-made steel grills with only a small opening through which to pass you your cheque. They will only pay you on letters of credit or cheques after they have verified the credit and you have given proof of your identity by passports or other documentary evidence.

After a heavy fall of snow in the city, some eight inches or so, with deep drifts, it is amusing to watch the workmen working like eager children, with all kinds of weird implements to take the snow away. First along would come a kind of tramcar, with ploughs attached, which ploughed the snow to the sides of the track. This process is repeated until great heaps are on each side of the road. The latter are attacked by other men working steam shovels which scoop up great heaps and dump them into huge carts. They also have conveyors, like small shovels working on an endless chain, passing over the top of carts until full, when empty ones take their place.

Nearly everybody knows that New York skyscrapers are only possible through New York City being built on rock, but they only realise it when they see workmen digging foundations for new buildings; the latter have to drill holes in the rock, place dynamite in the holes, and then blow away large portions of rock at a time.

(Will later give impressions of Chicago and other cities visited.)

UNION HELVETIA.

(Dem Zentral-Organ entnommen.)

Nach einem Meinungsaustausch mit den leitenden Persönlichkeiten des Landesteils wird beschlossen, dass die englische Landesverwaltung auf die kommende Amtsdauer im Sinne besserer Zusammenfassung der verschiedenen Londoner Komitees umgruppiert werden soll. Dadurch dürfte eine bessere Zusammenarbeit ermöglicht werden. Die Anregungen der Generaldirektion haben in London Zustimmung gefunden.

Auf eine von der L. V. gestellte Frage, wie sich der Landesteil verhalten soll gegenüber der Absicht der Branchengruppe Köche in der Sektion London, sich in einen Cercle des Cuisiniers Suisse, umzuwandeln, dem auch Nichthelvetianer angehören können, wobei zwar erklärt wird, dass der Cercle für den Beitritt aller Köche in die U. H. arbeiten, aber dabei volle finanzielle Autonomie besitzen wolle, wird beschlossen: den Helvetianerköchen, in der Amicale Culinaire vereinigt, kann nicht gestattet werden, auch noch Nichthelvetianer in die Vereinigung aufzunehmen. Wer der Amicale angehören will, muss zugleich Helvetianer sein. Die L. V. bleibt Aufsichtsorgan über jegliche Gruppierung, welche Helvetianer zur Wahrung ihrer Berufsinteressen bilden sollten. Sie ist mit dem Vollzug und mit der Ueberwachung dieses Beschlusses beauftragt. Die Generaldirection hat gefunden, dass, wenn doch der Cercle die Zuführung nicht organisierter Schweizerköche zur U. H. bezweckt, nicht einzusehen ist, warum er dann doch Nichthelvetianer aufnehmen will. Die eminente Gefahr besteht, dass sich Leute, manchmal aus egoistischen Gründen, einer solchen Untergruppe mit Hilfe eines geringen Beitrages lediglich zu dem Zwecke anschliessen, um indirekt von den Vorteilen Nutzen zu ziehen, welche die Helvetianer kraft ihrer höheren Beitragsleistung durch solche Untergruppen ermöglichen. Der Anspruch der gegenwärtigen Leitung der Amicale verstösst auch gegen die statutarische Hierarchie des Verbandes. Daher kann ihm nicht entsprochen werden.

Die Klubhauskommission, welcher die Generaldirection nach der Delegiertenversammlung die Lage auseinandergesetzt hat, reicht ihre Gesamtdemission ein. Sie nimmt den zutreffenden Stand-

CITY SWISS CLUB.

CINDERELLA DANCE

at **NEW PRINCE'S RESTAURANT, PICCADILLY,** on

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21st, at 6.30.

Tickets, Gents 12/6, Ladies 10/6 (incl. Supper), may be obtained from Members of the Committee.