SWITZERLAND BRIGHT SPOT IN CRAZED WORLD

Little Nation, Surrounded by Giants Drunk With War, Takes Human Derelicts, Wrecked by Brethren, and Puts Them Together Again—Refuge for Wounded Soldiers.

By CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL.

(Special Correspondence)

GENEVA, Switzerland, Sept. 13.—What do we really know about the possible and the impossible?

After this war those words ought to be used with great caution or not at all. To this mysterious human race of ours, anything is possible and nothing is impossible!

Can a group of women run a harvesting machine through a wheat field while deadly shells go flying over their heads and they never give the least heed? Not in this world, I should have said two years ago.

Yet I have seen them do it, three-quarters of a mile back of the French trenches. From a bomb-proof I saw it. The women didn't have any bomb-proofs. Unexploded shells, I was told, lay in that field, likely to blow up if crunched into by a wheel or a horse's hoof.

War's Effect Upon Nation.

People can do anything, and can adjust themselves to anything.

Here was Switzerland on July 10, 1914, smiling and prosperous, hotel business was booming. Take away her hotel and tourist trade, it was said, and widespread ruin must fall upon her.

In the next two weeks her hotel and tourist trade was annihilated. More than half of her hotels are closed. But this country lives on, and there is no widespread or other kind of ruin.

Other industries besides hotel keeping are prostrate. There isn't an inch of Swiss frontier that doesn't face a fighting country and among all these giants, drunk with war, poor Switzerland, clinging with nails and teeth to blessed neutrality is squeezed to business suffocation.

Thousands of workers are in the army that Switzerland must keep her day and night guard around her borders. The government is feeding and clothing them. But it is a small country and not rich. The expenses are great and the debts piling up.

Switzerland Bright Example.

But Switzerland still lives and so do the Swiss people.

Live? Why, stricken with the paralysis of this sacred and indispensable thing we call business they go on and give to the world a wonderful and moving example of generosity. The one bright spot in this mad, sulphurous pit of perdition into which Europe has plunged is Switzerland. It is about the only place in which men seem to remember that the human family has any ties.

We Americans pride ourselves because we have sent something to Belgium. Switzerland makes all we have done look like a franc and a half.

It is the Good Samaritan of the world. It takes in the human derelicts, wrecked by their brethren in other countries and puts them together again. It has today 20,000 of the sick and maimed soldiers of other lands, nursing them back into human shape!

Hotels Are Hospitals.

What has become of its deserted hotels? They have been turned into hospitals and receiving stations for these poor, battered relics.

English and French, released in the last stages of famine, compose the bulk of these. Germany, not having food for her own people and armies, cannot feed her prisoners. Unless they get food packages from home they batten on scraps until they plainly can stand little more. Switzerland has arranged with Germany to take them at this stage and intern and care for them.

Also, this country has been from the first the great international mail box and line of communication among the belligerent nations. You cannot mail anything from England or France to Germany, nor from Germany to England or France. But Switzerland stands between and carries things for prisoners from one hostile frontier to the other.

Great World Work.

It can do this great work for humanity because it owns railroads and can put its highways at the disposal of the world's need.

Great Britain and France pay or will pay the actual cost of maintaining their interned soldiers, but this falls far short of the expenditures of the kindly Swiss. A few optimists think that when peace comes to be patched up something will be arranged for the little country that has been injured so much and still has stood true to a high sense of duty to humanity.

Maybe.

Meanwhile the debts accumulate and Swiss workers and farmers will toil very hard and long before they pay off this load put upon their country by nothing but other nations' lust for power and markets.

Mad business, is it not? If Switzerland had joined in the war she might hope for a piece of the compensation pie when it is cut. Keeping out of it she gets nothing but the odd brickbats from the field of combat.

It is not alone the way of the transgressor that is hard.

DELAYS ACTION ON PAVING SOLUTION

The city council again last night delayed action on the solution of the paving question, adjourning until the regular meeting Tuesday night, when they expect to be able to at last settle the matter.

Monday night a conference will be held behind closed doors, with the Portland representative of a large bonding house, who will present a plan for the refunding of Medford property, and then this being followed, the bonding house will furnish the money for putting into operation the plan of the city standing half the paving burden.

Other business before the council was the changing of the fountain on the corner of Main and Oakdale to the opposite side of the street before the Washington school, and the appointment of a city board of equalization to confer with the county board. Those appointed were T. E. Pottinger and W. E. Phipps.

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PROOF POSITIVE.

Tom—So you really think you have some chance with Miss Coldcash do you

Jack—That's what. She is beginning to find fault with my necktie.

COUNTY W. C. T. U. HOLDS CONVENTION NEXT FRIDAY

Jackson County W. C. T. U. will hold their convention in Medford at the Baptist church September 29 and 30.

The meeting will be called to order September 29 at 10 o'clock a. m. when all reports of unions and superintendents will be read. At 1 p. m. the afternoon session will begin.

At 1:30 "Good Yesterdays and Prosperous Tomorrows," to be supplied; 2:45, Christian citizenship hour, "What it is to the W. C. T. U." by State Superintendent Mrs. W. M. Edmonds, "What it is to the Church" Dr. Bailew. "What it is to the Business World," W. C. Garnett.

At 7 p. m. candidates hour. Ten minute talks by the candidates for office regardless of party affiliation.

September 29 evening session. Humane and mercy demonstration by the State Superintendent Jennie De Peau. Medal contest.

Saturday morning will be devoted to business and election of officers. At 2:15—"Damaged Goods," Rev. Frederick W. Carstens; 4:30 "A Trip Through the Union Signal Plant," State President Jennie Kemp.

Mrs. Kemp will be present during the entire session and will speak in the Baptist church Sunday evening on the Brewery Amendment.

Tuesday afternoon session will be instructive and of interest to all voters. There will be a short talk on "Why a Party and What They Stand For," by a representative from the Republican and Democratic parties.

Good music at all services. The meetings are open to everyone, regardless of sex, religion or party.

ASHLAND FORMS HUGHES ALLIANCE

ASHLAND, Sept. 22.—A regulation chautauqua audience greeted the formation of a Hughes Alliance in the tabernacle last night. The stage was richly decorated with a full-sized portrait of Hughes as a centerpiece. Following the preliminary address, Mrs. E. B. Hanley presided, exercising duties of position with rare tact. The program included music by the band, a duet by the Misses Nelson and McCormack, teachers in local schools; reading, R. P. Campbell; solo, Earl Russel.

Walter Toose of Salem outlined the scope of the alliance movement and reviewed political situations. The meeting concluded with an address by Col. Washburn of Table Rock.

Officers selected were Mrs. Louise Frazel, president; Mrs. Nellie Briggs, vice-president; Mrs. Alice Pell, secretary; Mrs. Susie Frucht, treasurer.

The alliance includes 200 as initial members, with more to follow, the lists being still open. Quite a delegation from Medford was in attendance.

RUMMAGE SALE FOR WAR VICTIMS AROUSES INTEREST

Great interest throughout the valley has been aroused in the grand bazaar and rummage sale to be given at the old Cuthbert building Friday and Saturday of next week for the benefit of wounded French soldiers.

In addition to the rummage sale itself, there will be a long list of amusements and special features which promises to receive enthusiastic support on all sides. Both Friday and Saturday evenings there will be dancing on the second floor of the building, a special orchestra having been engaged, consisting of Charles Hazelrigg, Herbert Alford, William Burnum and A. L. Eastwood.

Special features have been arranged for the children, including fish pond, grab boxes and a special toy department, while the grown-ups will be interested in guessing contests and the money tree—don't forget the money tree—other features to be announced later.

The following women have been selected to take charge of the main departments: Cake and candy, Mrs. Ormsy Putnam; hats, Miss Susie Daniel; shoes, Mrs. W. L. Holloway; dress department, Mrs. Lincoln McCormack; white goods, Mrs. Delroy Getchell; books, bric-a-brac and art, Mrs. Erickson and Miss Joy Folger; toy department, Miss De Vore; drinks, Mrs. E. J. Conner; bridge tea, Mrs. Edna Warren; supper babies, Mrs. W. V. B. Campbell and Mrs. Charles Brown; money tree, Miss Fern Hutchison; live stock, Boudinot Conner.

Blackmailers Seized in Cafe

CHICAGO, Sept. 22.—Mrs. Helen Evers, held by federal authorities under bonds of $25,000 as a member of an alleged blackmail syndicate, was released by representatives of State's Attorney Hoyne today, after she had been taken into custody and questioned.

The woman was seized in a cafe while with Willard Powell, who is known as "The Waco Kid."

Mrs. Evers refused to make known the nature of the questions asked her by the state's attorney's representatives.

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