

Rambles in Southern Bavaria

(By B., O.S.B.)

Concluded.

The steamer carried us directly back to the landing at Hersching, and thence in about ten minutes to Ried, a small castle on the eastern shore of the lake, which is celebrated for its beautiful scenery. The next halt was at Utting on the opposite shore. After touching at Breitbrunn, we finally landed at Unterschondorf on the west shore, about three miles from the northern extremity of the lake.

This village is remarkable for its church, which, as is claimed by competent authorities, was anciently a heathen temple. It is 25 feet wide and 60 long and is built entirely of tufa. The ancient Roman highway, coming up from Diessen and continuing onward to Landsberg, formerly led through this village and a Roman town occupied its present site, as is evidenced by other remains of Roman architecture still extant in the village.

As we wished to arrive at St. Ottilien in good season, we could not tarry long to view these interesting relics of by-gone ages. We followed a narrow path northward which led into a fine young pine forest in whose shade we walked about a mile and a half, when we found ourselves on an open plain near an old mill which is named Auenmuehle from the fact that it is surrounded by meadows. Up to 1544 this mill belonged to the monastery at Diessen. In 1588 it was sold for the magnificent sum of 85 Gulden (about \$34.00)—an evidence of the decrease of the purchasing power of money since then. Here we crossed the Windach, a tributary of the Ammer, and soon arrived at the mediaeval castle of Greifenberg.

At the foot of the hill upon which the castle stands, lies the village of the same name, and near by are the mineral springs, which make the place quite a resort for sufferers from various ailments.

After a brief halt, we resumed our journey on the highway which leads northward towards Beuern. The land is comparatively level and well cultivated in this neighborhood. From various points on the way, Andechs could be seen far away in the south, whilst, still beyond, the Alpine giants reared their mighty summits towards heaven.

Shortly before arriving at Beuern, a country road branched off towards the west for Pflaundorf. This we took, and in about half an hour, found ourselves in that little country village. Since there seemed to be nothing especially noteworthy about the place, we resumed our journey after enquiring for the nearest road to St. Ottilien.

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Our path led for some distance across the fields and then entered a small wood. When we had emerged from this, we saw the buildings of the monastery near us. After crossing the railroad track, we stood before the monastic cemetery, which occupies a small, steep, circular hill, so graded that it forms three terraces, the highest of which is crowned by a large crucifix.

To the right, we saw the convent of the Sisters, a large complex of buildings, constructed of red brick, situated in the center of an immense garden, which the Sisters cultivated with their own hands. The buildings were sufficiently large to accommodate 150 Sisters. This was the motherhouse of the Benedictine Sisters of St. Ottilien, who had already done splendid service as teachers in the missions, hospitals and asylums of German East Africa. Here they were not only trained in the principles and practices of the religious life, but they also underwent a systematic training for their work in the missions. They learned the language of their future wards, accustomed themselves to the food used in East Africa, and hardened their bodies by performing manual labor in the garden and the field, at the same time fitting themselves for giving practical instruction in agriculture and horticulture to the children and women in the missionary country. Six years after our visit, the convent of the Sisters removed to Tutzing, and the convent buildings were transformed into a College conducted by the monks of St. Ottilien. In consequence of the World War, it is probable that the labors of both the Sisters and the monks are at an end in East Africa.

Some distance west of the convent, beyond the public highway, the front of a grand assemblage of buildings greeted us. Arrived at the iron gate by the roadside, we stopped for a few moments to admire the beautiful front of the fine buildings which are constructed of red brick in the later gothic style.

A brother answered the call of the bell and, leading us through the beautifully kept garden, took us to the main entrance, where the reverend guestmaster introduced himself to us. After partaking of some refreshments, we were shown the monastery, the work-shops, the new church which was not yet under roof, and the college, where the young candidates for the Order receive their preparatory education.

The monastery is sufficiently large to accommodate 30 Fathers and 150 Brothers. It is excellently planned, well executed, and kept scrupulously neat and clean. We were told that nothing but the raw material was purchased, all the work being done by the Brothers, whom the Fathers assisted during their spare time. Even the hinges and locks on the doors were made by the Brothers.

In the African Museum of the monastery we saw a very large collection of articles, of which many an ethnological collection might be proud. Here were large numbers of shields, lances, bows and arrows, and other weapons; models of huts, cloths woven by the negroes, costumes of the Arabs and Indians on the African coast, implements, rare animals, plants and other products of German East Africa. All these articles have been collected by the Fathers during their sojourn on the Black Continent.

A short distance from the monastery stood the college in which about 75 boys and young men were being educated for the Order. It stood on a small elevation and consisted in part of a small castle of the seventeenth century. The chapel of the castle had been much enlarged, and served as college chapel. Considerable additions had to be made to the buildings in the course of time to accommodate the continually increasing number of students.

To a stranger it seemed wonderful that this immense establishment should have been erected within the brief space of 11 years. Nevertheless it is true. In 1887 the community, which

had been founded in 1884 for the purpose of furnishing missionaries for heathen countries, purchased St. Ottilien with a large tract of farm land. A few farm houses and the small castle served as temporary quarters for the monks. The beginning was extremely difficult on account of the heavy indebtedness, but God visibly blessed the enterprise.

As early as February 1888, the missionary work was begun in German East Africa, one Father, nine Brothers and four Sisters founding a mission at Pugu, which soon gave great promise of success. A year later, however, the natives destroyed the mission, killing two Brothers and one Sister, and carrying several off into captivity, whom the monastery had to ransom at a high price. Nothing daunted, however, St. Ottilien sent out new missionaries. Their martyred brethren undoubtedly implored God's blessing upon their labors, so that soon the congregation had a number of flourishing missions, its labors extending from the first over a large part of German East African territory. One of the Fathers was at first Prefect Apostolic of the Missions. Later, when the Vicariate Apostolic of Dar-es-Salem was erected, Father Cassian Spiss, O.S.B., was appointed Vicar Apostolic. During the insurrection of the natives in 1905, he, with two Brothers, was foully murdered. Nevertheless the good work was carried on in the missions, which were in a most flourishing state at the outbreak of the World War. After the occupation of German East Africa, the missionaries, being considered enemies by the Allies, were deported from the country. Whether they will be again permitted to continue their work after the war, is still doubtful at this writing.

Having enjoyed the kind hospitality of the good Fathers until the next morning, we took leave and departed for Geltendorf, a station about a mile north of St. Ottilien, where we arrived in time to board the train for Munich.

Fifteen Years Ago

From No. 14 of St. Peters Bote

The editor in the issue for May 31 says that the prosperity which the Rosthern storekeepers were able to record in the past year was to a great extent due to the business which our new settlers for St. Peter's Colony brought to the town. Some have shown their appreciation by advertising in the St. Peters Bote, the Colony's newspaper. Others, however, seem only intent on benefitting by the settlers, but apparently do not wish to do anything for them. Settlers should buy only from those who advertise in the Colony's paper.

In connection with the lively discussion at present re railroads and transportation facilities the question of a Hudson's Bay railroad is arousing considerable interest.

Seventeen settlers are mentioned by name as hailing from Wisconsin and twelve from Iowa. Those are all that the writer, Ernst-Heiter, knows personally, although many more from those states may be in the Colony.

Among Rosthern locals we read that a large contingent of new settlers came recently for the Colony. Among these were Math. Stammen, Herman Koening's family, Bocklage, Adam Bunz from Adam, Mass., with four grown up sons, son-in-law, and nephew, that is with thirteen members of the family.—May 12th was a beautiful day but on the next day it was cloudy. A warm wind was blowing from the south. During the night it rained, continuing during the entire morning of the day following. Up to now they had the best weather desirable for farming. To-day, the writer continues, a number of Catholics arrived again for the Colony.

Henry Dceper, Jos. and Theo. Moeller, Peter Weyland, Stephan Schmitz, Peter Schwarz and Jos. Precht; likewise Nic. Daleiden and Mr. Frey who had spent the winter in their former home.—On the 15th and 16th it rained again making the roads almost impassable.—On the 19th a large number of the Colonists were in town. Among them were Renneberg, Kehr, Korst, Weiss etc. Father Meinrad was also in and bought a team of horses.—Among the new arrivals for the Colony were Aug. Simon and Anthony Droste.—The Rt. Rev. Bishop Pascal honored the town with his presence from the 5th to the 9th of May. The new Catholic church was blessed by him on the 8th. The new church is 24x52. After the blessing of the church, His Lordship celebrated Pontifical High Mass. Prior Alfred was presbyter-assistant, Father

Dominic and Father Paille were deacon and subdeacon, Brother Lacroix, O. M. L. directed the choir, and Mrs. Baroiness de Defail presided at the organ. The principal sermon was in English on this occasion, a shorter sermon being delivered in German. Both were preached by the Very Rev. Prior Alfred. After the Pontifical High Mass twelve persons were confirmed.

According to Immigration Agent Speers, there are between Lumsden and Portal, at least 650 cars containing settlers' effects, waiting for transportation to points along the C. P. R.—Last Thursday the first train again crossed the Qu'Appelle valley near Lumsden. The road bed has been raised two to three feet, so that it now rises above the water. Hundreds of cars with ballast were needed for this necessary work.

ADDENDA:

Weather in the Colony during May: A light rain fell on the first of May for several hours in the afternoon. On the following day it rained a good deal. On the 7th of the month the roads going west from St. Peter's Monastery were in bad shape. May 11th brought a heavy rain. On May 13th the trees were not yet green. For the remainder of the month nothing special is recorded in reference to the weather. The roads were gradually drying up and the trees putting on their mantle of green.

Edmonton
A Generation Ago

The readers of St. Peters Bote who live in or near Edmonton will undoubtedly be pleased to read the description of the place which has since grown to be the capital of Alberta, made by Mr. J. B. Tyrrell of the Dominion Geological Survey in 1886, which can be found in the Report of the Geological Survey for that year, p. 52 E. It can serve well to show how the Canadian West has developed in the course of one generation:

"Edmonton is a thriving town of about nine hundred inhabitants, situated on the north bank of the Saskatchewan, and about two hundred feet above its high-water level.

"Located as it is, as far up the river as steamboats can depend on being able to reach during the greater part of the season, it has for many years been a chief distributing point of the Hudson's Bay Company's posts throughout the wide region to the north-west drained by the Mackenzie River into the Arctic Ocean, and the northern furs are now sent east from there either by boat down the river to Winnipeg or by trail to the Canadian Pacific Railway at

Calgary. This trail has recently been surveyed and marked by the Dominion Government; most of the streams crossing it are bridged and there is a good ferry across Red Deer River; consequently in fine weather—and for the greater part of the year the weather in that part of the country is fine—it is an excellent highway.

"Edmonton has also direct telegraphic communication with the east by a line on the old location of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as well as by a line just completed through the more settled country on the north side of the river.

"A plentiful supply of wood can always be obtained from points higher up the Saskatchewan, but it is not necessary to use wood for fuel, the quantity of coal close at hand being inexhaustible. Mr. Donald Ross has run a drift into the side of the bank immediately below the main street of the town, and is mining a coal of good quality, which, when protected from the weather, will keep for a considerable time, and burns well both in closed stoves and in open grates. Judging by analysis it is equal to much of the coal which is now being so largely mined in Colorado, and superior to that mined at Almy, in Wyoming Territory, where the total output for 1883 is stated at 219,351 tons.

"Besides its other advantages, Edmonton is in the center of a district of great fertility, the soil being a rich, deep, black loam that will bear heavy crops of all the ordinary cereals and roots. For these products there is at present a good local market, but should the supply exceed the demand, the farmer could always utilize the surplus in feeding his horses, cattle and pigs, and thus avoid the loss more or less incidental to a purely ranching district."

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