

A TRIP TO EUROPE

by Miss Margaret Laundry.

This is the last article in the series by Miss Margaret Laundry.

As most of our readers are aware Margaret Laundry and her friend Miss Kathryn Best embarked on a fourteen month trip to Europe. They worked and travelled for fourteen months seeing practically all there is to see in the British Isles and the Continent.

Margaret arrived at her home in Terrace Bay last fall. We asked her if she would prepare a series of articles on her trip. In December the first article appeared in the News. This is the twenty-second article in the series.

Margaret Laundry is a Registered Nurse and is at present working at the Toronto Western Hospital. These articles were prepared and mailed each week from Toronto.

On behalf of our readers we wish to express our appreciation to Margaret for the articles and to be taken on a most interesting "Trip to Europe".

EUROPE

In our last three months of touring Kath and I visited ten European countries. To write intensively of them all would take years but perhaps I can summarize with a little of each.

We crossed the English channel from Dover to Ostend, visiting Brussels with its lace shops and "Manequin Pir". There were many large American cars on the Belgian roads, for it is one of the "hard" currency countries of Europe and can afford such luxuries.

Luxembourg where originated the plot of and setting for "Call Me Madam" is a beautiful old fortress city. In the north of Luxembourg if one can distinguish between north and south in such a small country, we met a chap who detoured us thro' the Ardennes to a village on the German border. Here he showed the remains of one of the concrete fortifications of the Seigfried Line built in 1935 to the terror and consternation of the Luxembourg villagers at whom it pointed.

Amsterdam, the Venice of the North, was one of the few cities in which Kath got lost - I got lost in all cities. Its canals running along each street were built in horseshoe fashion with bridges that lift in the middle over the larger canals. It is the center of Holland's art and produced such masters as Rembrandt,

(Cont. on next col.)

A TRIP TO EUROPE (Cont.)

Van Dyck and Van Gough. The large areas of land which have been salvaged from the sea are called "Polders" and these constitute practically all of Holland. The Dutch say that in time they will claim the whole of the Zuider Zee. We visited the quaint old town of Delft famous for its blue and white pottery, the cheese market at Alkmaar and the villages of Marken and Volendam, where all the townspeople wear their traditional costumes. Marken, situated on an island in the Zuider Zee is a Protestant town where marriage with anyone other than the townspeople is forbidden, while Volendam is a Catholic community on the mainland and is not so isolated in location or customs. A midway was holding forth in Volendam and it did seem funny to see the young braided children in long full skirts, white caps and wooden shoes whirling around on a merry-go-round.

Our furthest point north was that modern Danish city of Copenhagen noted for its beautiful blue Royal Danish Porcelain, the exact misty blue of the surrounding ocean on a rainy day.

We spent two delightful days sailing down the Rhine gorge, in the company of two South Africans, from the heavily bombed city of Cologne to Mainz. The River banks are high and steep terraced with vineyards and dotted with ruined castles. Rhine wine is one of the choicest in the world, each village along the River holding a wine festival during the picking season with music throughout the streets, dancing and of course the imbibing of a great deal of wine. The contour of northern Germany is very similar to that of southern Ontario with one difference -- it abounds in heather.

Switzerland is the biggest little country ever. It has four official languages with many dialects and an industrious people with the highest standard of living in Europe. For scenery it was my favourite country - a land of snowy mountains, many lakes and flower bedeked chalets.

Passing thro' the south of Germany we arrived in Munich for the "Octoberfest" at which time the alcoholic content of beer is raised to 26% and the country yokels come into town to celebrate. The Hofbrauhaus, the beer hall of Hitler fame was packed with revelers drinking from tall gray pottery mugs. Here we tasted our first of Weinerschnitzel

(Cont. on Page 5)