

„Wilder Mann“, XVIII., Währingerstraße 85. Concerts and balls.

„Zögernitz Kassino“ in Ober-Döbling, concerts.

For full particulars see the „Vergnügungs-Anzeiger“ (List of Amusements) in the daily papers, particularly the „Fremdenblatt“.

Topography of Vienna.

Vienna, the Metropolis of the Monarchy and the residence of the Imperial Family, is situated in a low plain, bordered by the spurs of the Bohemian-Moravian border-mountains, the Lesser Carpathians, the Leitha Hills and the hills of the Wiener Wold, which slope gently towards the city. A right arm of the Danube intersects the town, with its tributaries the Wienfluß and the Alserbach. The municipal territory of Vienna comprises an area of 27,308 hectares with upwards of 40,710 houses in 1910, containing about 500,000 lodgings. The number of inhabitants in 1906 was computed at 1,988,680 persons (including the active army). As the yearly increase of the civil population is estimated at 2.28%. In 1910 we had already exceeded the second million of inhabitants.

The new communal territory is divided into 21 districts.

The Community is represented by the elected Mayor (Bürgermeister), whose appointment must be confirmed by the Emperor, 3 Deputy-Mayors (their number is to be raised to 4), 22 Town Councillors and 158 Members of the Common Council.

Historical Survey.

Vienna, it is generally assumed, was founded by a Celtic tribe even before the commencement of our chronology. Certain it is that in the first century after Christ the Romans established a fort here for consolidating their dominion over the Danube territory, which they called „Vindobona“. The Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius died here in 180 A. C. — In the fifth century the ancient military colony, which had meanwhile developed into a town,

was destroyed by the Huns and passed into the possession of the Rugii who gave it the name of Faviana, from which the present „Wien“ is derived. The Rugii were driven out by the Longobards and the latter, in 791 by Charles the Great. About this time the Ostmark was founded as a bulwark against the inrush of the Avars and Magyars; the Margraves of the Ostmark resided first at Melk on the Danube, afterwards on the Kahlenberg. It was only under Margrave Leopold III. (the Saint), of the family of the Babenbergers, that Vienna began to flourish. Emperor Frederick Barbarossa in 1156 raised the Ostmark to an independent Dukedom with which he enfeoffed the Babenberger Henry II. (Jasomirgott). The latter removed his residence to the town, thereby imparting an immediate impulse to the development which it was destined to display in the following centuries. He laid the foundation-stone to the Cathedral of St. Stephen (1144) and established a citadel „am Hof“ (1160). Duke Leopold IV. (the Glorious) in 1200 built a castle (Burg) on the site which is now occupied by the Hofburg. During the reign of Leopold IV. Vienna developed very rapidly, so that it then ranked among the most considerable towns of what was then southern Germany.

After the extinction of the Babenbergers (1246), under Duke Frederick, the first tax and other fearful hardships, were inflicted and in 1251 Vienna was conquered by Ottokar of Bohemia and remained under his dominion until in 1276 when Rudolf von Habsburg occupied the town and became the founder of the Habsburg dynasty. Under Duke Rudolf IV. the Cathedral of St. Stephen was rebuilt in 1359, and the university founded. In 1485 the town was besieged and taken by Matthew Corvinus, King of Hungary. When in 1519 Vladislaw of Hungary and Bohemia, and Sigismund of Poland visited the Emperor Maximilian I., they decided the marriage of their children, whereby Bohemia, Moravia and Hungary were subsequently joined to Austria; hence the origin of the well-known saying:

„Bella gerant alii, tu felix Austria nube:
Nam qua Mars aliis dat tibi regna Venus.“

Vienna also had an opportunity of proving its superiority in warfare, particularly during the various invasions of the Turks, whose army 120,000 men besieged the town under

Soliman II. in 1529, but was forced to retreat before the valiant resistance of Count Niclas von Salm. After the great Plague in 1679 to which upwards of 120,000 persons fell victims, the existence of the town was once more menaced by an invasion of the Turks in 1683. With an army exceeding 200,000 men Kara Mustapha marched up to the very gates of the city and besieged it from July 13th to September 12th. It was to the heroic defence of Count Rüdiger von Starhemberg, who stood out for two months against a force ten times superior, that the town owed its rescue. John Sobieski of Poland and Louis of Bavaria at the head of the united armies of the Poles, Austrians, Saxons, Bavarians and Franconians, completely routed the Turkish army. With Charles VI., who died in 1740, the male line of the Habsburgs died out and the crown succeeded to the glorious Empress Maria Theresa. After a reign of 40 years full of wisdom and power, this Monarch died on the 29th of November 1780; she was succeeded by her great son Joseph II., whose accession heralded an era of 10 years in which there was a marked development in matters political, intellectual and social such as Austria had never before experienced or anticipated. He died on the 10th of Februar 1790. Under Joseph's successors, Leopold II. and Francis I., there followed an entire change in the liberal system of internal politics, which asserted itself on the public life of Vienna, a state of things which was aggravated by the distress occasioned by the French wars. After the unlucky battles of Austerlitz (1805) and Wagram (1809), Vienna fell for a short time into the power of Napoleon. After his defeat the Vienna Congress was held from November 3^d, 1814 till June 9th 1815. The termination of the French wars ushered in that melancholy epoch in which all intellectual life stagnated, in which the police, censorship and clergy exercised the most unbearable pressure upon the population, ending with the Revolution of 1848. The struggle for emancipation, which began in March, terminated with the bombardment and occupation of the town by the Imperial troops under Windischgraetz on the 31st of October. This was followed by the abdication of Emperor Ferdinand I. in favor of his nephew the present Emperor.

Francis Joseph I. ascended the throne on the 2nd of December 1848 and under his reign Vienna has risen to

unprecedented greatness. We will point out in chronological order only the most important features of this memorable era, so momentous for the development of the city: On the 20th of December 1857 was published the imperial Decree commanding the razing to the ground of the fortifications and glacis surrounding the inner city; the wide stretch of space thus gained being devoted to the enlargement of the city.

The projects on so large a scale, which were now brought forward, incited the speculative minds of numerous eminent architects and artists at home and abroad, who now found a wide scope for the development of their talents. Under the animating breath of a new era the town acquired an artistic importance all the more admirable because architecture and art seemed to have died out during the preceding period of reaction. While palaces and public edifices were arising in all directions, testifying to the creative genius of great masters, that most brilliant achievement of this art-gifted epoch and triumph of modern architecture, the „Ringstraße“, one of the handsomest streets of the world come into existence. Among the architects who devoted their energies to this unique work, were: Van der Nüll, Siccardsburg, Schmidt, Ferstel, Semper, Hansen, Hasenauer, Wielemans, Romano; among the sculptors of this new Vienna, were: Gasser, Fernkorn, Pilz, Kundmann, Tilgner, Weyr, Zumbusch, the painters: Rahl, Führich, Overbeck, Griepenkerl, Eisenmenger, Makart, Canon; among the later sculptors and painters, were: l'Allemand, Alt, Amerling, Angeli, Felix, Friedländer, Gaul, Hoffmann, Lausberger, Lichtenfels, Natter, Pettenkofen. By his imperial gift for the enlargement of the town Francis Joseph I. has raised to himself the finest monument in the hearts of his people, whose loyalty and attachment to the dynasty was yet more enhanced by the granting of a Constitution on the 26th of February 1861. From that period dates a complete transformation of public and social life in which the antiquated forms of the imperial city were rejuvenated and it has become one of the most opulent and beautiful cities of the world. In 1870 commenced the grand work of the regulation of the Danube, which, after overcoming innumerable difficulties, was completed in 1877 at a cost of 64 million Kronen. The river, connected with the town by means of the „Danube Canal“,

was directed into a new channel, thereby for ever removing the threatening danger of inundation. An enterprise, no less gigantic, was the construction of the Hochquellen Aqueduct, the execution of which lasted from 1870—1874 absorbing a sum of 48 million Kronen. A canal of brick and stone, 65 miles in length, conveys the water through tunnels and over bold aqueducts direct from the mountain district of the Semmering to the city. This has made Vienna one of the most salubrious towns of Europe. In commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the Emperor's reign the Universal Exhibition was opened on the 1st of May 1873. This pacific contest of nations gave rise to much animation and resulted in an increase of energy such as to render the remembrance of it imperishable. The love and loyalty of the Viennese for the reigning family were gloriously manifested on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Emperor's marriage in 1879. With the concurrence of all the Estates a festive procession, artistically carried out to the very last detail, was brought about, the like of which no other town has ever seen, or is hardly likely to see. The vigorous interest Vienna takes in all scientific pursuits, manifested itself in a remarkable degree at the Electrical Exhibition in 1883, which was opened by its illustrious Patron, his Imp. Highness the late Crown Prince Rudolf, with a most significant speech. In 1888 his Majesty celebrated the 40th jubilee of his accession to the throne, and Vienna prepared to celebrate the festival by organizing a Trades Exhibition. With the year 1891 a new epoch commenced for Vienna. Again, as 33 years before, it was the initiative of his Majesty the Emperor, who realized a wish, long cherished by the population, that Vienna with its surrounding suburbs should form one great city. On the occasion of his opening the grounds on the Türkenschanz, his Majesty uttered the momentous words: „It is urgent that something be done for Vienna.“ That suggestion enabled the Government to work out a Bill, first for extending the boundary-line for levying duties on articles of consumption, in order, by a more equal repartition of those duties, to free Vienna from the trammels of the boundary-line. On December 19, 1890 the law was sanctioned, the object of which was the joining of the suburbs and communities within the new boundary-line to the municipality of Vienna, in one single community.

By this means it has become possible to carry out a number of great enterprises in the city, such as the construction of the Stadtbahn (metropolitan railway), the regulation and partial superimposing of the Wienfluß and the construction of a winter-harbour in the Danube-Kanal, all of which have been attended with great economic success.

Character of the People. The fundamental features of the character of the people are justly considered to be joviality and good nature. The Viennese has a sympathizing heart and he is happiest when he has it in his power to be kind and indulgent. In places of public amusement, be they ever so numerous attended, everything goes off in harmless and innocent enjoyment. In no large town will the stranger feel at home so easily as in Vienna, and the bearer of a letter of introduction will find ready admission into society. The Viennese is fond of music and dancing and loves to spend his leisure hours in merry company; he frequents theatres and concerts, and above all he delights in the beautiful scenery which the lovely environs of Vienna afford him. The beauty of the Viennese women, displayed in the most various types, is famed all over the world. So also is their reputation for being loyal wives, good mothers and excellent house-keepers.

A detailed description of the popular life, the manners and habits of the people, together with all that is worth knowing in the history past and present is embodied in the work by Friedrich Schlögl, „Städtebild Wien“ which may be recommended as pleasant and instructive reading to every visitor to this city. In case of a prolonged stay, we also recommend the writings of Chiavacci and of Pötzl, whose humorous works are to be had of any bookseller.

Cursory View and Drive through the City*).

In order to obtain a general impression of the sights and monumental edifices of the town, it is advisable to make the Stephansplatz your starting-point, this being the

*) The sights marked with an * should be visited separately.