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Correspondence from Germany

Spremberg, Bude 9, June 15, 1907

Worthy Volksblatt!

After a longer pause, I want to send in a few lines again. The long severe winter lasted till Easter. But we have not had any late frost. The fruit trees bloomed well and were not frozen. But, despite this, some have no fruit. A kind of a caterpillar came that eats everything, they even ate the pine trees bare. The caterpillars are larger than the [ ], 3 inches long and thick as your finger, bright green and hairy.

Mr. M. Schurmann visited me on June 8, and stayed with me for half a day. On the 9th we undertook a trip to Hirschberg at 5:00 o'clock in the morning per Railroad Society on train #763 from Spremberg. We arrived at Hirschberg at 10:00 o'clock. Then we took the electric train to Warmbrunnen, and from there to Hermsdorf. We had to get back on the same day so could only climb Mount Kynast (Chojnik).

Each year, the Kynast is climbed by thousands in the summer time (this giant mountain). But no one climbs the old mountain, about which there is a story and legend about the bittern crane. This mountain is left unclimbed, or has to be discontinued in the process. On our climb, the view from the tower is beyond description. It provides a view to any friend of nature as no other mountain in the Northern Mountains. In some places, the stately peaks rise to a height of 1,817 feet, and then go down more gradually on the north side. The trees that grow here are in themselves a worthy sight. They stand like candles, not very think, but very tall, taller than those that grow in the land below. There are spruce, fir trees and "Lufern." The name "Kynast" comes from the royal family. The large boulders are as big as a house built into the mountain and are very interesting. It takes about a half hour to get to the top.

When you get to the top, you can see the ruins of a fortress. There, the tourist can get beer and wine. Post cards, as well as different souvenirs are for sale, and almost everyone buys a keepsake. You have to pay 10 *Pfennigs* to climb up the tower. The stairs have 100 steps made of wood like in the capitol at [\_\_\_\_].

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The origin of the fortress is not known, but it is thought that it was built by Bolko I, the Duke from Schweitnitz in 1292. This fortress was not able to be captured in the 30 Year War, although many attempts were made to conquer it, but they had to let the matter rest. All of the rooms, the courtyard, and the gun emplacements are still there. In 1675, the ruins were damaged when they were hit by lightning, which went from the tower into the rest of the building and set it on fire, so that all that could burn was destroyed. After that, the tower was not able to be climbed. In 1823 the present stairway was constructed under the direction of Count Stillfried Rattonitz.

The new restoration was done in 1866. During the excavations, various coins and other things were found, which must not have been destroyed in the fire. These have been preserved in the Warmbrunnen Library. Presently, the land belongs to the General Royal Count Johannes. With greetings to the readers of the

Volksblatt.

M. Hantschke

Translated by Ed Bernthal

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