

# Random notes from lovely Switzerland

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## RANDOM NOTES FROM LOVELY SWITZERLAND.

A new skating rink pavilion has been inaugurated last November in Davos. The last word in modern convenience and equipment has been applied. It is a truly palatial structure, solidly built of native fir, which abound in Davos.

Geneva, the cosmopolitan, harbors people from every nation of the world. There is no country that has not some delegates or observers stationed in this world-renowned city. The last few weeks have been particularly active, and we all hope that the peaceful situation of this delightful city will inspire the many scores of leading diplomats assembled there, to preserve and restore peace among men.

A new type of light express train has recently been introduced by the Federal Railroads. The single vehicle has a length of 70 feet, combining the electric "locomotive" with the passenger-coach in one massive "streamlined" carriage. It is entirely Swiss-built and of a very inspiring aspect. The accommodation provides for 70 passengers, and it is intended to give more frequent and rapid service. Curves can safely be negotiated at a speed of 80 kilometers, while a maximum speed of 140 kilometers is attained on straight runs. The new streamlined train is another milestone in Swiss railroad history, and its swift expansion throughout the land is already under way.

Have you ever heard the thunderous roar of an avalanche? During "Föhn" time in spring you can witness some stupendous avalanches from Wengen, just a "stone's throw" across the Lauterbrunnen Valley, coming down from the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau or half a dozen other finely poised peaks. Regularly in the late spring the roar can be heard of the well-known "Kühlaenen", the two Bandlaenen, the ones from the deeply cleft Giessen and the Lammlai. It is a sight never to be forgotten to witness the irresistible force of the mighty mass of ice and snow moving down towards the valley.

SANTISBAHN. Another of Switzerland's beautiful peaks has been conquered by a new engineering feat. A new aerial railway of a daring construction leads the traveller in 10 minutes to the top of the mountain, which previously it took 5 hours to climb. The Säntis has for the past 50 years been the site of a meteorological station. Extreme loneliness during the long winter months has so far been the lot of its keepers. However, the old oil lamp had to go and thanks to electricity and the new railway, life on this noted peak will henceforth assume a different aspect for the inmates of the Observatory.

The chief commercial aviation undertaking in Switzerland, "Swiss Air", has had a very successful season. The constant demand for accommodation has decided the Company to prolong the summer schedule for a further month until the end of October - a specially great demand existed for the express route Zürich - London which is flown in 3 hours. More and more, the commercial air-planes are used for the transport of the sick. A short time ago a call came to Zürich from Milan at 4 p.m. to pick up a patient who had to be operated on in Zürich - the patient arrived there at 8 p.m. Pilot Mittelholzer made an express flight with Lord Beaverbrook from Zürich to London; from London to Biarritz (France) and back to Zürich in 10 hours.

The International Ice Skating Association has decided to hold the 1936 competition for all categories of ice skating in Davos during the month of February.

A personality who has interested the public mind more and more in Switzerland, is Mr.G.Duttweiler, who, some ten years ago, created an organization called "Migros". Mr.Duttweiler, who has great capabilities as an organizer, realised that in the grocery trade big economies could be made for the housewife if by a good organization the costs could be reduced and therefore the products sold to the public at a lower price. The idea of selling groceries in the street from a specially equipped van was an absolute novelty for Switzerland and has proved, in the course of the years, to satisfy the need of an ever-growing number of customers. Apart from the vans, the Migros has also started to open shops in all the main cities of Switzerland, and the vans are extending their tours to more and more suburbs and even to the villages round the large cities.

Recently, Mr.Duttweiler again came to the fore-ground with an entirely new scheme for the assistance of the very hard suffering hotel people. He called his scheme "Hotel Plan" and the main idea was to fill the hotels and therefore reduce the running cost, and on the other hand, by reducing the running cost, find more people to fill the hotels. The "Hotel Plan" has brought forward a great controversy among the different classes of interested people. However, the result for the first season, which has just closed, was very considerable and more and more people are beginning to believe that Mr.Duttweiler's scheme will bring salvation to our hotel business. During the peak season, he brought whole train-loads of people from Holland and Germany to Switzerland, and the hotel people and railways of the holiday places where the "Hotel Plan" is in operation have found out that the scheme is really a good one. On the other hand, the customer, or in this case the holiday-maker, finds it a very attractive holiday to be able to go to a very good hotel at a much cheaper rate, with sight-seeing trips and entertainment all included.

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We are trying to find a suitable place to give our aged countryman, Mr.Baechler, a new home. Mr.Baechler is suffering at intervals from nervous depression, and a good home, where he could work in the garden, would be best. A small amount for his board could be paid.

Swiss people, if you have a spare bach, and think you could give him a good home, let us know.

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