

The huskies of the Jungfrau railway

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THE HUSKIES OF THE JUNGFRAU RAILWAY.

With the co-operation of the late Amundsen, arctic explorer, 20 Polar dogs were imported by the Jungfrau railway in 1912. They were to be instrumental in keeping up communication in winter between Wengen-Scheidegg and Eiger Glacier, at which latter point the direction and personnel of the line dwell throughout the year. At this border point of the Eiger Glacier starts the $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles long tunnel through the Eiger and Mönch. While this part of the Jungfrau line is perfectly independent of all weather conditions, the open section between Scheidegg and Eiger Glacier, as well as the Wengernalp railway part from Wengen to Scheidegg, are exposed to the elements. Although huge snow plows are now in use for clearing purposes during the winter sports season, there are times in between when the Polar dogs are the only medium for bringing up supplies, mail and visitors from these points below.

Nowadays, however, the main purpose of the Jungfrau huskies is to give the visitors, particularly in mid-summer, the pleasure of a sleigh ride over vast fields of eternal snow. With their aid good skiers are able to indulge in ski-kjöring parties, which are as full of thrills as the horse-propelled ones. Dog-sleighs, to carry supplies, are also taken along by tourists bound for an excursion on the adjoining Aletsch Glacier, which, with a length of over 18 miles, is Europe's longest river of ice.

The rigorous climate prevailing at Eiger Glacier and Jungfrauoch suits the huskies to perfection. They are happiest in a snowstorm, when they lie out-of-doors and simply revel in getting snowed in. Quite a few dogs have been successfully reared at Eiger Glacier, but from time to time new animals are brought into the colony, in order to introduce fresh blood into the stock. The most recent addition consisted of some high class dogs who had first acted as film stars on Jungfrauoch and then were sold to the railway. These animals came from Siberia and are tall and slim, with a wonderful coat of yellowish white fur. The Greenland dogs, on the other hand, are very sturdy looking, more wolf-like, and have a black or black and white coat.

The very up-to-date Eiger Glacier kennels are in charge of an experienced trainer and the dogs' time is equally divided. A day of rest at Eiger Glacier is followed by a day of work on Jungfrauoch, and to judge from their behavior, the animals enjoy pulling sleds best of all. Almost dismal is their countenance on days when fog or rain keep them away from their field of activity. A Jungfrauoch dog-sleigh is designed to accommodate two people and a keeper always guides the vehicle. The huskies have been especially taught how to proceed over glacier fields. With a slight bark they give warning of the approach or presence of slight cracks, and more violent barking indicates larger fissures.

Polar dogs always have a leader, but that animal's supremacy lasts only as long as his physical superiority warrants it. Not seldom does the struggle for leadership lead to violent fights and, if the trainer has not sensed the situation, to bloodshed. Although these huskies are given to fighting and biting among themselves, or when they come across other dogs, they are gentle and friendly toward human beings. Shoes, bindings of skis, or any leather goods should, however, be placed out of their reach, for they have a special fondness for chewing up all such articles.

MEMBERS : Contribute articles and news of
 general interest to this public-
 ation.

Armaments-Loan: On September 4th, the Federal Council proclaimed the conditions and terms of the first 80 Mill.Fr. "Defence" Loan. Subscriptions are opened as from September 21st to October 15th. Bonds are divided in scripts of 100, 500, 1000, and 5000 denominations. They bear interest at 3%, payable every 1st April; no Emission or Stamp Duties are charged. The nominal 100 Fr. Bond is offered at Fr.98.75. The Minister of Finance published the following appeal: "Every subscriber of this defence loan helps to protect and maintain the liberty and independence of our republic. He protects his family and insures property and income. In financing the great defence measures he assists home industry and puts thousands of unemployed back to work. The critical international situation forces the authorities to demand great sacrifices from our people."

Catastrophe in the Entlebuch Valley: Great havoc and loss of lives have been caused by torrential rain and storm in the Entlebuch. Many homes and a textile factory were ruined. Bridges collapsed, all telephone and electric connections broke down, many large landslides occurred burying and killing cattle. In Emmenegg the new and imposing farmstead of Alfred Rosli was completely destroyed, killing the entire family of seven. Eye-witnesses report the terrible occurrence: "We traversed the Entlebuch valley in the early morning and suspected not that the ominous thunder coming from the west should impart disaster. Battling against torrents of water flowing over the roads everywhere, we were lucky to reach Entlebuch. Just outside the town a river tore across the street blocking all passage. Hardly alighted from our car, we heard anxious shouting and crying from people assembled nearby. Everyone was fascinated to witness a terrible calamity only a few hundred yards away: a large new homestead, besides a big barn and stable, started to move down hill caused by a landslide. Suddenly the rear part was lifted high and the buildings tumbled over: the entire block smashed and crashed down the steep hill, burying all inhabitants and stock. A large landslide followed, covering the wreckage and the unfortunate inmates in a terrible grave."

BERNE: Of 3,700 Swiss domiciled in Spain, 1800 have returned to Switzerland. There are still about 500 in Barcelona and 300 in Madrid. The position regarding those who returned home is very precarious in many instances, as most have no means of living, having lost all their property in Spain. Assistance has been organized by the headquarters of the Society of Swiss in foreign parts.

With greatest regret we have to announce the death of our esteemed member, Mr. A. Diggelmann, Kati Kati. His wife followed him two days later. On behalf of the Society, we extend our most sincere sympathy and regrets.

NEW MEMBERS :

Merz, Hugo,	Henderson.
Schumacher, Ben.,	Waitra.
Fischer, Rob.,	Fortune Rd., Poro Poro, Whakatane.
Notter, John,	Ngahape Rd., Te Kawa, King Country.

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