

Letter from St. Moritz

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In Schwyz, the tramways are to be replaced by buses. The change-over will be spread over the next two years.

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Switzerland's gold medal winner at the last Winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, Roger Staub, is turning professional and will enter ski races in the United States and Canada this winter.

* * *

A great social event took place on 20th January in Lausanne — the marriage of Simeon of Saxe-Cobourg, King of Bulgaria, and Miss Margarita Gomez Acebo y Cejuela, daughter of a Madrid businessman. The reception was held at the Town Hall.

* * *

Bobsleighbing champion Max Angst of Zurich was banned from competition for life by the Swiss Bobsleigh Federation, and his colleague Hans Zoller of Basle was suspended for three years. Both men have been the captains of the Swiss I and Swiss II bobsleighbing teams for years. The Bobsleigh Federation accused the pair of unsportsmanlike conduct at the 1961 world championships in Lake Placid, New York, and during other seasons.

* * *

Yugoslavia has named a woman, Miss Danica Cabiljo, as her consul-general in Geneva.

* * *

Speaking in Basle, Mr. R. A. Langford, Zurich correspondent of the London "Times", said that the content of the Swiss Press was above criticism. But, he added, many Swiss newspapers had an old-fashioned outlook.

(Most of the above items were received from the A.T.S. News Service.)

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LETTER FROM ST. MORITZ

When the short, magnificent Engadine summer has flown like a dream, when the lively bustle of the season has given way to a deep peace, there is a kind of ache in one's heart. Autumn, with its wonderful, bright days and its ardent magnificence, sweetens the parting from summer and makes the bridge across to the winter pleasant. As the days become shorter and shorter, the feeling of yearning for winter, the real, solid winter suddenly asserts itself.

The summer was indeed splendid, and we enjoyed it; we tasted of its beauty to the full. But the winter follows on. Nowadays we can roam at ease in the snowy mountains, go on ski tours up hill and down dale.

Admittedly, winter does not provide the glory of colour that summer does; the green meadows are covered with snow, the gay flowers have died, the blue Engadine lakes are bound by ice and snow. But Master Winter has other merits, instead. Summer is usually an unsettled companion, at one moment in a radiant frame of mind, the next moment dull and unfriendly. Indeed, the dull, unfriendly condition can often last for weeks on end, and seems at times indomitable! Winter, though, is different. Winter has a more uniform steady character. He resembles a mature, calm and noble being within whom passion and desire, experience and hope, have settled down to a quiet, crystal-clear serenity of the soul. For weeks at a time one beautiful day follows another, uninterruptedly, each more splendid, more brilliant than the preceding one. The wind, which in summer has to provide the necessary breeze, is dormant in winter, so that the air is quite calm. Not that storms are completely unheard of! From time to time a snow-storm blows up and whistles and howls its way through the streets and villages. But they do not last long — and the sun shines forth again, brightly, from a cloudless blue sky.

There is no haste or hurry about the winter, when all is peaceful, settled and comfortable. It is so pleasant for visitors who come to the Engadine to find that life in general is more peaceful, because one is not bound by the motor car craze; when paying a visit, taking afternoon tea, or going to a dance, one walks. The evenings are longer, and one has time to spare — at last a human being, and not a slave to one's profession, business or motor car!

Because of all these merits and pleasant characteristics, we Engadiners love the winter much more than the townsfolk do. It brings something gay and cosy to our valley.

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