

The Anglo-Swiss winter sports season

Autor(en): **Langford, R.A.**

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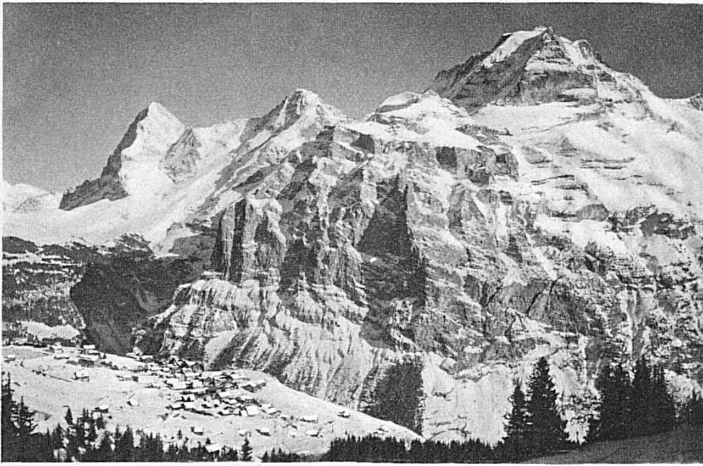
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Mürren: Eiger, Mönch, Jungfrau



The ski-ing grounds at Wengen — Skifelder bei Wengen

The Anglo-Swiss Winter Sports Season

This has been a curious season so far. At one time it seemed as if Mother Nature had taken it into her head to skip Winter and jump straight from Autumn into Spring. She deceived the birds and the trees, and put panic into the hearts of thousands of long-suffering winter-sportsmen. But with the beginning of the new year the old lady relented, the snow-line crept down towards the valleys, and now — all's right with the world again.

Outside it has just stopped snowing. Yesterday's ski-tracks are wiped out as if they had never been, buried beneath another foot of brand-new whiteness. The world is new-born, waiting now for the sun to clear the leaden sky and complete the magic transformation. Snow has fallen in plenty, and over the length and breadth of Switzerland — in the Grisons, East Switzerland, the Bernese Oberland and Central Switzerland, in the Valais, the Alps of Vaud and the Jura — ski-ing conditions are ideal. The season is at its height, the stage set for the busy round of races and competitions that will follow in quick succession till the end of March.

It is only in recent years that ski-ing as a competitive sport has come into its own — only ten years, for instance, since the now famous Kandahar Club and the Swiss Academic Club were founded. But in these ten years, largely owing to the initiative of these two enterprising bodies and of the British and Swiss Universities, the development of competitive ski-ing has been enormous. One has only to glance at the winter programme of any well-known Swiss Alpine resort to be struck by the surprisingly large number of important races and competitions held there during the season. Only a very small part of these events are of local character: generally

the lists of competitors are plentifully sprinkled with foreign names, and it is particularly gratifying to note the number of English sportsmen and women who take their ski-ing seriously. That this number will rapidly increase within the next year or two is shown by the ever-growing interest and ambition which the Swiss Ski Schools, established last season, have awakened in the young visitors of both sexes who are following the courses held at the various resorts.

In sport as in every other department of life, the modern desire is for specialisation and speed. It was thus natural that downhill and slalom racing, which offer the greatest possibilities in this respect, should quickly have come to the fore in point of popularity. So much so that this year the International Ski Association Championship in this category — a class which was formerly not even recognised in official circles — has attracted entries from the ends of the earth. The Championship for 1935 will be held at Mürren, in the Bernese Oberland, between February 22nd and 25th next. Its organisation has been placed in the capable hands of the Ski Club of Great Britain, whose President, Mr. Arnold Lunn, is one of the foremost pioneers and performers in the world of competitive ski-ing.

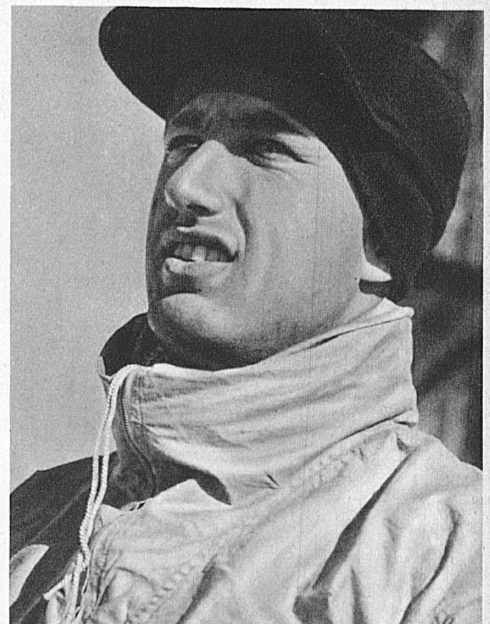
The Bernese Oberland, so favoured of British holiday-makers, seems to be particularly fortunate this season, for in addition to the International Championship above mentioned, the Arlberg-Kandahar races for the « Roberts of Kandahar » Challenge Cup will be run there, also at Mürren, on March 9th and 10th. A week or so earlier (March 1st to 3rd) the British Open Championship for 1935 will be held at Wengen, nearby.

R. A. Langford.

Phot.: BVZ, Gabi, Gyger, Vitali



The curling fans — Die passionierten Curler



Hudson, England's leading ski-er — Hudson, der beste englische Skiläufer