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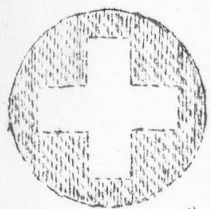
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HELVETIA

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in New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, 1st APRIL, 1937.

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TOURIST TRAFFIC IN SWITZERLAND.

Recent news from Switzerland indicates exceptionally heavy influx of tourists during Christmas and New Year holidays. Most of the well known resorts had record numbers of visitors, which fact is mainly attributable to the devaluation of the franc, besides the better economic position of most countries. The tourists came chiefly from England, Holland, Belgium, France and U.S.A.; very few from Germany due to arbitrary restrictions imposed by the Government and the prevailing poverty existing there.

Basle, the "Northern Gate" of Switzerland, experienced enormous activities both at the railway terminus and for through traffic of motor-cars. Express trains arrived incessantly across the borders; the heavy French locomotives had to be re-directed back to St. Louis instantly after arrival to allow following trains prompt entrance. Customs and passport control was arranged between Mulhouse and Basle to prevent blockage at the terminus.

The day before Christmas a total of 60 Express trains, in addition to the ordinary schedule-trains, left the Basle railway station to transport the tourists to the various alpine resorts, and on Christmas Day the number had to be increased to 87. The great revival of our Hotel and Tourist trade can thus easily be visualized and all sections rejoice at the good fortune. St. Moritz, Davos, Engelberg, the Toggenburg, the entire Bernese Oberland, etc., are taxed to maximum capacity. Davos, for instance, had a record number of 7100 tourists; the comparatively small Grindelwald had 2000 of which 500 had to be lodged in private houses. Such numbers have not been known to arrive during the best boom years, and what is considered of yet greater importance, are reports from everywhere that the winter months 1937 promise to be exceedingly busy for our great Hotels.

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THE BERNE AERODROME.

The Berne Aerodrome, one of the most beautifully situated aviation stations in Europe, lies some six kilometres south-east of the centre of the City. Its proportions, ground conditions and technical equipment are such as to satisfy the most exacting demands, whilst its favourable geographical situation renders it essentially suitable as a starting point for alpine flights.

Berne is connected by daily air services with all the principal cities of Europe, such as Berlin, Vienna, Paris, London, Amsterdam, Barcelona and others. The Bernese Air