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NEWS ITEMS.

BASLE: To cope with the great tourist traffic during one week-end in July, the Federal Railways had to run 63 special trains, apart from the ordinary schedule, to various parts of Switzerland. There was an influx of thousands of Foreigners, specially from Holland and England. Our country is now equally as popular for summer holidays as for winter sports.

GENEVA: On Sunday, the 26th July, 200 Swiss subjects arrived from Barcelona, Spain, having been escorted by 2 British destroyers to Marseilles. The Swiss Consulate assisted them to reach Switzerland. On account of their sudden departure from Spain due to heavy fighting in the city, most of them had been obliged to leave all personal belongings behind. Free transportation was provided after Geneva to reach their respective destinations.

FAST AIR-TRANSPORT: On Monday, the 13th July, a British-Imperial passenger plane arrived in Zurich with tourists en route to Budapest. This trial trip inaugurates a service connecting New York with Budapest in 5 days. The Queen Mary arrived in Cherbourg at 9 a.m., after a 4-days trip across the Atlantic, where the passengers were transferred to a waiting machine of the Imperial Airways, reaching Paris at noon and Zurich at 2 o'clock.

VALAIS: Some time ago the famous Monks of the St. Bernhard Hospiz emigrated to China with the intention of erecting a "Hospiz" on the Latzapass, similar to the one in Switzerland. Lately they were continually disturbed by roving Communist-Bands, causing the Monks to close down. In the meantime more helpers arrived from home, and they hope to be able to carry on again inspite of the uncertainty.

Untouched by the march of many centuries, Thun, in the Bernese Oberland, is a picture town in the truest sense of the word. Sturdy old houses, with their windows bright with a multitude of flowers, line the main street. Cozy arcades banish the dread of a rainy day, and flights of steps leading to an upper sidewalk with another row of shops are reminiscent of the Middle Ages. Long flights of stairs, some with roofs that make their appearance delightfully quaint, ascend from different points in the old town to the quarter higher up, where a 12th century castle rises as the most familiar landmark of Thun and environs.

This proud old chateau was erected by Duke Berchtold V of Zähringen. It is a Historical Museum today and its collections of armor, war trophies, tapestries, antique furniture, stained glass, potteries, and archaeological finds are well worthy of a visit.

The Jungfrau railway has made an announcement that its new underground ice palace on Jungfraujoch, 11,340 feet a/s, has recently been enlarged. Last year two of the company's guides, ice experts, as they are described, cut out a huge hall, sixty-five feet below the surface of the glacier. Since the glacier is perfectly even on the Jungfraujoch plateau, it does not move like some of its sloping contemporaries. A winding staircase, protected with railings and mats, descends to this fairylane of crystal. First one enters a bar whose furniture has all been sculptured from the beautifully hued, pure ice. From here opens a spacious room, supported by two giant columns of ice - the Jungfraujoch skating rink, whose glass-like surface delights visitors who like to taste the thrills of skating on natural ice in mid-summer. Skates can be rented in the ice pavilion. The entire ice palace is electrically lighted and its temperature registers constantly between 25 - 27 degrees Fahrenheit.