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The First Glacier Aerodrome In The World

The first glacier aerodrome in the world, which is shortly to be completed at an altitude of 10,000 feet on a glacier near the summit of the famous Diablerets mountain, hitherto reserved to hardy mountaineers, will revolutionise Alpine tourism, opening up new slopes to skiers and enabling them to ski all the year round, as well as offering a host of new excursions to tourists, both young and old, sedentary and energetic.

The glacier is an ideal landing-ground in a natural depression sheltered from the winds by the circle of peaks and walls of granite all round; its natural runways are longer even than those of the international airports of Geneva-Cointrin or Zurich-Kloten. Hermann Geiger has made over a thousand landings on this glacier, and it is here, too, that the glacier pilots do their first training. Tourists will be able to fly here in small sports or commercial planes in a matter of minutes only from nearby Montreux, Lausanne or Geneva airports.

The aerodrome will be connected to the lower levels by means of a brand-new aerial cableway rising in three sections nearly 5000 feet from the Col du Pillon to the top station just a few minutes' walk from the glacier. The 2½-mile ride will be an unforgettablely beautiful experience through some of the grandest Alpine scenery. The Col du Pillon is easily accessible all the year round by road from the resort of Les Diablerets, with its excellent connections with the plain, and from Gstaad in the next valley, which will also be linked by a new aerial cableway starting from Gsteig. The first section of the new cableway rises in eight minutes from the Col du Pillon at 5080 feet to Pierres Pointes at 7220 feet, passengers travelling in comfortable four-seater cabins. The second section, using a large cabin holding thirty passengers, takes five minutes to reach the Tete aux Chamois at an altitude of 8285 feet. Both these stops are starting points for excellent ski-runs of varying degrees of difficulty and, in summer, for delightful excursions amid glorious mountain scenery. The last section takes visitors in fifty-passenger cabin to the top station at "Les Diablerets" in just under six minutes.

The aerodrome a few hundred yards away will be provided with a modern restaurant with sun-terraces and lounges for relaxing and admiring the view. An added attraction will be a fleet of polar track-vehicles taking holidaymakers to the Diablerets peak itself.

A vast number of new slopes will be opened up to experienced skiers and beginners alike, there being an almost infinite variety of runs, long and short, difficult and easy, and most of them suitable for skiing the whole year round.

TELEVISION IN SWITZERLAND

Two thousand one hundred and forty-four new television licences were issued in Switzerland during the month of November last, bringing the total number of TV sets in Switzerland to 176,522. On the same date, holders of Swiss radio licences numbered 1,474,649.

★ RECIPE

Easy-to-make Fruit Cake

Put into a medium-sized saucepan 1 cup mixed fruit, add sufficient water to cover fruit and boil until absorbed by fruit. Then add: 1 cup sugar, ½ lb butter, 2 tablespoons of golden syrup, 2 teaspoons lemon essence, 2 tablespoons milk, 2 eggs, ½ cup semolina. Mix all well together, lastly add 1 teaspoon baking powder and 1½ cups of flour. Pour into greased fruit cake tin. Bake at 350 deg. for about 1 hour. —R.B.

[Ladies! Recipes "with a difference" are very welcome. Do send us your favourites, continental or otherwise.]

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