

Zeitschrift: Die Schweiz = Suisse = Svizzera = Switzerland : offizielle Reisezeitschrift der Schweiz. Verkehrszentrale, der Schweizerischen Bundesbahnen, Privatbahnen ... [et al.]

Herausgeber: Schweizerische Verkehrszentrale

Band: - (1947)

Heft: 2

Artikel: Mountain railways in late winter

Autor: [s.n.]

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-777294>

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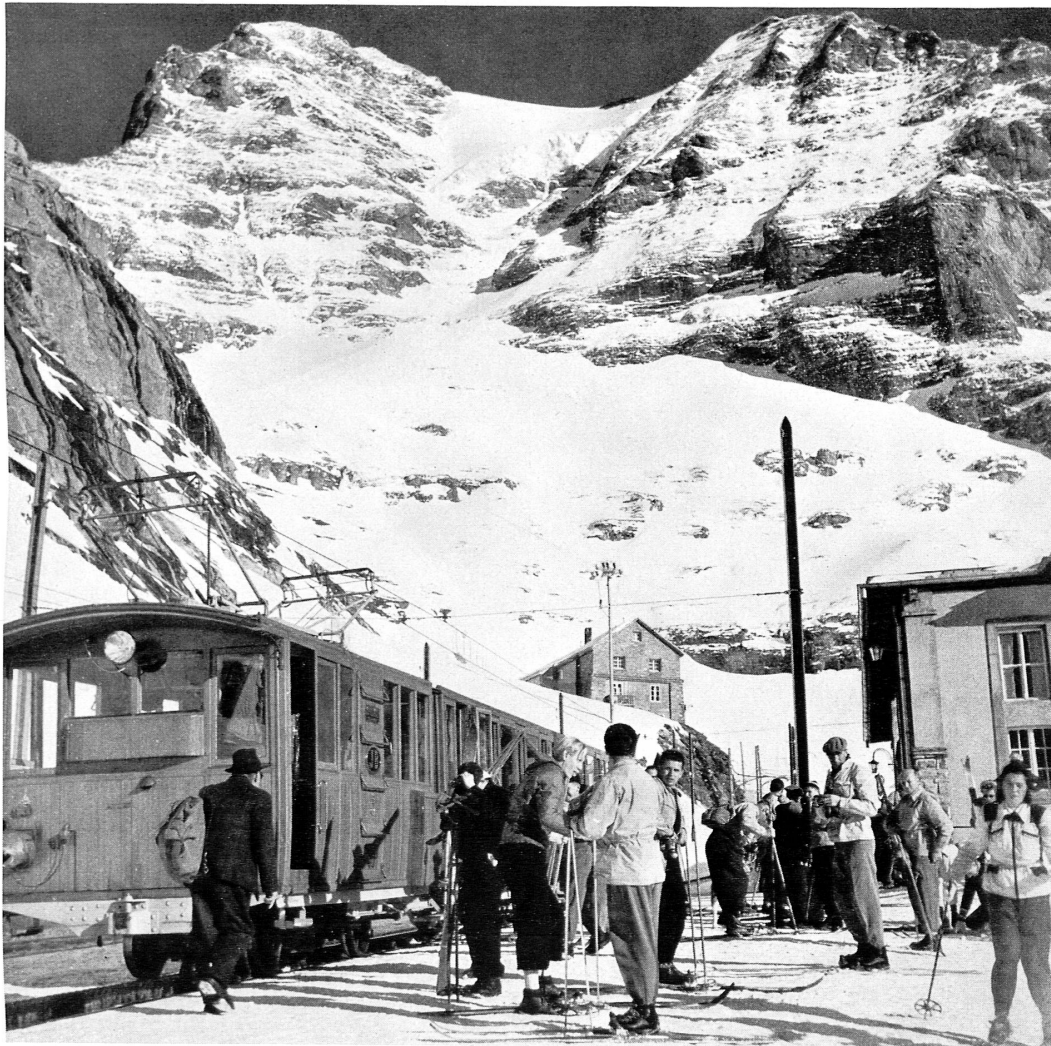
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*Eiger-Glacier station on the Jungfrau Railway.
La station « Eigerletscher » du chemin de fer de la Jungfrau.*

MOUNTAIN RAILWAYS IN LATE WINTER

In the Swiss Alps there is always most snow in the late winter and early spring. It is when rain is already falling in the lowlands and the first signs of spring are seen that the hardest period sets in for the mountain railways. Day and night they have to stand by with snow-pitching machines in order to open up the track again through the blanket of snow when the need arises. Moreover skiers become more enterprising as the days grow longer; the higher Alpine centres receive most of their visitors in the late winter, as the first winter months are unsuitable for glacier tours. After Christmas and New Year holidays, the mountain rail-

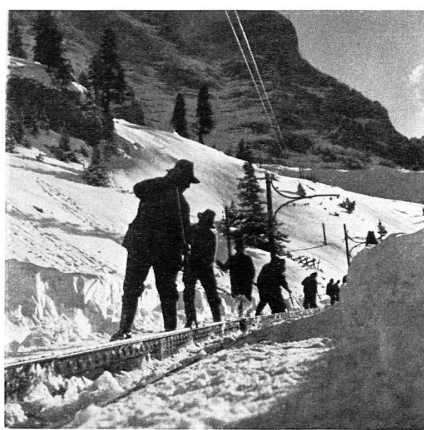
ways therefore have to reckon with most traffic in February, March and even April. The Jungfrau Railway, for example, introduces a new service in February, particularly with a view to the touring possibilities in the higher Alpine ski terrain. — The big ski races also heavily tax the railways. The problem which has to be solved lies not so much in the conveyance of the many visitors to the winter sports centres in question, for racers and on-lookers seldom arrive all at the same time; it is rather the return journey which presents a difficulty as a great number of people wish to return home as soon as possible after the races are over. When

the Swiss Ski Races is being held the Wengernalp Railway runs according to a special schedule which enables it to cope with the rush.

No matter what requirements are made of them in the late winter, the mountain railways are, from the technical point of view, in a position to tackle all problems. It may happen that after a snowstorm an early train cannot immediately pass through and therefore arrives behind schedule. But work is started at once to clear the track so that passengers can resume their journey without hindrance in a very short space of time. G.



*The snow-plough of the Jungfrau Railway.
Le chasse-neige du chemin de fer de la Jungfrau.*



*Clearing of the lines.
Nettoyage des voies.*



*The Little Scheidegg.
La Petite Scheidegg.*

Photos: Dr. Schenker.