

Splendid prospects for springtime ski-ing in the High Alps

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SPAIN AND THE IVORY COAST AT THE COMPTOIR SUISSE

The Swiss National Autumn Fair, which will take place for the 48th time from 9th to 24th September, will once again apply last year's successful formula of inviting two nations to participate as honorary guests. This time it is Spain and the Ivory Coast who will appear in Lausanne. While Spain has long had close economic and cultural relations with Switzerland, the Ivory Coast will be the first African state ever to be represented officially at the Swiss fair. It is one of the young nations whose economic development has been quite rapid. The country's major exports are wood, coffee, cacao, exotic fruits and ores. The official pavilion of the Ivory Coast will provide a welcome opportunity to gain a greater knowledge of that fascinating country.

[S.N.T.O.]

FROM COUNTY PRISON TO VINTNER'S MUSEUM

Venerable Aigle Castle in the wine-growing territory of the Canton of Vaud has a long and varied history. Mentioned for the first time in a document dating from the year 1076, it subsequently changed hands several times, was plundered and burned to the ground in 1475 during a revolt and then rebuilt on its present site at the end of the fifteenth century. Until the French Revolution, the castle served as residence of the Bernese governor of the area, and then was taken over by the new Canton of Vaud and used as a local prison. Now the castle is to be a more worthy home by being converted into a wine-growers' museum. The "*Musée de la vigne et du vigneron*", as the future museum will be called, will feature a collection of interesting vintners' tools and equipment, much of them now going out to use or already obsolete.

[S.N.T.O.]

SPLENDID PROSPECTS FOR SPRINGTIME SKI-ING IN THE HIGH ALPS

This year, March brought ample snowfalls in the high mountain regions, particularly the western Valais, and the Alps of the Vaud, the Bernese Oberland, Canton Uri and the Grisons. In those areas, and particularly on the Säntis and Alpstein, April brought considerable quantities of new snow. Melchior Schild, an expert at the Federal Institute for Snow and Avalanche Research on the Weissfluhjoch, judges the prospects for this year's high alpine ski-ing as follows: in comparison to the snow levels of the past 25 years, 1967 has produced a very high winter maximum. In general the existing snow cover is quite solid. Most glacier and firn regions will offer excellent conditions for springtime and early summer ski-ing in the Alps. The heavily-crevassed glacial areas are also well snowed in. But this does not release the cross-country skier from the necessity of observing basic precautionary measures. Many heavy storms on the mountain ridges have built up some enormous overhanging snowdrifts, which present a great danger to the careless.

[S.N.T.O.]

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