

**Zeitschrift:** SBB Revue = Revue CFF = Swiss federal railways  
**Herausgeber:** Schweizerische Bundesbahnen  
**Band:** 4 (1930)  
**Heft:** 12

**Artikel:** A call at Christmas from the Alps  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-780596>

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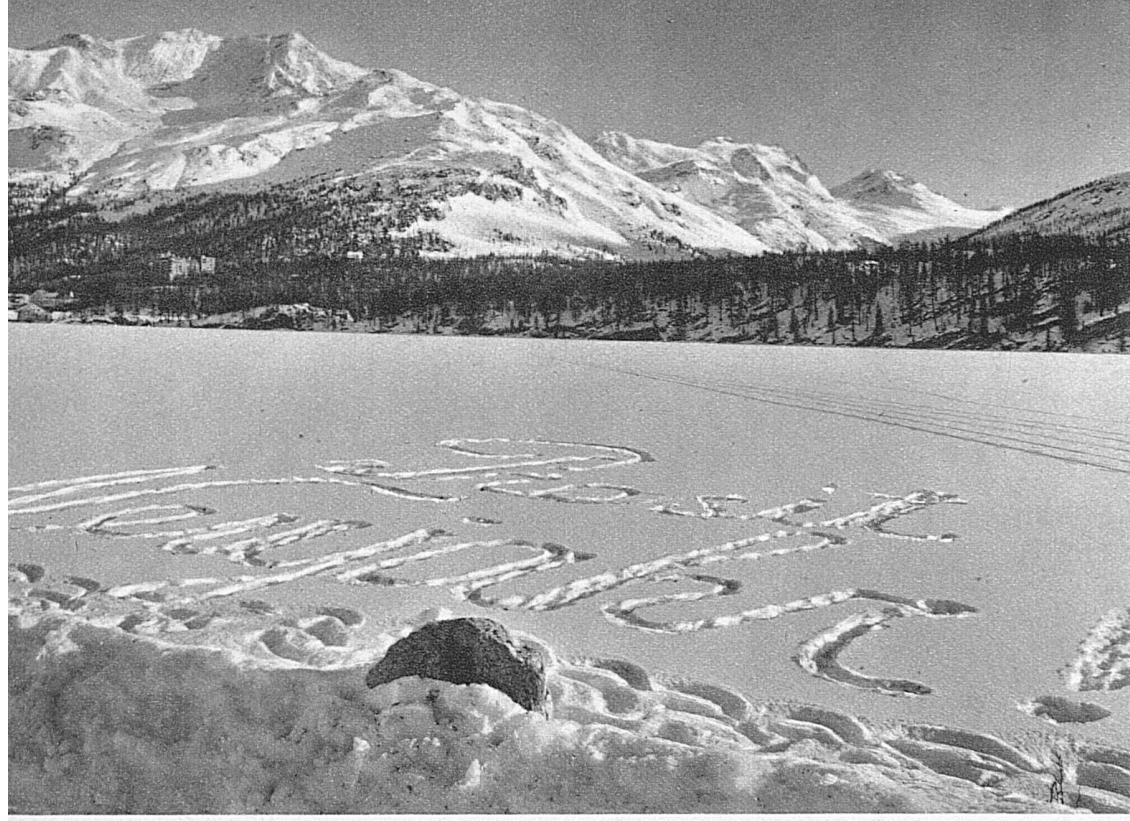
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Phot. Meerkämper

Die Bundesbahnen  
entbieten ihrer  
werten Kundschaft  
die besten Glück-  
wünsche zum  
Jahreswechsel



Les Chemins de fer  
fédéraux présentent  
à leur clientèle leurs  
meilleurs vœux pour  
la nouvelle année



## A Call at Christmas from the Alps

What is your idea of a real, good holiday? Shall I suggest a thorough change, pleasant company, lots of fun, a sense of freedom, perhaps an opportunity for reading, and likely first and foremost fine weather? Then why not come up here and share our sunshine and fresh air? Athletics may not be in your line. Skates and skis may scare you. Well, of course, winter-sport centres appeal in the first place to sportsmen and women, but it is quite a mistake to imagine that less actively disposed persons will find nothing to interest or amuse.

„Contrariwise”, as Tweedledum would say: there are attractions of many kinds for folk of various temperaments. No one can guarantee that the sun will shine all and every day, but the weather is more settled and the climate more exhilarating in winter than summer. Ten days in January or February will brace you up more than three weeks in July or August. Just stroll out into the hotel grounds with a friend or a book, choose your place in the sun, drink in the gorgeous air, fill your eyes with the beauty of that wintry landscape of sky and mountain, and be content! Being a good sort, rather than envy those who can go higher than you care to venture, you will spare a bit of sympathy for the friends left under the clouds you see rolling beneath you.

Later on you will take a walk over the crisp, clean snow. Perhaps pay a visit to the lake and watch the skaters or pass further on to the sunny slope where young and old alike shoot nimbly down on their luges, or join in the merry laugh at their spill as they pick

themselves up out of the snow! There may be a bobsleigh flashing past at reckless speed, or perhaps a ski-jumping competition may be in full swing. There is generally something to look at, when you are tired of your own thoughts. If you are an adept with the camera, you will find subjects to test your skill and to reward it. Where the light is so good, you can photograph what you like, when you like. Sky effects, the dainty lacework of frost, the human interests of all kinds, form interesting subjects for photos or sketches. Capture the glories of the sunset sky before they fade away!

Indoors you may count on a good band, an occasional concert to which some noted artist, your fellow guest, may contribute, besides the dancing, enlivened at times with a fancy dress gala, or a drawing-room gymkhana of parlour games more or less intellectual. Once there was a competition as to who could make the most hideous grimace, and the judge unwittingly awarded the prize to some one who protested against any intention to take part in the game! In a quiet room you may play a hand at Bridge or worry at a Crossword Puzzle.

Probably the nicest time to come, if you are free to choose, is after the middle of January, when the weather is at its best, and the tumult and the shouting will be less. It is better to come with a friend or to make one of a party of four, but there is more camaraderie in a foreign hotel than in an English hotel or Pension. There is far less of that chilly stand-offishness. You need not wait for an introduction; a friendly individual

Concluded from p. 36

## A CALL AT CHRISTMAS FROM THE ALPS

is sure to make friends, especially if he or she has the good sense not to confine themselves to their Fellow English too exclusively. There really are many delightful folk among the Swiss, and Dutch and Germans, and they mostly speak English. Don't be too insular, please. It really is not good form!

Of course, a hotel de luxe at St. Moritz will cost a fortune. But class for class, Swiss hotels are less costly and more cosy than English ones, and the tariffs are settled by mutual agreement at the beginning of each season. They are carefully graded, and cleanliness and good food may be looked for down to the third

division of Class III, only, in the cheapest houses, the diet will be more Swiss, a bit too greasy for some palates, with rather much of spaghetti and possibly „Rösti“, to please your fancy.

There is no trouble in getting to any of these resorts. You book your seat and register your luggage straight through by train and motor-coach to the spot you may favour. The Bernese Oberland is generally cheaper than the Engadine or the Grisons, the less frequented centres than the more fashionable. Swiss trains are clean and comfortable, and rather too well-warmed.

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