

BY EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND EVEN FROM FAR-DISTANT AMERICA AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR.



BOBSLEIGHERS TAKING A "SPORTY" CORNER ON THE SCHATZALP AT DAVOS.



THE SKI TRAMPER AT ENGELBERG.

tion in skiing and having arranged admirable tours through the mountains. In skiing one may obtain an adequate idea of the beauty of the mountains clothed with an unbroken expanse of dazzling snow. On skis one can glide down the mountain slopes with the speed of an express train. The landscape when seen in the intensity of midday Alpine sunlight is wonderful but at sunset it is even more resplendent, the white mountains becoming an ocean of fire, above which the icy peaks sparkle.

Skiing is now immensely popular, and is much in vogue, especially among those who have still the summer climbing fever. Long journeys can be made on skis, for the mountain huts can be used as stop-over places. The novice in skiing usually affords great amusement to the on-looker. The youngster gets inextricably mixed up in his feet, and speedily comes to the ground, ignominiously mopping the snow. But he gets up and reasons with his strange footgear, and tries again and again, until, in time, he feels able to laugh at the new aspirant to skiing prowess.

Ski jumping is spectacular. The jumper, a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet from the take-off, prepares to take his leap. Scraping the under surface of his skis to free them of lumps, he starts and pushes himself off with his

bamboo sticks, which he leaves behind sticking in the snow. His form is erect, with one ski at first slightly in advance of the other. He forms a striking apparition, his arms swinging as he speeds forward. An ordinary jump is eighty feet—the record being 147 feet. Skiing received a great impetus in Switzerland last season when this world's record was made. There are to be this season several big ski meetings besides international ski jumping competitions.

Bandy, or ice hockey, on skates is another form of sport that has many followers, and the fun is fast and fascinating. Bandy as played in Switzerland is different from the ice hockey played in America and Canada in covered rinks. The game is played on the ice with wooden clubs, or sticks. It is not played until late in the day, however, so that the ice may not be damaged for skating unless there are special rinks for the game. The ice is flooded every night after the play is over, putting the surface again in good shape for the skaters next morning. Good sport can be obtained out of doors on a space of ice of any size, but the limit is generally not less than 90 by 50 yards. In Switzerland women engage enthusiastically in the game.

Curling, the "roarin' game" of Scotia, is also one of the recent acquisitions of Switzerland,

THE CONCRETE "WARSHIP"

Remarkable Fortress Being Built by America on El Fraile.

Recently there have been references in the news dispatches to a curious fortification which Uncle Sam is erecting on a small island named El Fraile, as a part of the line of defence of Manila Bay. It was styled a concrete battleship, which was to be fixed upon the island. What would a concrete battleship look like, and why should one be erected as a part of a permanent and immovable fortification, were natural questions.

El Fraile is a Spanish term which has more than one meaning. Translated it means either "the friar" or a kind of sea fish. Whether the origin of the name is due to its resemblance in appearance to some physical characteristic of a friar or to the kind of sea fish indicated by the word is not revealed, but the island itself formed an interesting problem when the question of fortifying it arose. It is merely a pinnacle of rock rising a few feet above the surface of the water.

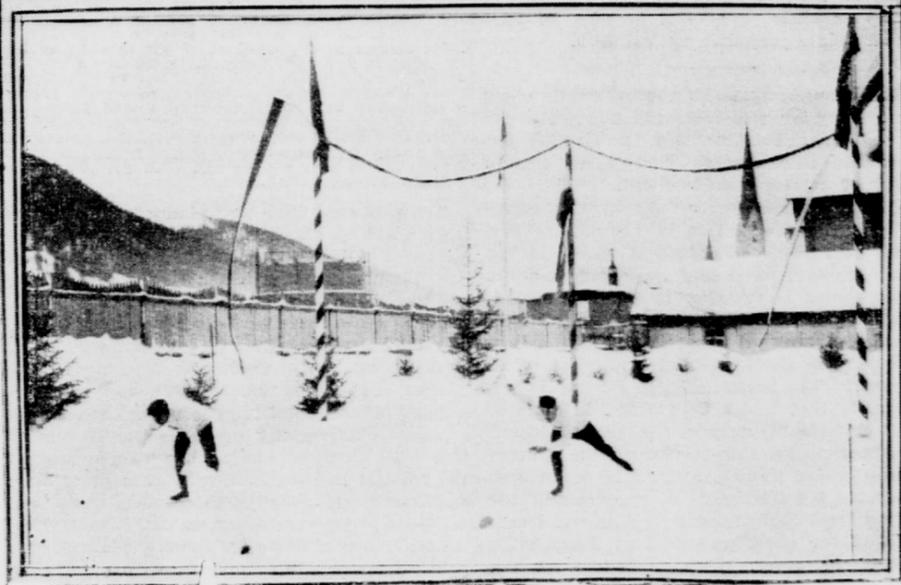
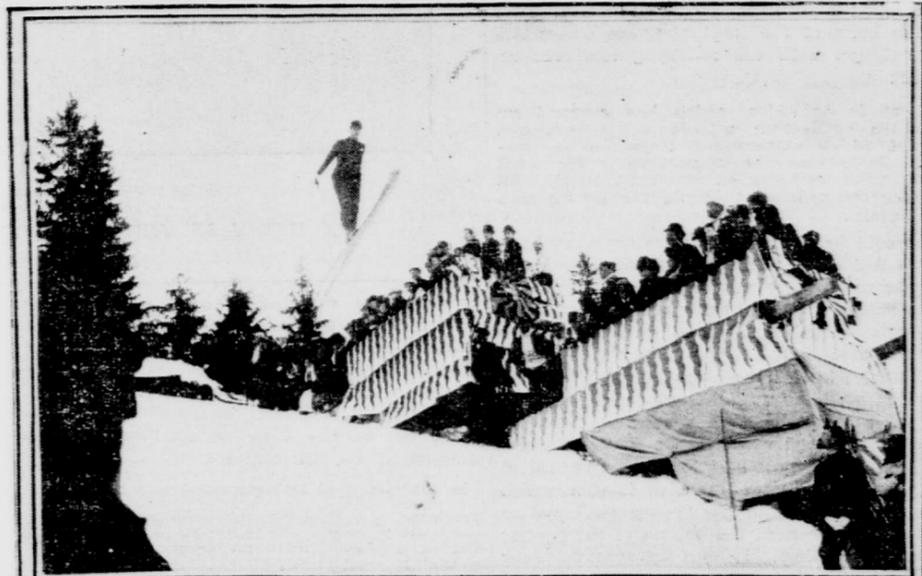
It was at first a question how the island could be made to serve its purpose. According to a story as to the way the idea developed of creating on top of the rock a structure of concrete somewhat resembling a battleship in shape and style of armament, it was first planned to enlarge the island in order to obtain the essential space for the big guns. This would have cost a good round sum, said to be more than \$5,000,000, and would have provided only a modest fort after all. Then it was suggested to shave off the top. A young man connected with the engineering corps brought forward the stationary "battleship" plan.

The fort, which is already in process of construction, is an ellipse about 300 feet long and 150 feet wide, the walls of concrete being 40 feet in height. Within the inclosure will be two steel turrets of the kind found in battleships. Each will house two of the big new 14-inch guns. The use of the turrets economizes space. Besides these great guns there will be four 6-inch guns. The entrance to the fortification, or "concrete battleship," will be by means of a sallyport. It is believed that the unique fortification will be impregnable.

The armament itself will be interesting, as the 14-inch gun for the navy is a new arm. It is believed that this weapon will withstand the wear and tear of use much better than the 12-inch gun, whose life has been estimated to be not more than eighty shots. It is believed that for a permanent fortification, a large gun, so

Continued on eighth page.

A FINE SKI JUMP IN A CONTEST AT ENGELBERG.



SPEED SKATING ON DAVOS RINK.