

Europe: While Britain was skidding along in the worst winter road ~~conditions~~ conditions for years - ski-~~ing~~ enthusiasts at Wengen, in the Swiss Alps, were making sport of the snow - competing in the 25th International Lauberhorn Ski Contest.

In the slalom event - competition was ~~tricky~~ tricky - and here's the eventual winner - Martin Julen of Switzerland (No. 8) making his top-prize descent. At Grindelwald, ~~in~~ Switzerland, women from most of the ~~European~~ European countries competed in the Downhill Race of the ~~first~~ International Ski Championships.

The downhill course was just under two miles with a total drop of 1312 feet.

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Over in America, the winter sports season in Sun Valley, Idaho, was joined by the Shah of Persia and his lovely wife, Queen Soraya.

The Royal Couple (who are shortly to visit London) are on holiday, and so took this opportunity of trying out their ^{skiing} ~~ski-ing~~ prowess on snow-covered Mount Baldy.

In New York, there's exciting winter sport without leaving the city - the 1955 Barrel Jumping World Championships. They're working up to fifteen barrels - so falls are frequent.

~~Another jump and this time there's a lot more action.~~

Here's Leo Lebel. ~~And now he has really put his~~ And now - he ^{has} really put his foot in it. A case of rolling out with the barrel!

The finalists in action.

~~And now comes Leo again - taking the 28-foot seven-inch-leap - like a lion!~~ Leo again - taking the 28-foot seven-inch-leap - like a lion!