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SNOW OLYMPICS OPEN

High above St. Moritz, the symbolic torch marks the first meeting of the World's Olympic athletics since nineteen thirty six. 28 nations are competing. The chances of America's team stand high, for snow is a familiar background to sport across great stretches of their native land. They look at home against it. The chances of the British team are very slender ... but it will do us credit. The uniform worn by the leaders is guarantee of that, though clothing of the rank and file bears earmarks of utility. Certain of carrying the maple leaf to victory, however, is Barbara Ann Scott. Applauded also is the French team, whose members labour under handicaps well known to all. Italy's entry strikes a new note in uniform (Charring Cross Road is said to have a name for it.) The Swiss team deserve it's lusty welcome. Aside from sporting prowess, they're acting as the best of hosts to all their visitors.

Ice-hockey quarrels mar the games' opening. America has two teams entered and the match with Switzerland is an exhibition only - with no titles at stake. Behind-the-scene disputes raise international echoes. With America's arguments sounding like Molotov's - the outcome of the games is jeopardised. But the players still give their best. Above the squabbles, on one point all agree .. Swiss sporting hospitality is unexcelled.