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NEWS FLASHES.

The Austrian team start as favourites in the Swiss International Laubhorn Ski Races, though the tough, tricky course may well tumble even the most expert. Several Swiss guides are making the contest something of a busman's holiday, and they, of course, might well carry off the big prizes.

A magnificent run that, but he's not the winner. The championship goes to Toni Seiler from Austria. From skis to skates - in New York they're rolling out the barrels and carrying out the skaters in the fifth annual international barrel jumping contest. Barrel jumping began three hundred years ago in Holland, but even so plenty of people haven't learned the right way to end up - straight up.

Another barrel is added to make the total fifteen - just one too many obviously for one would-be champ. But Lee Helle from New York clears them all with a jump of 26 feet, 7 inches - an all-time world record for the bruised but still smiling winner.

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