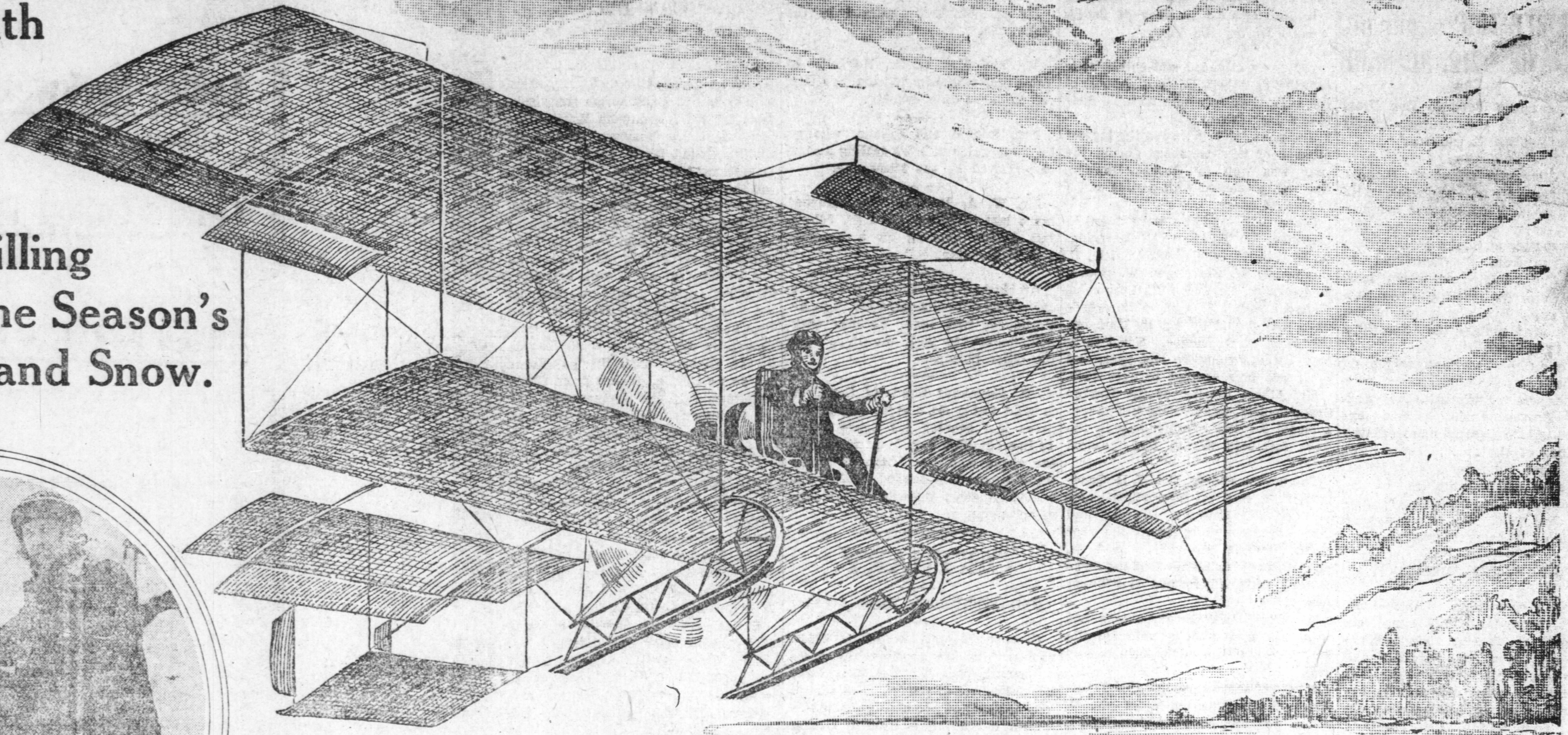


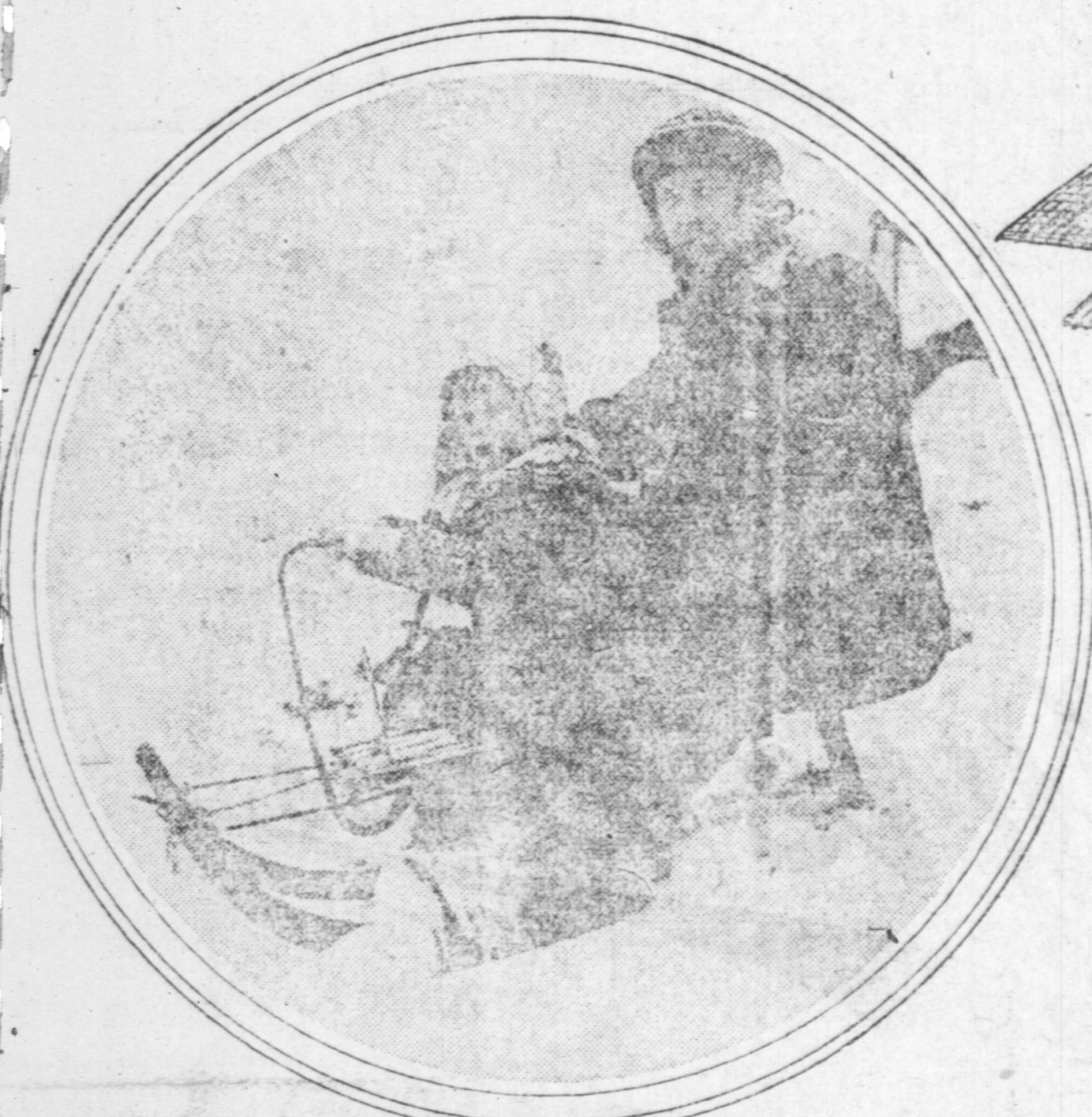
"SKY SKATES" and Other Winter Wonders of Sports on Ice

Grahame-White's Daring Innovation with Aeroplane Runners and Other Gay and Thrilling Features of the Season's Sport on Ice and Snow.



The sky-skater should develop a surface speed surpassed by no other ice contrivance and take to the air with the swift rise of the swallow. Thus it is that the mechanism shaped by the ingenuity of man again overwhelmingly has outclassed the purely human factor. The "snow swallow man," who has been held in the fascination of ski-jumping—no pun intended—will recount how his pulses quickened as he shot down the icy incline, shod

Grahame-White Has Fitted His Aeroplane with Runners with Which He Starts and Lands on Ice.



Anton Lang, Who Takes the Part of Christ in the Oberammergau Passion Play, Sledding with His Daughter.

HOW would you like to go sky-skating? You may have cut arabesques on the ice with your steel-shod feet, you may have taken part in swift, breathless races that tried wind and muscle; you may have gone through the graceful, swaying evolutions of the ice-waltz with some pretty girl to whom you were particularly attached; but it is safe to say that none of these furnished you the thrill that you would experience on taking to the skies. In fact, sky-skating is the fashionable thing this season at European resorts where great numbers of persons collect from widely divergent points to engage in winter sports.

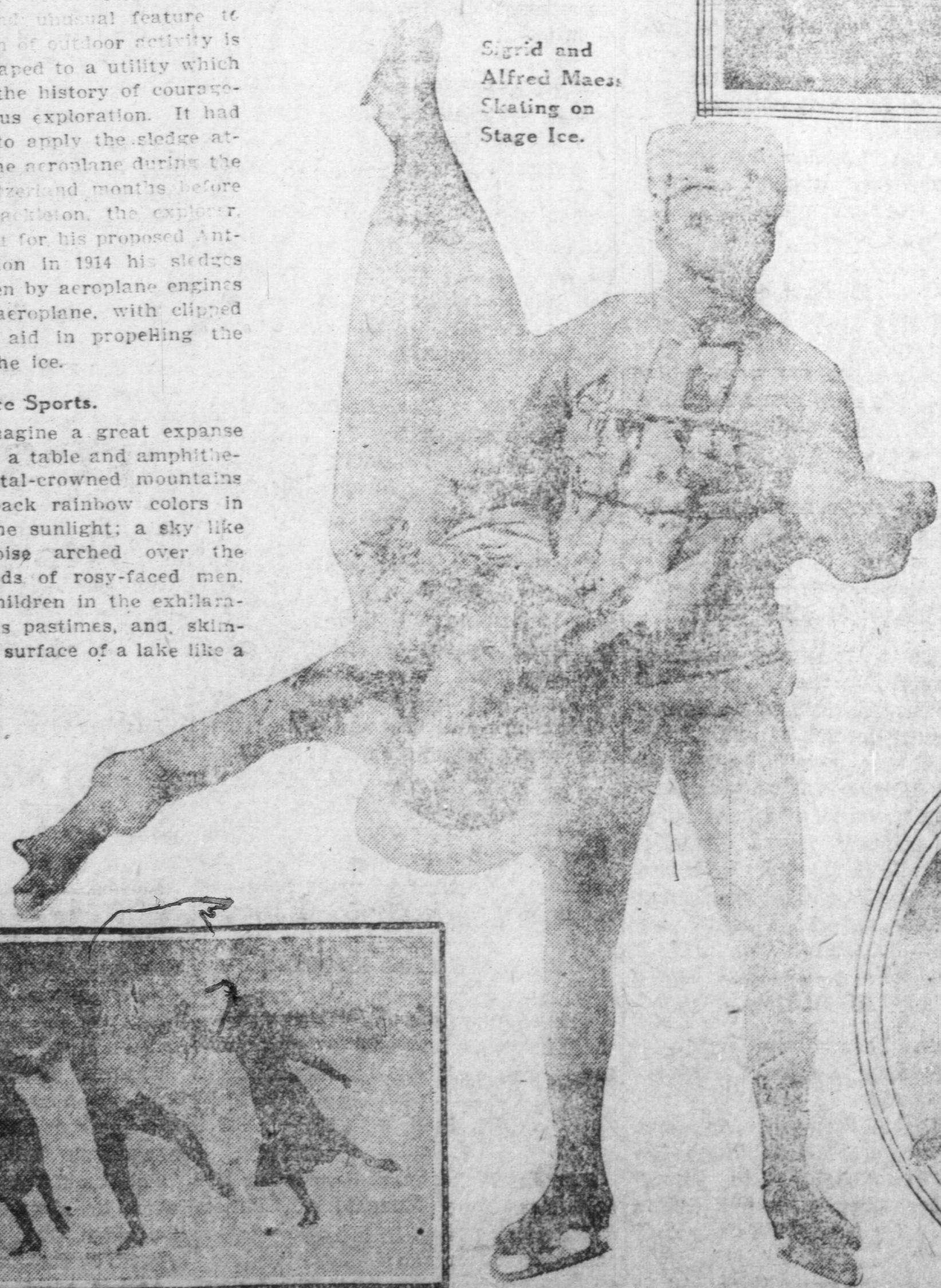
The idea that had its genesis purely for the purpose of diversion and to add a new and unusual feature to a frosty season in a happy country is likely to be stamped to a utility which will stand in the history of courageous and perilous exploration. It had been planned to employ the elastic attachment to the aeroplane during the season in Switzerland months before Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, announced that for his proposed Antarctic expedition in 1914 his sledges would be driven by aeroplane engines and that an aeroplane, with clipped wings, would aid in propelling the sledges over the ice.

Pictureque Ice Sports.

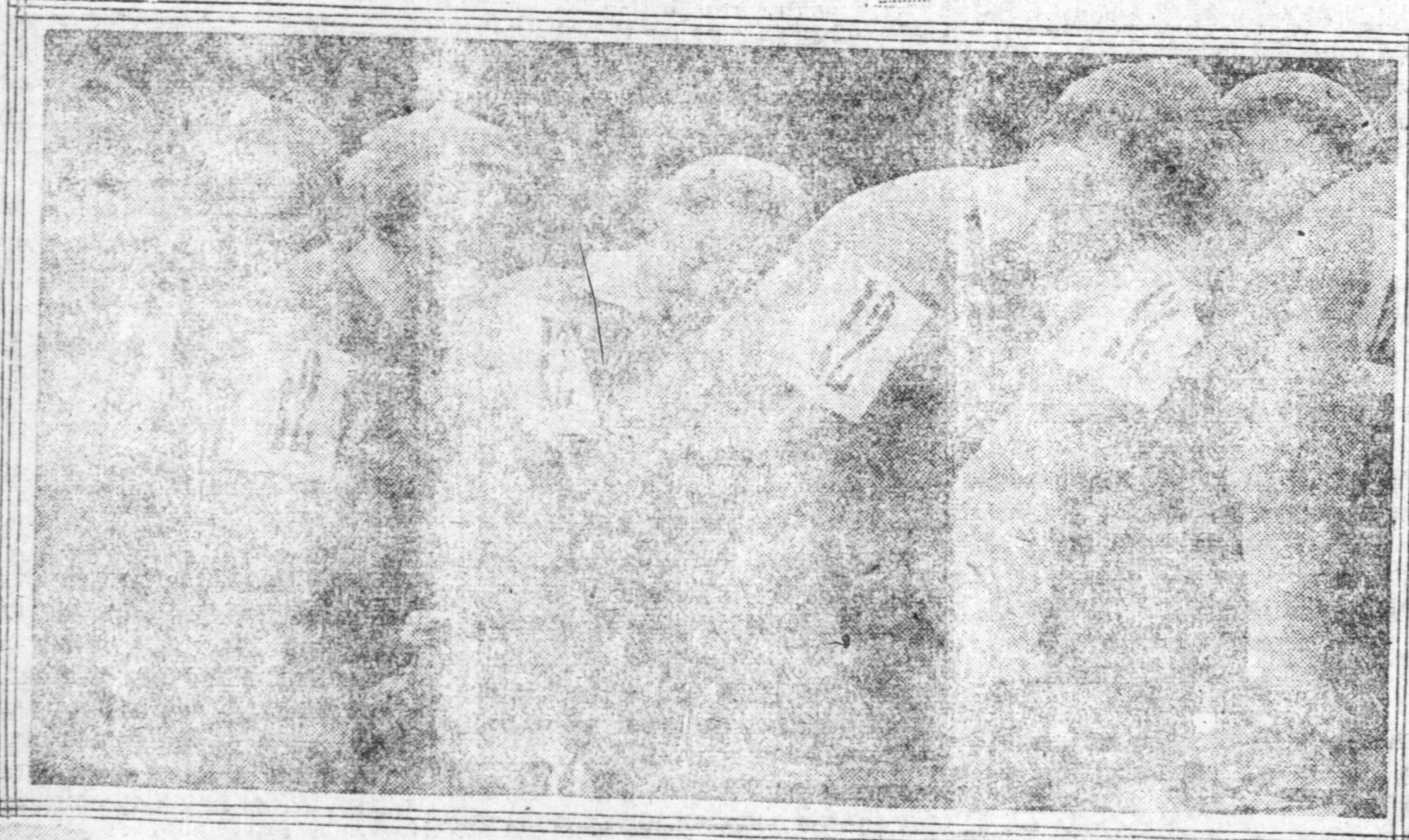
And now imagine a great expanse of ice, level as a table and amphitheatred by crystal-crowned mountains which flash back rainbow colors in the play of the sunlight; a sky like limpid turquoise arched over the scene; hundreds of rosy-faced men, women and children in the exhilaration of various pastimes, and, skimming over the surface of a lake like a

fast bird, an aeroplane to which steel runners are attached; or, better still, a hydro-aeroplane the pontoons of which have been transformed into skates. This winter adaptation of the aeroplane is the logical development of a summer idea in France, where aeroplane engines have been applied to light cars and the operators speeded up and down a hard, sandy beach. Sky-skating, in the view of the layman, is what appears to be little variant from "bunting" in the skies, but there is this difference: Sometimes it proves difficult for an hydro-aeroplane to develop sufficient speed to rise from the water. The ice offers no such problem. The operator simply throws on the clutch and is off in a dilly and high in the air.

Sigrid and Alfred Maes, Skating on Stage Ice.



Skating at Davos, Switzerland.



An Austrian Toboggan Team, Just Before the Start.

with long narrow runners, to take that dauntless, breathless leap out into space. He will tell you it is the nearest thing to flying that can be imagined—flying on runners.

Winter Play in Switzerland.

Indeed, all of the photographs of ski-jumpers in action resemble birds. But as the number of men who can own and maintain aeroplanes is limited there will be just as many ski-jumpers as there ever was. Indeed, the sport is becoming popular in the United States, Canada and Europe. The most spectacular meets in the United States are held in Minnesota,

where the population is made up largely of Norsemen and their descendants. Ice and snow are most brilliantly furnished in Canada. But it is in Switzerland that the greatest interest is taken in winter sports; they are more in the public eye because of the social prominence of many of the

visitors. Although it can be no longer said that the English are in the majority in Switzerland in the summer, in winter, at any rate, so far as the Bernese Oberland is concerned, they have it all to themselves. In such resorts as Grindelwald, Adelboden, Kandersteg, Gstaad, Beatenberg, and Wengen fully 95 per cent. of the winter visitors are British. In the Engadine there is a more cosmopolitan gathering, and St. Moritz is the most favored spot. There is every conceivable variety of ice sport, and, of course, the great snow sports—tobogganing and ski-ing. Place your toboggan at the top of one of the runs and you will be shot to the foot, three-quarters of a mile or more, before you have time to regret your mission or, in fact, to find your speech. And when you have regained your breath you will have decided that it was less dangerous than it felt. Also, you will have come to the conclusion that it is not such a purely childish sport as you imagined. It only looks childish. To-

Grahame-White Flying Over St. Moritz Lake.

tobogganing is a thrill that, paradoxically enough, appeals particularly to the middle-aged and the blasé. The ski is in the beginning an obstinate and perverse servant. It is worse than the first skate and crazier than the untrained toboggan. But in the long run you master it, and then what joys are yours! On skis you may wander where no unskied foot can penetrate; you may climb the passes and thread the lonely forests, and you may swoop down miles of white braces to your hotel at tea-time with the smoothness and with almost the speed of the aeroplane returning to its hangar.



Carnival Time at St. Moritz.



Ski-ing at Severetta—At the Height of the Leap.