

Martin Luther King's death and Switzerland

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MARTIN LUTHER KING'S DEATH AND SWITZERLAND

In several parts of Switzerland, the untimely and tragic death of the Civil Rights Leader the Rev. Martin Luther King, was marked by special tributes. The President of the Confederation sent a telegram of condolence to Mrs. King, in which he said that the Swiss people had had the highest admiration for her late husband. The Geneva Parliament expressed sympathy with his family and observed a minute of silence in his memory.

In Lausanne, some 400 people took part in a silent march in his memory, followed by a memorial service outside the Church "Notre Dame du Valentin". At St. Peter's Cathedral in Geneva, a special ecumenical service of intercession was held, at which the Ambassadors of the American Missions in Berne and Geneva were present. Previously, a silent march had been organised by the "Pax Christi" and the International Movement for Reconciliation.

The Swiss Evangelical Church Federation sent a message of condolence to Mrs. King in Atlanta, and one to the National Church of U.S.A.

The Ecumenical Council of Churches in Geneva has invited the national and regional church councils to take part in the charitable project "Mississippi Delta Ministry" in memory of Martin Luther King, holder of the Nobel Peace Prize.

[A.T.S.]

HEMIS FAIR 68:

Switzerland's participation in an international exhibition

On 6th April the opening of an exhibition took place in San Antonio, Texas, which is to run until 6th October. This international show, Hemis Fair 68, has as its theme the "Confluence of Civilisations in the Americas" and demonstrates how old and new civilisations have developed in the American hemisphere and how they have been influenced by other parts of the world. The importance of this exhibition has been widely recognised and no fewer than thirty countries will be represented, each with its own national pavilion. The Swiss exhibit has taken "Time" as its theme. Inside the Swiss Pavilion, which has been conceived and constructed with considerable humour and imagination, time symbolically links a variety of attractive exhibits: a fascinating flying machine from the Dark Ages of flight flaps its metallic wings; the visitor makes his way through a labyrinth to a "happening", where photos and sketches point the way to a more serious definition of Switzerland and the Swiss. A gigantic mural in the background depicts the Alpine pastures and humorously interpolates the themes of freedom, neutrality, democracy, four languages, time measurement, hospitality, trade and culture. The Swiss watch industry, which figured so prominently in the World Exhibition in Montreal, is entrusted with the time recording throughout the whole show. Finally, it should be emphasised that this exhibition is by no means a commercial venture; it is conceived exclusively as cultural representation.

[S.N.T.O.]

HEAVY EASTER ROAD AND RAIL TRAFFIC

Rain and snow fell on Easter Saturday, and that was perhaps the reason why many people stayed at home. But the better weather on Sunday and Monday brought with it increased traffic. In many parts of the country, including the Ticino, there was heavy snowfall, to the delight of wintersports enthusiasts. The Rigi and Soerenberg in the Entlebuch had 19 cm. of snow, and the whole of Western Switzerland, with the exception of the area Geneva-Morges, was covered in white. The snow limit was at about 800m.

Between Maundy Thursday and Easter Monday, the Swiss Federal Railways put on 270 special and relief trains. The BLS Railways ran 43 extra trains, and 4,533 cars were transported through the Loetschberg, an increase of 26%. 22,260 vehicles passed through the Gotthard Tunnel, and 4,835 cars through the other "rolling road", the Simplon. From Basle, there were 39 relief trains on Maundy Thursday alone, and during the first two days, over 50,000 arrivals were registered in Basle. From Zurich, there were 80 special trains, 18 of which were bound for Italy.

Easter Monday was a new record for the San Bernardino Tunnel: 7,599 passed the weather-proof North-South route. Nearly 5,000 cars were registered on the Julier Pass on the same day. The total for the former over the whole holiday was 36,068 and for the latter 19,958. Because of this new connecting route, the Sargans district had an invasion of vehicles such as had never been experienced before. On Easter Monday, 1,000 cars passed the Heiligkreuz bottle-neck, and by 4 p.m. there were vast traffic jams right up to Landquart.

Motorised traffic on the Zurich roads were very heavy this year. The contingent of 60 members of the Cantonal Police was re-inforced by auxiliary police and by Commune policemen and firemen. On the N3, as many as 1,240 vehicles an hour were counted at the registration post near Richterswil. 6,100 visitors went to the Uetliberg on Monday, and the Sihltalbahnhof transported over 9,800 travellers on the same day. Nearly 3,000 used the aerial cableway Adliswil-Felsenegg on Easter Monday and 5,300 the Forchbahn. All the boats on the Lake of Zurich were in use that day, because some 15,000 people decided on a trip.

The Alpine Rescue Service had to be called four times on Easter Day, when helicopters rescued mountaineers who had been buried by snow drifts on the Piz d'Err, when two skiers had to be sent to hospital at Zermatt and Interlaken respectively, and when a young girl was injured in a fall in her car from the top of the Bernina Pass Road.

[A.T.S.]

SWISS WEAVING MACHINES IN GREAT BRITAIN

Sulzer Bros. (London) Ltd., report another weaving machine order received from Courtauld's Northern Weaving Division. Valued at approximately £1m. the order is for 192 weaving machines, 130" reed width, to be installed at Courtauld's Mill at Lillyhall, Whitehaven, Cumberland. This brings the total of Sulzer machines specified by Courtauld's in the last eighteen months to over 400.