

Easter

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A more difficult passage had the new federal law regarding the effort to **co-ordinate civil and military defence** in a new directional organisation.

In the third week, the National Council concluded the discussion on the partial revision of the penal code by **agricultural questions** which stood in dealing with the **juvenile penal law**. Three types of detention places are planned for youthful offenders over 17: the therapeutic home, the educational institution and the training school. A new class of offenders is being created, "the young adults" between 18 and 25.

The Council of States debated the **tenants protection rights**. It did not agree with the Government's proposal to include it in the *Obligationenrecht*. It will go before the large Chamber in June.

Miscellaneous questions brought up in the National Council include the attack on the Israeli aeroplane, the insufficient news service of the Army, reporting on youth troubles and alcoholism.

The session ended on 21st March.

(By courtesy "Schweizerisches Kaufmännisches Zentralblatt" Zurich.)

UNEQUAL TREATMENT?

Bail refused to Arab Terrorists

Readers may remember that, on 18th February, four Arab terrorists, three men and one woman, attacked an Israeli "El Al" aircraft at Kloten airport, injuring two passengers and three members of the crew. An Israeli security man who was on board, jumped out and killed one of the attackers, members of the Arab partisan organisation "People's Front". The other Arabs and the Israeli were arrested. The latter was released on bail, but the three Arabs are still detained. There have been protests from several quarters, and Switzerland has been accused of bias. The prosecution was handed over to the District Court of Buelach. The Zurich High Court has upheld Buelach's decision, and detention goes on. The three Arabs went on hunger strike for a few days.

Whilst both the terrorists and the Israeli have killed a man, it is held that the Arabs committed a criminal act; the Israeli, however, acted in self-defence.

On 25th March, the "El Al" pilot who had been injured, died at the Zurich Cantonal Hospital. His body was flown to Israel.

It is not yet known when the trial will take place. Some delay occurred due to the difficulty of finding interpreters needed to interview the Arabs. The Israeli security man who was granted bail, is in Israel and will return when the case comes up. His defending lawyer is Dr. Georges Braunschvig, Berne.

(By courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

On the last day of March, two British mine sweepers arrived in Basle, HMS "Flintham" and HMS "Dittisham". They are under the command of Lieut. Commander David Ogilvie and Lieut. Commander J. A. Hepworth respectively. Both crews numbered about thirty men, half of them still in training. Whilst in Switzerland, officers and men visited various places of interest, such as factories. The Basle Government gave a reception. The two ships were open to the public at certain hours. It is the first time, British ships have been in Swiss waters.

We read in "The Times" on 31st March that British European Airways had received a £7-million loan (6½%) from a consortium of Swiss banks headed by the Union Bank of Switzerland.

The National Union of Bank Employees, Twickenham, were amongst the European Bank employees organisations which met at a conference in Geneva from 24th to 26th March.

The Kent Youth Orchestra of seventy members, one of the best in the United Kingdom, have been giving concerts in various towns in Switzerland under the auspices of the "Jeunesses Musicales de Suisse" and the patronage of the British Ambassador in Berne.

The British Postmaster General, Mr. John Stonehouse, visited Switzerland for a few days earlier in April, accompanied by a few postal experts. They visited several PTT establishments and also the World Postal Union, the first time ever since the organisation was formed in 1874.

(Mainly Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

DISTINGUISHED SWEDISH

VISITORS

On 7th April, the Swedish Ministerial President Erlander, his wife and several high officials arrived in Switzerland for a four-day official visit. The Swedish guests were entertained by the Swiss Government. A visit to a Grenchen watch factory was part of the programme.

During talks, a general *tour d'horizon* was made, and questions of mutual interest were discussed, including European integration, disarmament, exchange of technical and scientific information, recognition of Hanoi and sanctions against Rhodesia.

"99.9% agreement" was the verdict. It was decided to continue such meetings in future.

(A.T.S.)

EASTER

Sunshine and Traffic Records

After a reasonably mild winter with only a few really cold spells, with a few heavy snowfalls in unexpected places such as Lugano, and Locarno, with the usual Siberian temperatures at La Brévine, spring came in earnest over Easter. In the higher regions, of course, winter sports activities still went strong, but above all, it was by rail and road that travellers went South. Thousands of motor cars used the St. Gotthard and other road and rail tunnels, and hundreds of extra trains were put to use. No fewer than sixty special trains took back holiday makers to Zurich at the end of the holiday, and the Uetliberg alone had 8,000 visitors on Easter Monday. 18,000 people were transported by boat on the Lake of Zurich. On Easter Monday, 20,143 vehicles used the N.13 (National Road) at Maienfeld in the Grisons, and no fewer than 25,000 cars drove over the Julier Pass. 82,000 vehicles passed through Martigny over Easter, and if these had been put nose to tail, the queue would have reached from Sion to Paris!

Unfortunately, Easter traffic took its toll in road victims: 14 people lost their lives and many were injured. The Alpine Rescue Service was called out several times, not least in the avalanche disaster on Piz Val Lunga, in which three train drivers from Samedan lost their lives. Three bodies in other parts (Lenta Glacier) were not recovered. A special course had been organised for rescue pilots at Samedan, which included glacier landings with helicopters, survival techniques in high alpine altitudes, radio communication, first aid, etc.

Although there was some doubt earlier as to the traditional "première" in the Berne Bear Pit, six youngsters were presented to the public on Easter Day. Three cubs had to be taken from one of the two mothers as she had refused them, but they seemed to thrive with their "father", bear keeper Haenni, who bottle fed them at home. Their antics caused great amusement and entertained thousands of onlookers.

Whilst there had been some snow in lower parts of the Valais at the end of March, around Easter 500,000 apricot trees were already in bloom. It is hoped that the frost will not ruin the fruit.

(A.T.S.)

BRILLIANT FINISH TO "SALON"

The 39th Geneva Motor Show may be termed a great success with an attendance of nearly 530,000 people. For 10 days, the exhibition had been teeming with visitors showing a keen interest. The President of the Confederation opened this year's show of automobiles and boats. He was accompanied by M.P.s, high Army officers and diplomats, as well as other personalities.

(A.T.S.)