

Swiss Cathedrals

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year. The bad results of last year were due to monetary uncertainties and the revaluation of the Swiss franc.

Paillard, who produce "Hermes" typewriters and office machines, export 80 per cent of their production and have been particularly affected by the revaluation of the Swiss franc in view of the highly competitive market in which it operates. The group, which had a turnover of 227 million francs (-10.6 per cent on the previous year) plans to transfer the manufacture of typewriters abroad, where labour is cheaper, and concentrate at home on the production of a specialised range of calculating machines. The firm "Precisa", which specialises in this field and is 58 per cent controlled by Paillard, will launch new ranges of sophisticated business machines.

Another reason for the losses incurred by the group are the takeover of the French firm Jappy, which also produces office machines, but which is still operating at a loss, and the turn away from cameras. "Bolex" cameras are now produced by the Austrian firm Eumig. The home factory at Yverdon, which employs a fifth of the group's 6,727 employees, have had to cut down on their labour force.

BEHAVIOUR

Anarchist hideout discovered in Zurich

The Swiss police arrested seven youths aged between 17 and 24, two of them girls, in Zurich, Saint Gall and Locarno. They were accused of organising an armed struggle against the established order.

The affair came to light when Zurich police investigated a flat where a young man, aged 20, had thrown himself from the window under the influence of drugs. They found eight pistols, two rifles, chemicals for the manufacture of explosives, drugs and

a list of all the important high-ranking officers of the Swiss police and of all the eminent personalities of Swiss finance and industry.

They also found documents indicating that their group was allied to other local Anarchist organisations, and showing furthermore that they intended to launch an armed battle against the establishment. The police found maps and pictures of the police stations they had intended to storm.

According to a police spokesman, the preparation of the group was in "a highly advanced stage".

Four of the arrested youths had been wanted since last year in connection with a series of 21 car thefts and 16 robberies in laboratories, armories and chemist shops. This had been the source of the weapons and chemicals found in the flat. The accused had also robbed a specialised number of short-wave radio sets which they used to spy on police messages.

The police are presently looking for further members of the organisation. Last year, a similar case occurred in Geneva, when a left-wing extremist group with the same general intention were rounded up. They had stolen 22 war weapons, thousands of rounds of ammunition and had also drawn up a list of local police chiefs.

Drugs haul in Geneva

A total of 44 kilograms of cannabis was found on two German youths, aged 21 and 23, who had landed at Geneva, coming from Katmandu, Nepal, and who had planned to carry the drug to Germany in a specially mounted Mercedes. The first youth was caught at the airport as customs officers were carrying out a routine check of his luggage. His accomplice, who had already passed the customs, was caught a few hours later in Geneva.

SWISS CATHEDRALS



SAINT-GALL: THE DOMKIRCHE

The ancient monastery of Saint-Gall owes its origin, in 612, to the Irish missionary Gallus who, with Columba, left the celebrated convent of Bangor in Northern Ireland to evangelise Gaul, Burgundy and Helvetia. With 12 of his disciples, Gallus made Christianity known to the inhabitants of the country and also taught them how to cultivate the land. After his death, in 640, the reputation of his saintliness and love for his fellow men, the name of the founder of the abbey became that of the locality and of the country.

On the outside, the abbatial church, today's new cathedral of Saint-Gall (Domkirche), constructed

between 1755 to 1768 on the site of an edifice of the 14th Century, is in the simplicity of its architectural structure of a somewhat monotonous effect with its uniform row of great bays, drawn very near and taking almost the entire length of the side wall. The cathedral East facade, nevertheless, has a relief on the fronton, the Crowning of the Virgin; it is flanked by two slender bulb towers giving a characteristic aspect to the town's silhouette.

More impressive is the interior of the cathedral. It is a sort of rococo style particular to the Tyrol, pomposity of style in its dimensions and of elegant delicacy in the details of its sculptural and pictorial decoration.

The light penetrates freely below its cupola and beneath their high and large vaults, all embellished in fresco paintings by the Italian painter, Moretto, while the massive pillars and the cornices are clad with light and graceful mouldings in stucco and of groups in relief by the sculptor Christian Wenzinger of Fribourg-in-Brigau. The stalls and confessionals in sculpted wood by the same artist, are also of remarkable beauty.

The chancel is magnificent, closed by admirable wrought-iron gates is ornamented with an immense high altar in Empire style, executed in 1810, which contrasts soberly with the exuberant decoration of the side altars.

The whole, of gay aspect in its polychromy, is imposing by its harmonious proportions and suits admirably the pompous processions and worship on great religious festive days.

Pierre Savoie

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