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Plans for a local airport to be built in the plain of Rhone river are at present being discussed by the authorities of Montreux, Vevey and other tourist centres on the upper part of Lake Geneva and nearby Swiss mountain resorts. The airfield would be situated between Villeneuve and Rennaz and feature one runway about 3,000 feet long and 100 feet wide.

* * *

During the Summer of 1957 a number of improvements were carried out on the road between Orsières and the Great St. Bernhard. As a result it has been possible for the authorities to open this section to motor coaches from abroad with a maximum width of 2.5 m. or 8 feet 2½ inches.

* * *

One of the greatest attractions at the 42nd Swiss Industries Fair, due to take place from 12th to 22nd April in Basel, will again be the Watchmaking Fair, which for the 28th time will be organised as a compact special exhibition in which over 160 firms in the watchmaking industry and some 50 exhibitors representing industries closely connected with it are to participate. The jewellery industry will occupy a pavilion of its own, while giant clocks, electric clocks, tools and watchmaking accessories will form a connecting link in the adjoining hall to the well-stocked display of industrial products an exhibit there.

* * *

The Concertgebouw Orchestra of Amsterdam and the Danish National Orchestra have been signed up for the famous " Concerto of Lugano " to be held in Switzerland's sunshine city in April and May. The guest conductors will be Eugene Jochum and Mogens Wöldike. Other concerts will be given by the Radio Svizzera Italiana Orchestra, with Carl Schuricht and Otmar Nussio conducting, as well as by the pianist Robert Casadesus.

* * *

Neuchâtel now has a new ultra-modern Hotel, the " Beaulac " right on the shores of the Lake. The flat roof is constructed for sunbathing and provided with showers and a small snack-bar. Lifts give access to a private beach. A magnificent view of the Alps can be gained from all rooms facing the Lake.

* * *

A great National Horticultural Exhibition will be held at Zurich from April 25th — mid October 1959. The Parks on both sides of the Lake will be at the disposal of the Organisers. The sites are eminently suitable for the demonstration of Garden Planning. A number of special shows will be held and exhibitions arranged. A Flower Corso will be one of the highlights of the Exhibition.

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COMMUNIQUE FROM THE SWISS EMBASSY.

Payment of compensation to victims of National-Socialist persecution.

In a first communiqué, dated 8th March, 1954, the Embassy informed the members of the Swiss Colony that a West German law had come into force on 1st October, 1953, providing for the payment of compensation to victims of National-Socialist persecution (" Bundesentschädigungsgesetz "). The applications for compensation had to be lodged with the German authorities concerned by 1st October, 1955.

A new law, which was an improvement on the former, was enacted with the same object on 29th June, 1956. Under it claims could have been submitted until 1st October, 1957.

This period has now been extended to 1st April, 1958.

However, to be qualified to claim, a victim of persecution must still have had his domicile or permanent residence in the territory of the Federal Republic of Germany or of West Berlin on 1st January, 1947. Should one entitled to claim have died before 1st January, 1947, or have emigrated, been deported or expelled, it will then be sufficient that he had his last domicile or permanent residence in the said territories.

Repayment of cash liabilities.

A West German law came into force on 19th July, 1957, concerning the obligation of the German Reich and of semi-official bodies to repay cash liabilities (" Bundesrückerstattungsgesetz "). *Applications for such payments must be submitted to the German authorities concerned not later than by 1st April, 1958.*

* * *

The Swiss Embassy in London and the Swiss Consulate in Manchester will gladly give further details about the above-mentioned laws to Swiss nationals who may be interested.