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Putting tooth into the existing legislation for the punishment of crimes against the security of the State, the Swiss Federal Council issued a decree placing the examination and trial of all persons accused of such crimes in the hands of the military. The new law became effective on August 10.

The new law permits stronger penalties than under the present penal code.

It submits violators to military justice on all charges of espionage as well as infractions against the national defence even if such violations are the acts of civilians. It also permits the punishment of anyone deliberately spreading false reports "with intent to trouble the population", or anyone carrying on propaganda to the detriment of the nation's neutrality.

The new legislation permits the suppression of suspended sentences accorded under existing laws for first offenders. Probation in the future will be accorded "in exceptional cases only".

The decree also calls for "civilian internment" up to three years with hard labour "independently of other privation of liberty", for cases where "penal sanctions will not be deemed sufficiently effective".

#### ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.

Your Committee has much pleasure in presenting the Annual Report and Balance sheet for the year ending September 30, 1942.

Satisfactory progress has been made again, and our funds have increased by £36, in spite of higher expenses.

The membership of our Society remains on the same level as at the end of September 1941. Although we acquired quite a number of new members during the year, it is to be regretted that through non-payment of the sh.10/- subscription fee, the same number of members had to be erased from our membership list.

The chief purpose of your Society is, to link together for the sake of friendship and common ties, the Swiss so widely scattered over the country, to assist compatriots in real distress, to bring before you news from home as well as happenings among Swiss residents in New Zealand. To achieve this object however, we must have the wholehearted support of every member. There are still many Swiss in New Zealand who do not yet belong to our Society, and the enrolment of new members should always be borne in mind. So if you know of a Swiss living in your district, whose name is not yet on the membership list, please explain to him the purpose of our Society and invite him to join.

We should also like to remind members, that the Secretary would be pleased to be informed of any happenings or news of interest for publication in the "Helvetia".

#### BALANCE SHEET AS AT SEPTEMBER 30TH, 1942.

##### EXPENDITURE:

1941-42.	1941.
To Printing and postage for "Helvetia"	46. 5. 4
Donations, postage and insurance on overseas parcels	1.19. 5
Cables	4.10. 7
Postage	1.18. 0
Stationery	1.12. 0
Bank charges etc.	1. 8. 3
Subscription Swiss Observer, London	15. 0
Balance	224. 6. 6
	£282.15. 1

##### RECEIPTS:

Oct.1st	By Cash and Bank	
	A/c,	188.11.5
1941/2.	" Subscriptions for 1941/42	74. 4.2
	" Subscriptions for 1942/3 already collected	14. 0.0
	Interest on Bank A/c,	4. 6.2
	Sundries	1.13.4
		£282.15.1

##### 1942

October 1st	Balance at Post Office Savings Bank
	Balance at Bank of New South Wales

204.11. 0
17.11. 6
2. 4. 0

£224. 6. 6. as  
above

VERIFIED CORRECT: M. Bruehlisauer