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TOMATOES, TOMATOES GALORE . . .

There has been a record tomato harvest in the Valais this year. Not only were there more plants than ever before, but beneficial weather contributed to the bumper harvest, and 10 million kg were gathered. Tons of tomatoes were distributed free of charge by charitable institutions. Large convoys of lorries, kindly lent by various firms, drove down to the Rhone Valley and loaded the valuable fruit. Charitable organisations paid for some of the transport, and hospitals, institutions and camps benefited in many parts of the country. The "Caritas" Central Office alone distributed 101 tons to 606 homes, hospitals, etc. In many towns, poor families and old people were presented with free tomatoes, but even so, tons and tons had to be drowned in the Rhone. Talking of waste, the Producers of the Valais blame the Confederation for the overproduction. They say that imports should be cut, and inland producers given protection. Tomatoes are grown where there used to be strawberries and asparagus — both cut down because of bad prices.

A number of personalities from various sectors of the Canton's economic life have formed a committee to fight against any future market crisis due to overproduction. New ways to use tomatoes are being studied, such as for juices and *purées*.

The apricot harvest of the Valais resulted in 5½ million kg. this summer. It may be considered a good harvest, though it is well below that of 1963 which was a one-time record of 12m. kilos.

[A.T.S.]

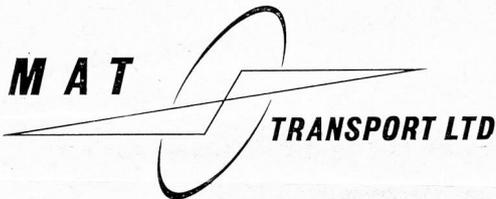
BAD ROAD ACCIDENTS ON FEDERAL DAY OF PRAYER

The week-end of the Swiss Federal Day of Thanksgiving and Prayer had a bad record in road accidents: 18 people were killed and 45 badly injured. The worst accident happened near Uhwiesen/Feuerthalen in the Canton of Zurich where three cars collided. Two people were killed and seven mostly badly injured.

[A.T.S.]

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