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America were shut off. If this extreme possibility were to come about it would involve a re-channelling of the world's savings towards the U.S. through banks and brokerage houses outside Switzerland. This would mean the end of Swiss predominance in Continental banking. All this depends on how strongly the Americans feel the legal, criminal and financial consequences of the present set-up.

(PMB)

SWISS NEWS

FEDERAL

The unwanted refugees

Thirty Hungarian and Czech refugees escaped the Italian camp of Latina and entered illegally into Switzerland last Autumn. The Swiss police drove them back to the border but the Italians would not take them back. So, pending an agreement, they were interned in four so-called "work colonies" from which they have only recently been liberated. Work colonies are institutions where former prisoners, drunkards and drop-outs, unable to face the challenge of freedom, voluntarily live. The plight of the refugees was due to the agreement passed among countries harbouring refugees from eastern Europe which lays down that refugees may be accepted by the host country in which they arrive after their emigration. Refugees who had found asylum in one country were the responsibility of that country and could not enter freely into another one.

Although the Swiss authorities were only acting according to established immigration laws, there has been considerable indignation over the treatment received by these unwanted aliens.

The new Swiss tank

The "Swiss Tank 68" will be delivered a little late. This has prompted M. Gnaegi, head of the Military Department, to assure the Chambers that this lateness had absolutely nothing which tasted of the Mirage scandal. 460 million francs have been written down for the development and acquisition of this nationally-made weapon, which is to replace the traditional British-made "Centurion" tank equipping the Army. Prototypes have already been given to the forces for testing and a number of modifications have been suggested. Mr. Gnaegi said that these alterations would be performed within the limits of present financial possibilities and that the first production-tanks could come into service next year, and the last ones in mid-1974.

According to a "message" by the Federal Council on February 11th, the organisation of Swiss artillery will have to be overhauled following the introduction of the M 109, an American-built armoured and motorised cannon of which the Swiss have bought 140.

(ATS)

A military judge of enquiry wants the parliamentary immunity of Mr. Hubacher to be lifted

The "Florida" affair is not over yet. Last Autumn, as reported in these columns, Mr. Hubacher, a Socialist national councillor from Basle, attacked the mismanagement of the Florida early-warning radar system on the basis of the secret minutes of a meeting at the Dubendorf airbase which had come into his hands. The employee who had stolen the document was arrested but Mr. Hubacher, who was breaking the law in keeping secret documents in his possession, was protected by parliamentary immunity. The judge of enquiry, Captain Bossard, now wants this immunity to be lifted for the purpose of his enquiry. This, however, must be decided by a special *ad hoc* committee elected by the National Council and then ratified by the Chambers themselves. There is little chance that the members of Parliament would risk endangering their highly prized immunity by creating such an important precedent.

The export deposit is voted by the Council of States

In spite of the strong opposition of some councillors of State against the proposed 5% export deposit, the scheme was adopted after a brilliant performance by Mr. Celio, head of the Department of Finance. His main arguments were that export industries had expanded three to four times faster than the home-market industries during the last year. This had led to unsatisfiable demands on the building industries and a sharply increased need of imported manpower. Since exports were rising by 15%-20% a year, the export deposit could hardly bring them prejudice. The deposit was only temporary but inevitable in view of the direct strain of excessive exports on the economy.

ANGLO-SWISS

The management of the British Leyland Motor Corporation's central office for Europe, which is at Laus-

anne, gave a reception which was honoured by the presence of Lord Stoke, director of B.L.M.C. and numerous political and industrial personalities.

An address by the manager of the Swiss branch reminded his audience that British Leyland was created in 1968 by the merger of the two most important groups in the motor industry of Great Britain and that the production of its 70 home factories accounted for 40% of the British market. 1,018,000 vehicles had been produced at home, 100,000 abroad in 1969. Total turnover was of one billion pounds, exports had risen 52% since 1967 and had amounted to 425,000 vehicles in 1969, more than half of which had been directed towards Europe.

Lord Mountbatten visits Switzerland

Lord Mountbatten of Burma, last viceroy of India and leader of the Far East front in World War II, has been invited by the Swiss Winston Churchill Foundation to deliver a speech at the main lecture hall of Berne University. The title of his lecture was "Winston Churchill as I knew him". During his stay in Berne, Lord Mountbatten was the guest of the General Staff at a reception given in his honour and, at a second function, was the guest of the Political Department at a dinner given in Wattenwyl House.

CANTONAL

A hotel closes down in Lausanne

The Montana Hotel in Lausanne, one of the best family-run hotels in town, will close down because of financial difficulties. This closure highlights the necessity for hoteliers to adapt themselves to the changing requirements of tourism.

(ATS)

Lawyers unite

The Swiss Federation of Lawyers has decided to create an information office in order to improve the relations of the profession with the Press, the Radio and Television. Mr. Georg Krneta, a Bernese solicitor, has been

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placed in charge of this office. The Federation of Lawyers will be organising its traditional two days of discussions next May and will debate on the theme of "Justice and Peace".

The Valais and the Olympics

The Swiss Olympic Committee has retained the Valais's candidature for the 1976 Winter Olympics. Interlaken and St. Moritz had been the other contestants. It now remains for the World Olympic Committee, which will meet at Amsterdam on 12th May, to choose among the other national candidatures. Brigadier Henchoz, president of the committee for the Valais's candidature, believes strongly in his canton's chances.

(ATS)

An underground for Zurich for the '80s?

The eventuality of a 24-kilometre long underground link between Kloten and Dietikon has already been in the air for a few years. Recently, Mr. Ernst Bieri, a member of Zurich's executive council and head of local finance said that if work on the tube were to begin in 1971 or 1972, it would be ready by 1980. This, however, only on the condition that the project would be taken in hand by the town. If money had to be drawn from regional sources, then it would take much longer to get the works under way. Mr. Bieri predicted a communal vote on the issue of the tube in early 1971.

Another spy

In the last Swiss Observer, we reported of a queer case of "spying" in Lausanne, where a Swiss Communist worked for the Russian Embassy in Berne by stealing official identity documents and stamped paper from the immigration and residents' control office in which he worked. A perfectly similar case has been reproduced in Zurich. This time, a young secretary, apparently in love with the Second Secretary of the Romanian Embassy, stole and gave him similar kinds of documents from municipal offices in the town. The Russians, and in particular the former First Secretary of the Russian Embassy, whose name had appeared in the Lausanne case, were also involved in this one. Naturally enough, commentators have been wondering why the Communists should be so interested in getting hold of Swiss identity documents (or the means to reproduce them). The "Neue Zurcher Zeitung" speculates that Communist countries could conveniently protect their agents with Swiss documents. The emergence of Romania as a new spying-power, independent of "big Brother" has also aroused some astonishment.

25 years after the bombing

Schaffhausen was bombed on 1st April 1944 by the Americans. Less than a year later, on 22nd February 1945, the Americans, who are rather prone at that kind of mistake, mistook Switzerland for Southern Germany and bombed the small town of Stein am Rhein, killing nine people, wounding 30 and making 50 homeless. Another

bomber tossed bombs upon the Zurich village of Rafz, killing eight persons, and on Neuhausen, where considerable damages were wrought. Two months later, on May 8th, the war was to end.

ASSORTED CRIMES

The overzealous chaperon

A 37-year-old night-watchman has been charged with abuse of authority. Accompanied by his Alsatian dog, he used to "control" amorous couples in parked cars, posing as a policeman. On one occasion, he had written down the telephone number of the incriminated young lady, turned up at her flat and threatened her with a police report if she didn't submit to his advances. She arranged for a rendezvous, to which two other policemen were equally invited . . . It was the fifth time that the accused had been charged with coercion and abuse of authority.

Divorce bodes no good

A 32-year-old Italian living in St. Gall was separated from his 26-year-old wife, who lived at Rorschah. One day, he sneaked in his wife's apartment at noon, with the intention of making it up and resuming conjugal life. His attempts having failed, he snatched a kitchen knife with a foot-long blade and stabbed his wife repeatedly. She, however, managed to clamber to the door and scream for help. The neighbours rushed down but they were threatened with the flickering knife. Workers busy in front of the house came in to help and mastered the ruffled husband. His wife was hurried to hospital in a very serious state.

A heroic charwoman

A proof that such crimes are not due to the hotness of Latin blood, a 36-year-old Canadian of British origin attempted to murder his wife, first by strangling her, then by ducking her in the bath. Her screams drew the attention of the charwoman, who managed to make the irascible character loosen his grip on his wife. His wife had wanted a divorce and this had driven him to such an erratic deed. The Zurich court retained the charge of attempted murder, but maintained mitigating circumstances, sentencing him to three years' imprisonment.

Sequel to the Gautschi affair

The father of Switzerland's first heart donor, Albert Gautschi, has sued the doctors who performed the transplant for not having informed him and for not having asked for his permission to carry out the operation. But this lead to another case since Albert Gautschi died in unusual circumstances. As a private detective, he was enquiring on two lovers sleeping in a hotel room while standing on a glass roofing. The man, Mr. August Benz, was asleep, but his companion, Mrs. E. R., saw the detective and immediately awoke her partner. At that very moment, Albert Gautschi crashed through the glass and fell in a cellar below. Mr. August Benz has claimed at the enquiry that he had never pushed the detective onto the roof from where he had fallen but has

admitted that he gave him slaps with the flat of his hand while he was lying dazed and covered in blood to elicit an explanation for his peep-holing. Police are still not sure of the reasons of Mr. Gautschi's death and the trial has been deferred for a month. The woman has faced the separate charge of having had intimate relations with Mr. Benz in front of her 13-year-old daughter and of having submitted her to the lusts of an old businessman. She was condemned to 14 months of jail.

(ATS)

A lucky strike

Two Zurich detectives noticed an Italian car that had not changed its parking place for two days. Being on the trail of burglars who had made away with 50,000 francs in a jewellery raid in the town, they got interested in the vehicle and managed to find out in which hotel its owner had stayed. They learnt that he had left the hotel and the manager was afraid of having been swindled. This prompted the detectives to search his room, where they found 38.6 million Italian lire, a false identity card and a real one, with the name of a civil servant of Bolzano. To the surprise of all, the man suddenly turned up. He was questioned by the police, who were interested in knowing how he could have laid his hands on such a vast sum of money. The civil servant explained that he had brought it on behalf of a Bolzano business man to place it in a Zurich bank. The police, still suspicious, detained him for the night and discovered the next morning, on reading the "Corriere della Sera", that a communal employee in Bolzano, whose name was indicated, had falsified the books for the benefit of a Bolzano industrialist and stolen 68 million lire. The 38.6 million found in his possession had been the reward for his services.

The marriage contract

A 32-year-old taxi driver in Geneva used his wife to help him repay his debts by sending her on the pavement. She worked there (making over 40,000 francs in a year) until their marital relations got sour, when she thought best to denounce her husband to the police.

Smuggling over the Italian border

Ticino is one of the most important smuggling centres of the world. Italians not only cross into the Canton every day for work and press at the immigration control at Chiasso in the hope of getting entry into Switzerland, they also storm Ticino for their daily shopping. Switzerland affords many products which are either unavailable or very expensive in Italy. These include blonde cigarette, petrol, contraceptives, anti-flu vaccines, woollen clothes, weird medicines such as "Procain" for which there is a craze throughout Italy. Ticino shop-owners make a good half of their business with Italians. Switzerland has at all time had a strong attraction for Italian capital and the money has been streaming

up the Gothard, hidden under double-floors, to find a safe place in a Swiss bank. Half of Ticino's building programme is known to be financed by Italian money. This does not trouble the Swiss since the entry of every foreign currency is legal, but the Italians have been concerned over this illicit haemorrhage for a long time. They have now decided to clamp down on it and the Italian Central Bank now want precise details on the origin of the lires remitted to it by Swiss banks. This has had the result that bureaux de change in Ticino have been restricting their acceptance of lires and that the shopkeepers of Ticino have been seeing their turnovers fall. The transportation of Italian capital into Switzerland through the Gothard had lead to a thriving racket (which has cost one life at least) and it is far too important to be stifled by the limited means of the Swiss customs.

(ATS)

AVALANCHES

Professor Quervain, director of the Weissfluhjoch laboratory and a specialist on avalanches, explained on Radio Beromünster how avalanches such as the one that brought disaster to Reckingen were possible.

There is a danger of avalanche when the three following concurring factors are present: a thick layer of fresh snow, strong gusts of wind and an unstable underlayer of old snow. There is a very serious danger when the layer of fresh snow is over 150 cm thick, but the situation already becomes critical when this layer is 60 cm. Wind will only make the situation worse. A bad base-layer of slippery and unstable snow will favour the formation of avalanches. This layer is usually built in early winter, when the snow falls on a ground that is still warm and therefore crystallises irregularly and without cohesion. The formation of this layer sometimes has good points, since it can cause an avalanche to slip before it has time to become dangerous.

Although the slopes surrounding Reckingen are not steep, troughs have been formed near their base during the years. They have lead to the accumulation of immense quantities of snow which, having been set in motion by exceptional circumstances, produced the worst avalanche disaster since Mattmark.

(ATS)

AVIATION

The crash of the sabotaged "Coronado" last February was the second worst and sixth accident befalling a Swissair machine since the foundation of the airline in 1931. The worst was the crash of a "Caravelle" carrying 80 people (43 of whom came from the village of Humlikon) at Dürrenäsch in 1963.

In June 1957, a training "DC 3" crashed in Lake Constance, killing all nine crew members. In July 1956, a "Convair 440" carrying mail across the Atlantic disappeared with its crew

of four. In February 1967, a similar aircraft, used for training purposes, crashed on the Uetliberg in Zurich and cost the lives of the four crew members. In May 1954, a "Convair 240" had to land in the Channel off Folkestone and three passengers were drowned.

The worst disaster to have struck Swiss civil aviation was the crash of a Globe-Air "Britannia" over Cyprus. 126 people were killed, one of the highest toll of victims ever recorded in a single crash. A Balair "DC 4" hit a mountain in the Sudan in May 1960 and 12 people were killed.

(ATS)

THE CASE OF THE DISSENTING PRIESTS

Two weeks ago we mentioned the collective appeal in two important papers by 140 priests claiming for the right of would-be ministers of the Catholic Church to have the choice between the ministry and celibacy. Now another Catholic organisation called "Una Voce Helvetica" presided by Gonzague de Reynold has published a manifesto saying that these 140 priests make up for a very small minority of the Swiss clergy. The following is alleged: "A groupment, animated by Father Vincenz Felder, curate of Spreitenbach, convened some 750 German-Swiss priests to a meeting in Zurich on 28th January. 120 of these priests accepted the invitation but 75 of them retired before the closure of the congress. Of the 45 that remained, a great number were hesitating since only one remained to celebrate mass". Father Vincenz has confirmed that 140 priests had signed his appeal against the compulsion of celibacy. He had sent 300 copies of his appeal and 140 had been returned and signed.

(ATS)

RECENT DEATHS

Mr. Fritz Haeberlin, federal judge, who died three months after his resignation. He was the son of a federal councillor and became himself one of the greatest Swiss judges of the decade.

Dr. George Guye, a well-known Neuchatel doctor, at 91. Dr. Guye had practised medicine for 63 years, first at Sonvilier near St. Imier, then at Leysin (with the late Dr. Rollier). For the last 37 years of his career, he was the school doctor of La-Chaux-de-Fonds and long-time president of the Neuchatel league against tuberculosis.

Princess Anastasia-Marie of Anhalt, Duchess of Saxony, at Vevey Hospital, at 69. She was an artist known by the name of Anastasia Jung and was a correspondent of numerous fine arts academies. She had lived for many years at La Tour-de-Peilz with her husband, Prince Eugene. Her daughter, Princess Anastasia-Louise, had married Prince Emmanuel of Saxony at La Tour-de-Peilz.

Siegfried Lang, 83, a lyrical poet, the greatest since C. F. Meyer. His most famous work, "Vom andern Ufer", was published in 1944.

SWISS WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE

An important addition

(In the last-but-one issue, I wrote in my comment that Switzerland treated its women so unjustly that it ranked among the most primitive countries in the world. Mrs. Meier thinks that I was being grossly unfair to Swiss democracy and has kindly offered to correct the wrong impression by sending me the following article. The Editor).

Swiss women are extremely well protected in law, much better than in many countries where women have been able to go to the poll for a long time. There is a great difference between Swiss voting and that of other countries. It is that everywhere else a citizen has nothing but an election right which he can only use every few years, and possibly in some local elections. Switzerland, on the other hand, is the only country with direct democracy, where the citizen has the right to express an opinion on a great variety of subjects. In fact, the people are able to make the laws.

The Federal Constitution grants the Swiss citizen three direct controls on decisions by Government and Parliament: The *Compulsory Referendum* — any amendment to the Constitution must go to the people and only becomes law if a majority of voters and Cantons accept it. The *Optional Referendum* — if, within three months, 30,000 voters or eight Cantons demand it, any proposed legislation must be put to the vote of the people. The *Constitutional Initiative* — if 50,000 voters demand an amendment to the Constitution, a public vote must be taken. There are plenty of examples: the people deciding in 1920 that Switzerland should join the League of Nations; the electorate voting for the continuation of Government price control a few years ago, and *against* civil defence service for women and *against* state-controlled TV; five years ago the people empowered the Government to introduce measures to curb the excessive economic boom; the students last year successfully used the Referendum to voice their opposition to the re-organising plans for the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, and the voters agreed with them. The people have to vote on new arterial roads, alpine tunnels, new traffic laws and national defence, and the voters' duties do not end at national level; they cover cantonal and local issues — in some Communes, even the annual budget has to be submitted to the electorate's approval. Is it surprising, therefore, that many Swiss women feel they are not yet ready to take on so much responsibility, and this is the answer to the Editor's surprised question why there should be anti-suffrage organisations.

Just because Switzerland is the oldest democracy of the modern world, it is also a masculine democracy. There is still the deep-rooted conception that voting goes with the bearing of arms. If, like in other countries, Parliament could introduce the vote for women,

Switzerland would have had it long ago. It is easier to get a majority amongst 200 parliamentarians than to win over a 2½-million electorate!

In addition, Swiss women take an active part in running the country, even if not on the political scene. They enjoy the same schooling and training facilities; universities have been open to them since well over 100 years ago — the first woman doctor in Europe was a Swiss who graduated in 1874 (Marie Heim-Voegtlin). We have women university professors, scientists, business managers, artists, authors, musicians, conductors, ministers of the Church, lawyers and civil servants, doctors and women members of the armed forces. Women sit on commissions of experts dealing with all manner of subjects from health to social insurance, from orphan care to film censorship, from price control to defence. They are justices of the peace and labour advisors. There are women members of the International Red Cross Committee, and here we remember their tremendous part during the war. Of the 2,400 Swiss helpers in the Prisoners of War Organisation in Geneva, most were women workers.

There is a small village in the Canton of Berne, Limpach, where a few years ago (possibly it is still the same today), the Commune Clerk and the Commune Treasurer were women, the verger was a woman, the post mistress, and the woman who delivers the mail; the local cobbler's, the building contractor's, one of the finest farms in the district and the dairy — all run by women! Let anyone say that the Swiss woman is not capable! It is not a sign of primitive reaction if she feels she wants to be better informed before taking on political responsibilities, but she is learning and gaining experience. Progress is slow, and there is no doubt that she will get the right to vote before long.

She is no political outcast and she is certainly not to be pitied. Her position is a secure one. The moment of reaching her full political maturity will fall in a vital period of the new space era. The Swiss woman will then have an enviable position. For she will have more power and responsibility than women anywhere else in the world.

(MM)

TECHNICAL ITEMS

Switzerland at Expo 70 Osaka

The Swiss pavilion at the Osaka Universal Exhibition is designed to illustrate the theme "Diversity in harmony"; in this connection let us remember that the general theme of the exhibition is "Progress and harmony for humanity". As a matter of fact, those responsible for the project deliberately avoided the idea of presenting Switzerland by means of a big traditional exhibition. The goal aimed at was to create

in the visitor's mind a lasting though simplified picture of what Switzerland really is and what she stands for. The highlight of the Swiss display is undoubtedly the "Radiating Structure" which can be compared to a stylised tree. Just under 70 feet high, lit by some 32,000 electric light bulbs, the "Structure" is brought to life by an electronic musical device imitating the rustling of leaves. The visitor is immersed in a fairy-tale enchantment, being enveloped in an "incandescent" silvery veil which, without dazzling him, lights up the night sky with a magical glow. However, the pavilion also includes a thematic exhibition, an information centre and a restaurant. On the occasion of this exhibition, the Swiss Office for the Development of Trade has produced a set of 5 richly illustrated volumes, describing the many facets of Switzerland. In addition, the same office has printed a prospectus for mass distribution to all visitors, containing a stereo record of Swiss music. April 24th will be the official Swiss day. In order to celebrate the event, six symphony concerts will be conducted by the Swiss conductor Charles Dutoit, with the flutist Auréle Nicolet and the singer Lisa della Casa as soloists. In August, "The Meteor", a play by the Swiss playwright Friedrich Durrenmatt, will be performed in Japanese, while in September the Swiss Modern Ballet Company will give eight performances. Other cultural events are also planned, without being official. Let us mention among others, the tour of Japan by the "Fribourg Choral Society".

"ART", International Exhibition of Art in Basle

An International Exhibition of Art will be held in Basle in June, 1970, and will subsequently be repeated every year. This exhibition quite simply entitled "ART" will be held from June 12th to 16th. The first "ART" exhibition will occupy an area of 700,000 sq. ft. in the premises of the Swiss Industries Fair. Works of the 20th century will be on display as well as some of the most remarkable art books published during the last ten years. All the exhibits will be for sale and their authenticity will be guaranteed by the exhibitors.

"Swiss Market Survey", 3rd Edition, 1970

At its congress in 1948, the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) proposed the publication of a series of surveys on the markets of different countries. Wishing to give this scheme its active support, the Distribution Commission of the Swiss National Committee of the I.C.C. brought out a first "Swiss Market Survey" in 1958, followed by a second edition in 1962. The success of these first two works encouraged the Commission to publish a third edition taking into account the important modifications of structure and method that have occurred in the

field of market surveys during the last few years. As a result, the section giving precise information about the structure of the Swiss market has been extended and amplified to satisfy more fully the needs of foreign exporters. Whereas the first two surveys were published only in French, the third edition is to be published in three languages: French, German and English. The French edition is already available, while those in English and German will be obtainable within a few months. This third edition of the "Swiss Market Survey" is in the form of a paper bound in-quarto book printed in offset; of the 200 pages it contains, 100 are devoted to tables. It is published by the "Association for the Publication of the Swiss Market Survey", 18 rue de Bellefontaine, 1001 Lausanne, Switzerland.

A new electronic snow warning system

The recent avalanches that caused over forty deaths in the French Alps were cruel reminders of the necessity for winter safety devices and systems. Although the recent invention of a Swiss firm does not in fact actually predict avalanches, it nevertheless possesses great interest for all those responsible for clearing snow from roads, railroads, aerodromes, etc. It is an electronic device giving the alarm as soon as it becomes necessary to start clearing the snow. This new system requires no electrical installation and is 100% reliable, even at very low temperatures. It reacts as soon as the snowfall is 1 to 10 cm. deep depending on the setting of the instrument. The electronic snow warning system makes it possible to rationalise snow clearing services and to do away with night-watch posts. This invention won the silver-gilt medal at the last International Inventors' Salon in Brussels. The same Swiss firm manufactures a flexible rubber blade for clearing away wet snow by means of trucks or tractors. Easily fitted to all snow-plough blades, it requires the services of only one man and enables roads and aerodromes to be scraped thoroughly clear of snow.

Preview of the Watch Exhibition at the Basle Fair in 1970

Among the novelties to be presented at the next Swiss Industries Fair in Basle (from April 11th to 21st), visitors will be able to admire the latest creation of a big watch firm in the canton of Solothurn. Striking proof of the diversification of Swiss production in this field, the "DS-2 Super PH 1000 M" is a diving watch guaranteed waterproof to a depth of 1,000 metres (3,280 feet). The outer bezel, fitted with a safety-catch, revolves only if it is submitted to a certain pressure. The watch, whose dial is orange-coloured for better visibility, has seven watertight joints, a screw-in crown and a hardened mineral glass. The self-winding movement is protected against shocks by an elastic shock-absorbing ring.