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Obligatory shooting to remain

The practice of a yearly and obligatory off-service shooting programme should be maintained. This was the conclusion immediately endorsed by the Political Department of a federal commission charged with examining the future of an institution which is a salient feature of every Swiss Sunday. The Commission suggested that the 300-metre shooting programme should be made more severe and that every serving man keeping a gun at home should be made to perform the annual shooting exercise until the age of 50.

The Commission said that every man still serving should register with a local rifle association. Rifle associations are still entrusted with organising the military shooting programmes carried out at the ranges they own in virtually every commune.

In another development, Geneva's Military Society, a sub-section grouping a thousand officers of every rank of the Swiss Society of Officers, is this year commemorating its 150th Anniversary by launching a treble-contest on the theme of National Defence.

The Society invited young people in two age groups (12-15 and 16-20) to write an essay on "Young People and National Defence". In a second competition, everyone, regardless of age, was invited to submit a drawing illustrating the role of Switzerland's military leaders during the past 150 years. Thirdly, amateur cineasts were invited to submit a film on the "Various aspects of our Army - its instruction and relations with the people". The participants were given rather short deadlines since pictures and essays had to be remitted within 45 days, and films within 30 days of the start of the competition. Works were to be examined by a jury chaired by Brigadier Jean-Jacques Chouet.

"Military law is too hard"

The prison sentences meted out to conscientious objectors are far too stiff. Such was the main contention of delegates of the "Swiss Council for Peace Associations" who held their Annual Assembly in Zurich last month. They claimed "with indignation" that military courts had recently shown themselves to be "particularly hard" in sentencing conscientious objectors to prison terms ranging from nine to 16 months. They noted that these sentences were much stiffer than those ranging from three to six months that had been served for similar offences.

The Assembly said in a communiqué that it was "incomprehensible and humiliating" that military courts should adopt such an attitude at a time when the procedure for the creation of a non-military national service was under way. The Assembly called for a general amnesty to all conscientious objectors and to a quashing of sentences for those that have already faced a military court.

TOURIST ITEMS

LITTLE KNOWN - THE SKI-ING REGION OF ENTLEBUCH AND EMMENTAL

No hustling and bustling and ideal conditions for downhill ski-ing and ski-hiking - these are some of the advantages of the pre-Alpine ski-ing region of Entlebuch and the Upper Emmental (accessible by train, postal coach or car from Lucerne). The region's centre is *Sorenberg* with its aerial cableway (built in 1971) leading to the Brienzer Rothorn, and 15 other cableways, ski-lifts and chair-lifts, a cross-country loipe, a natural ice rink and an indoor swimming pool. Besides ski-hiking, *Entlebuch* also boasts runs for downhill adepts. There are ski-lifts in Hasle for the Napf region and ski-runs and slopes at *Fluhli* which has a modern hotel and over 20 holiday flats. *Escholzmat*, nearby, has some ideal practice slopes and also appeals to ski-hiking fans. *Marbach's* advantages include a cableway, four ski-lifts, a two-mile lit-up ski slope and a ski-hiking run. For the past few years, skiers have been attracted to *Bumbach* and the snow-clad northern face of the Hohgant. This region also offers another advantage - two new winter sports tickets valid on all 35 ski-lifts and mountain railways with a transport capacity of 2,400 persons per hour and approximately 30 miles of postal coach routes. A reduction of 25 per cent is granted by the purchase of a 100 franc ticket, and 20 per cent for a 50 franc ticket.

TRAVELLING ON THE SWISS POSTAL COACH SYSTEM IN THE VALAIS

After issuing a new "One-Week Ticket for the Upper Valais", the Swiss Postal Coach Administration has now introduced an all-inclusive ticket for the region of Sion. This ticket which is limited to individual use, is valid on all postal coach routes (regular services) in the Sion area in addition to the routes to Les Collons, Le Chargeur/Dixence and Ovronnaz. An adult's ticket costs Fr. 40 and children and owners of half-tax vouchers and holiday tickets pay Fr. 20.

WINTER SKI-ING ALSO IN THE TICINO

The Ticino is becoming just as popular for its sunny, snow-clad regions in winter as for its lush, tropical vegetation. The ski-ing areas of Airolo, Cari, Nara, Campo Blenio and Bosco Gurin (for day and weekend excursions) all lie at an altitude of over 3,000 feet. Moneto (Centovalli), Cardada (above Locarno), Alpe di Neggia (Gambarogno) and Monte Lema (Malcantone) are also ideal for ski-ing. Monte Tamaro, on the southern side of Monte Ceneri, with its aerial cableway, chair-lift, ski-lifts and mountain hotel, has snow until April. Day tickets in all resorts run from 10 to

15 francs. Package ski-ing weeks are available at the brand-new Hotel Origlio Country Club (near Monte Tamaro) up to 22nd March. One week costs Fr. 540 (for adults) and Fr. 370 (for children up to 16 years).

FUEL PRICES IN SWITZERLAND

The current prices for petrol in most areas are:

Super grade: 99-101 cents per litre.

Standard grade: 94-96 cents per litre.

Diesel: 90-98 cents per litre.

Lubricating oil prices vary between Fr. 4 and Fr. 8 per litre.

LUGANO - MADE-TO-MEASURE HOLIDAYS

A group of Lugano hotels are offering a new one-week inclusive arrangement (from Fr. 320) based on 7 days and 7 nights, rooms with breakfast, demi- or full-board. A free welcome drink, admission to some dances and one free drink at the Moby discotheque are included. In addition the guest has a choice of: sports programme, i.e. golf, horse-riding, water-ski-ing, tennis or from a hobby programme, i.e. ceramics, modelling, drawing, painting or from an excursion programme by boat, cableway or bus service.

PRIVATE SANATORIA IN SWITZERLAND

A newly-revised version of the brochure "Private Sanatoria in Switzerland" has recently been issued by the Swiss National Tourist Office. This brochure, which appears in three languages, contains information on a clinic's specialisation, possibilities of medical treatment and supplementary indications on Swiss health resorts. Copies are available free of charge from: Swiss National Tourist Office, Swiss Centre, 1 New Coventry Street, London W1V 3HG.

INTERLAKEN - ARCHERY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 25th-28th JUNE, 1975

Five or eight-day all-inclusive holidays to Interlaken are being organised by Swiss Travel Service, Ware, Herts., in conjunction with Swissair. Departure dates: 25th and 22nd June, 1975 respectively. Prices from London are from £83 per person.

LATE NEWS

The people of the three southern districts of the Jura voted against separation from Canton Berne during an important plebiscite which took place on the weekend of 15-16th March. On another subject, Switzerland has formally asked the five Common Market countries whose currencies are linked together in a common "snake", to participate in the arrangement. More details in our next issue.