

Spain.

April 1st.—The first Budget of the Republic came into force.

Switzerland.

April 4th.—It was reported that the Government had intimated their desire to participate in the ultimate discussion of the terms of a Danubian economic arrangement on equal terms with Germany and Italy.

U.S.S.R.

March 30th.—It was officially announced that the construction of the Dnieprstroi dam had been completed, and that it was expected that the power station—the largest in the world—would be opened on May 1st. (This was to furnish power for the Donetz coal basin, the Dnieprepetrovsk metal factories and a new group of steel and aluminium plants in the same area.)

April 1st.—A decree was published, signed by Stalin, Molotoff and Yakovleff, announcing the dismissal and punishment of a large number of the directors of State cattle and live stock farms owing to “completely unsatisfactory care of cattle, extraordinarily great mortality among young animals, exceptionally poor organisation of labour, complete absence of business methods, and extremely unsatisfactory accounting.” The result was that the plans to supply the cities with meat had been fulfilled only to the extent of 69 per cent. Among remedies prescribed were limitation of the size of State farms, forbidding them to accept cattle before the buildings were ready, and forbidding them to repair losses by new purchases. The farms would have, in future, to develop from their own resources.

April 2nd.—As part of a “radical purge of the entire administrative machinery of the Soviet Government” the latter dissolved the Committee on Prices, set up in October, 1931, and in its place created a Committee for Accumulating Goods and Regulating Trade, with extensive powers over foodstuffs and common necessities.

April 6th.—Stern, and an accomplice named Vasilieff, who were accused of attempting the life of the Counsellor of the German Embassy on March 5th, were sentenced to death.

U.S.A.

March 30th.—The House of Representatives voted a number of further taxes, including increases in the surtax and corporation tax, and in telegraph and telephone rates. The estimated total yield was \$294 millions.

March 31st.—Further taxes were adopted on stock and commodity transactions. They were estimated to yield \$100 millions.

April 1st.—The Senate passed the Tariff Bill, sponsored by the Democrats, which deprived the President of the power to alter tariff rates. An amendment was adopted suspending tariff protection for commodities in the case of which the U.S. Customs Court found that no competition existed among domestic producers.

April 2nd.—It was officially announced that Mr. Stimson would leave Washington within a few days to attend the Disarmament Conference, and would “spend a short time” with the American delegation, and that “his trip to Europe is concerned only with the work of the delegation and he will go direct to Geneva for a very brief stay.”

April 4th.—In a special message to Congress, Mr. Hoover urged both Houses to frame a complete national programme of economy. He stated that \$200 millions additional revenue was necessary to balance the Budget, and added, “It is my belief that more drastic economy than this new \$200 millions can be accomplished.” He recommended that representatives of both