

# It happened in Eastern Switzerland

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a citadel of economic liberalism that nationalized its railways by popular vote in 1898; people of the most disconcerting listlessness who can be the staunchest and most stimulating friends one could wish for; conformists who are individualists.

I'm slowly becoming used to it all. Look, I now say to myself, why be surprised at the seagulls that abound on Swiss lakes and rivers, hundreds of miles from the sea. Depend on it—they know why they come.

(“Pro Helvetia” Foundation)



## It Happened in Eastern Switzerland

### LAKE OF CONSTANCE REGION

AT A recent meeting of the North-Western Federation for Rhine-Bodenese Navigation, it was stated that too many new road and alpine tunnel projects were being realized at the expense of Rhine navigation. Germany and Austria, both interested parties, were present, and in the Federation's Annual Report, it was stated that new records had been reached in the Basle Rhine Ports, and that plans for an international Bodenese Schutzkommission were being worked out. The question of navigation on the Upper Rhine is still under observation.

More and more boats have been registered on the Lake of Constance (Thurgau area); in one year, there has been an increase from 1685 to 1922 units. The old steamer “Rhein”, for sixty years operating on the Lake, has become redundant, the last of the SBB Fleet. The “Schiffahrtsgesellschaft Untersee und Rhein” has celebrated its centenary. Fishing in the Lake of Constance reached a record of 375,000 kg. in 1962. Since then there was a rapid decline by a full third, and only in 1965, the catches began to improve again, both in quantity and quality. The number of professional fisherman is also going down gradually.

Fifteen Communes agreed to a cleansing operation of the shore, but the floods in early summer have prevented full realization of the plans. The main effort concerns cutting out of lake grass.

Dr Arnold Berchtold (Stein am Rhein) was elected new President of the “Verkehrsverein Untersee und Rhein” in succession to Dr W. Ruedi (Kreuzlingen).

The Thurgau Hairdressers' Federation celebrated its 75th anniversary on a boat on the lake.

The Bodensee-Toggenburg-Bahn is a private undertaking, but the authorities concerned, especially the Canton of St Gall, would welcome it if the Confederation were to take it over.

A special plant for disposing of animal carcasses was planned for Bazenheid, to serve the Cantons St Gall, Appenzell and Thurgau. The Federal Planning Commission then held that one such plant was enough, and that one should be ready near Zurich in a few years. The question is still being studied, and in the meantime, a small plant has become operational at Egnach.

## THURGAU

THE Thurgau electorate agreed to an extension of the term of office of authorities and functionaries from three to four years in order to ease the burden of the voters. Similar proposals had been defeated in 1937 and 1953. The citizens accepted the proposed additional old-age insurance benefits which will mean an extra cost of 8.8 million francs for the Canton.

In 1961, Thurgau had revenue of 57m. and expenditure of 53m. francs. In 1965, the former amounted to 97 and the latter to 93m., whilst the budget for 1967 estimates 107m. in revenue and 115m. francs in expenditure.

In 1965, the Canton counted 76,449 taxpayers with a total taxable income of 887m. francs, an increase of nearly 100m. more; taxable property, however, showed only a very small increase.

In the largest Thurgau Communes, Arbon, Frauenfeld and Kreuzlingen, the construction of houses has decreased on average by 35 per cent, with only Frauenfeld showing an increase.

10m. francs is the amount of revenue which accrued to the Canton from tourism in 1965; the basis for a tourist policy is to be created by an enquiry into this industry.

Hefenhofen is to be the place for a communal garbage disposal plant, and a second one is to be erected at Muellheim. The Canton will spend 6.74m. francs on land planning and improvement in 1967, double the amount spent on melioration projects in 1965. Already 38 out of the 199 Communes have a definite planning project, and 37 at Bauordnung, whilst a further 43 Communes have decided to create a planning schedule. The Cantonal Government regrets that the N7, the National Highway from Kefikon to Kreuzlingen, is to be postponed to the late 'seventies.

In 1965, Thurgau spent 1.27m. francs on vocational training, half a million of which was contributed by the Confederation. In 1967, the sum is to be increased to 1.55 million francs, and for the first time, scholarships are to be paid for, which brings the total contributions by the State up to 1.9m., half a million more than in the previous year. There is still a shortage of teachers in the Thurgau—twelve main posts are vacant. The argument as to the home of the second Thurgau Mittelschule is still going on; Romanshorn may be the winner, but a third school may be built later at Kreuzlingen. Thurgau cantonal school teachers sabotaged the end-of-term dinner because no further efforts for pay increases had been made by the authorities; the meal was then cancelled.



The Armendepartment of the Canton has been renamed Welfare Department. Fewer and fewer people have been applying for assistance, which is mainly due to the increased old-age pensions.

97 doctors, 43 dentists, 17 dispensing chemists, 30 veterinary surgeons and 28 midwives are working in the Thurgau. Over 90 per cent of the inhabitants are in some kind of sickness insurance.

Woodland has increased in the Thurgau, so has the quantity of fish caught in the three rivers Thur, Sitter and Murg. Also gone up has milk production (204.73m. litres in the year 1965/66). The vineyards have been "rejuvenated", and old fruit trees have been cut down to make room for better young trees. Out of the 226,700 trees, 216,000 are apple trees. Tobacco cultivation has reached a new low level; the number of growers has gone down from 163 five years ago to 45, and their production has decreased accordingly.

The first cheese maturing centre in Switzerland has been opened at Weinfeld; in a few months, it will be in a position to accept the production of sixty Dorfkaesereien. Up to 40,000 kg. will be the increase in the daily processing which means a saving to the Confederation of some 2m. francs.

## ST GALL

ST GALL has hitherto had its Councillors of State elected by its Parliament for the duration of only one year. A new law is being prepared which provides for popular election for a period of four years. The ordinary accounts of the Canton are expected to show a deficit of 3.46m. (revenue: 255m.) for 1967. The extraordinary accounts estimate 71m. income and 82.1m. francs expenditure. The total deficit for 1965 was 2 1/3m. francs.

The basic salary of a lecturer at St Gall University is to be increased from not quite 29,000 to 40,000 francs, in special cases even to 45,000.—. Children's allowances to employees are to be raised, and the Cantonal Parliament also granted Fr.640,000.— for an extension of the Agricultural College of Flawil. Not far from a million francs is needed for the Rhine correction on St Gall territory.

The Liberal Democrats of the Canton have dispatched a questionnaire to all households, asking citizens' opinions about cantonal and federal questions of politics. The comprehensive improvement scheme of the Linth has been completed. For twenty years, it has been going on under Oberingenieur Jacques Meier, Lachen, and has cost 32m. francs.

In 1965, there were about 6000 fewer bicycles in St Gall, whilst the total number of the Canton's motor vehicles went up by over 5000 to 72,576.

The cantonal schools of St Gall are to be reformed; one of the novelties will be a division between the Maturitaets- and the Diplomklassen of the commercial section from the first year. There

will be increased tuition of mathematics, and geometry will be a new examination subject. The Cantonal Teachers' Training College at Rorschach is short of seven classrooms. The R.C. Kantonsrealschulen are to be extended.

The new President of the Synod of the Cantonal Protestant Church is Kantonsrat H. Zogg, Niederuzwil. The new chief physician at the Cantonal Hospital at Grabs is Dr Joerg Widmer from Graenichen (Ag) at Kreuzlingen. The Gemeindekrankenkassen celebrate their Golden Jubilee.

Like in other Cantons, the number of livestock owners has decreased, but there is an increase in the number of animals, the decrease in the number of horses was as much as 36 per cent in St Gall.

### APPENZELL

NOBODY believes nowadays that one hundred years ago the Canton of Appenzell had a density of population larger than that of the Canton of Zurich. Yet records show that in 1860, Ausserrhoden counted 48,400 inhabitants, whilst Zurich, seven times larger, had only 266,000. Per square kilometre, there were 200 inhabitants in the former, and only 154 in the latter. But especially in the years between 1910 and 1920, the loss of population was considerable, in one year as many as 8100. In 1960, of the 77,000 Appenzell citizens, only 23,000 lived in their Canton of origin, and of the 34,000 Innerrhodern only 10,000 in their Half-Canton. Since the end of the second world war, Innerrhoden has had the highest mortality rate in Switzerland.

### AUSSERRHODEN

THE Government of the Canton has made a contribution towards a scientific enquiry and analysis of the economic and touristic life. Various organizations share in the cost, and the work will be carried out by scientists of the St Gall University. The decrease in the number of foreign workers is 6 per cent over the previous year; the biggest drop occurred in the cotton and embroidery industries and in domestic service, whilst higher figures were registered (on 31st August) in the building trade. 741,000 francs have been left to the Canton by a Auslandappenzeller, a man called called Walter Edison Kruesi, U.S.A. The money has been put in a foundation fund and is to be used for social welfare purposes.

The Heilmittelkommission of the Canton has prohibited all dispensing of stimulating drugs. According to the health law, all medical practitioners had to register. 111 producers of Heilmittel, 87 free medical practitioners, 46 Drogisten and 98 dentists applied. The Cantonal Parliament decided that State contributions towards hospital construction should also in future not surpass 20 per cent. On the other hand, the subsidy per day spent in hospital is to



be increased from 1.50 to 3.50 francs. Various increased benefits are to be given especially to old people, and unemployment benefits have been increased.

Of the 250 registered trades and occupations (federal level) for which an apprenticeship has to be made, only 83 can be learnt in Ausserrhoden. Thus, young people have to go to other Cantons for their apprenticeships. An annual contribution of 6000 francs has been granted to the Technical Evening College in St Gall.

Appenzell vineyards have been improved, and the total wine-growing area enlarged. The fire and element damage insurance in Ausserrhoden celebrated its 125th anniversary in summer.

The Synod of the Protestant Church of Appenzell Ausserrhoden passed two resolutions advocating voting and electing rights for women in church matters and equal rights for women Ministers of the Church.

### INNERRHODEN

FOR the first time in its history, the Cantonal Parliament of Innerrhoden went on an outing at the end of their first summer session; the St Gall water purification plant was visited. At its meeting, the Grosse Rat voted an increase in the salary of the Regierungsraete from Fr.3000.— to 4000.—. The daily expense allowance of the members was increased from Fr.15.— to 20.—.

A beautiful collection of furniture, costumes, coins and tools is now housed in the historic Rathaus in the Hauptgasse of the Innerrhoden capital; the new Heimatmuseum is well worth a visit.



### Laugh a little . . .

Pope Leo XIII had his portrait painted by a futuristic painter. When the portrait was finished the painter begged the Pope to put his signature underneath. The Pope looks at the picture:

“May I add a Bible verse?”

“Oh, Your Holiness,” the painter says delightedly, “this will make the portrait all the more valuable”.

Next to his name the Pope adds: John 6, verse 20.

At home the painter checks in the Bible and finds: “Fear not, it is I!”  
—Nebelspalter

“You don’t say Mary has married. But she always has said that not ten horses would be able to drag her to the altar!”

“Ah, the reason is that someone turned up with fifty horsepower.”  
—Nebelspalter