

Swiss National Exhibition - Lausanne

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candidates left received 114, 54 and 65 votes. Then came the fifth and final ballot in which Bonvin scored 142 votes as against Torche's 85. Thus, the absolute majority was reached with 114.

The successful candidate received great acclamation. President Bringolf asked "Mr." Bonvin whether he would accept and he answered shortly, "I accept the task which your will has transferred to me", upon which the President congratulated Federal Councillor Bonvin and expressed the Assembly's hope that his work would be beneficial to country and people.

* * *

Monsieur Roger Bonvin was born on 12th September, 1907 at Icogne-Lens near Sion in the Valais. He went to school at Sion and Einsiedeln and then studied engineering at the Federal University of Technology (ETH) in Zurich, where he qualified in 1932. For two years he worked on special projects of the Dixence SA. Next he was employed by the Federal Office of Topography. Afterwards he held several important posts in the Valais. Amongst other projects he was concerned with the development of the Furka and was in charge of the erection of the Mauvoisin power works.

In 1955 Federal Councillor Bonvin was elected Town President of Sion, since when he has also been on the National Council. He is a Colonel in the Swiss Army and commanded the Upper Valais Regiment for three years. He is also in charge of the training of high alpine patrols and presides over the Swiss Ski Association.

The new Federal Councillor is a man of great abilities and energy, and of a practical mind. He has the gift of speech and is one of the few men in Parliament who speaks without manuscript. He is also socially minded. Apparently

he intends to go on living at Sion in order not to break up his family life (he has 7 children) and to fly to Berne by helicopter. He is the second Valaisan who has reached this high office—the first having been Federal Councillor Joseph Escher. Incidentally, he is a relative of Mr. E. Bonvin, Manager of the Montana Hotel in London.

* * *

There is great rejoicing in the French-speaking Cantons in general and in the Valais in particular, where the school-children got a free day when the news was made known. Celebrations took place in Berne and the Conseiller Fédéral's return to Sion turned into a journey of triumphal progress with music, festive crowds cheering and congratulations everywhere. A squadron of aeroplanes flew over Sion, where the crowds on the main square numbered tens of thousands. Bells rang from every church in the Canton and the recruits of the military station at Sion fired a salute. The Valaisan government issued a statement expressing appreciation, pride and gratitude.

As to the reaction of the German-speaking part of the country, it can be said that though enthusiasm may be less than in the Suisse Romande the general feeling is one of readiness to support the new Federal Councillor and to give him a chance to prove himself.

To quote Peter Dürrenmatt once more, he said before the election that we had to trust to Divine Providence as so often in the history of our strange country. It is possible that the election machinery will have to be overhauled. But we ardently hope and pray that in these days of grave problems when the task of the "Fathers of our country" is particularly burdensome the structure and strength of the Federal Council has been well reinforced with the addition of Roger Bonvin.

Mariann.

SWISS NATIONAL EXHIBITION—LAUSANNE 1964

ADDRESS TO THE SWISS MERCANTILE SOCIETY, LONDON, BY M. E. HENRY, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE EXHIBITION, ON 2nd OCTOBER 1962

On 30th April 1964 the sixth Swiss National Exhibition will open its doors in Lausanne.

The Exhibition, which will last from April 30th to October 25th 1964, will occupy a total area of over 6 million square feet on the shores of the Lake of Geneva, immediately to the west of Ouchy, the small harbour of Lausanne. It will thus be set in sunlit greenery, between the sparkling waters of the Lake of Geneva and the hills on top of which stands the city of Lausanne.

WHAT IS THE NEED FOR A NATIONAL EXHIBITION?

Our country is not the outcome of any principle of geographical, cultural, ethnical or religious unification. It is the result of an act of will, a pact freely entered upon, and based on a shared conception of the liberty and dignity of man. For Switzerland to continue to exist, this pact needs constantly to be renewed. That is why our country, perhaps more than any other, requires an event held at regular intervals to unite the whole population and remind the Swiss of the features that are common to all of them and are expressed in certain ideals, institutions, achievements and a way of life all their own. Besides, the National Exhibition also provides an opportunity for a periodic stock-taking of the nation's activities and a consideration of the possibilities the future holds in store for the country. It likewise affords a possibility of calling atten-

tion to new aspects of internal problems such as, for example, access to higher education, woman's place in the national community, and technical and social progress.

The Exhibition is also necessary from the point of view of our country's relations with the rest of the world. On the whole, we have lived on the fringe of big world-shattering events and their consequences. We frequently lack an eye for the future and are in danger of failing to realize the full significance of the changes taking place around us: European integration, the promotion of coloured peoples, aid to countries in the process of development, etc. The National Exhibition will enable us all to become aware of the place our country must take up in a world in the throes of evolution. The Exhibition will reveal Switzerland's community of interests with Europe and the world.

AIMS OF THE NATIONAL EXHIBITION

The Exhibition's aims are the direct outcome of the general ideas expressed above:

- To be an instrument of national cohesion
- To produce an awareness of the new problems
- To stimulate the country's creative activity
- To be, finally, a means of making the country known throughout the world.

These aims are synthesized in the general theme "Work for and Have Faith in the Switzerland of Tomorrow", which sums up very well what this Exhibition is intended to be: an act of faith in Switzerland and the future.

The Exhibition itself will be divided into two main parts:

"A GENERAL PART", the work of the Exhibition itself, which will comprise three subdivisions: "History", showing the history of Switzerland from her early beginnings down to modern times, "A Day in Switzerland", describing the present, and "Switzerland looks to the Future". "A SPECIAL PART" organized by the exhibitors in co-operation with the Exhibition, which will show what has been achieved in all fields of activity and give an idea of future prospects.

This "Special Part" will be divided into five sectors: The "Art de vivre", "Transport and Commissions", "Industry and Crafts", "Trade", "Soil and Forest".

In its own way, each of these pavilions illustrates the general theme of the Exhibition: "Have Faith in and Work for the Switzerland of Tomorrow". But each sector is focused on its own theme and consequently forms an architectural whole.

There is one thing I would like to stress here now that I have roughly presented the structure of the Exhibition. Our National Exhibition has nothing to do with a commercial fair; it is not intended to sell goods; it is a fair for people, a large picture of our country intended to "make the point", so to speak, to inform and to entertain.

The Exhibition will be thematic, that is to say that the subjects dealt with will be grouped and illustrated in accordance with a general idea.

The architectural solution has made it possible to plan three different circuits for the visitor's convenience. In each sector, the visitor will be able to select, according to his interests or the time at his disposal, the "quick tour", which will give him a general overall picture of the subject dealt with, or the "concentrated tour", which will permit him to delve more deeply into the subject, or, finally, the "detailed tour", which will enable him to get to know the whole of the sector under consideration.

TRANSPORT AND ACCOMMODATION

According to the very detailed studies that have been carried out on the basis of past lessons and present demographic and economic details, some 13 to 16 million visitors are expected to attend the Exhibition. Such a considerable flood of visitors spread over a comparatively short period of time — the Exhibition will be open from April 30th to October 25th, 1964 — raises complex problems, especially with regard to transport and accommodation.

The transport facilities have to be capable of coping with the maximum number of visitors, and consequently all calculations are based on the figure of 16.5 million travellers, about 50 per cent of whom are expected to come by road, 30 per cent by rail, and 20 per cent from Lausanne and the surrounding districts.

With regard to road traffic, by 1964 a big highway will connect Lausanne with Geneva and Geneva-Cointrin airport, while considerable work will have been done on the other routes from the north (Berne) in the way of removal of level crossings, widening of existing roads, etc. In addition a by-pass will divert traffic from the north and east, bringing it direct to the Exhibition area without passing through the town. Parking space will be provided

near the Exhibition entrances for 12,000 cars and motor-coaches, with emergency parks for a further 13,000 vehicles.

As for rail traffic, a temporary station is being constructed so that rail traffic will be brought right to the vicinity of the Exhibition.

The lake will also provide a means of access to the Exhibition. It is planned to build a landing-stage not far from the mouth of the river Flon, and a rapid service of motor-boats will run between the Exhibition and Ouchy.

The transport of visitors within the Exhibition grounds will be effected by two specially-designed means of transport — the first-ever of their kind.

On the North-South axis, that is to say the transport of visitors arriving at the special station of Sévelin to the centre of the Exhibition, will be effected by — what is curiously called — a "Télécanapé". This "Télécanapé" has a capacity of 15,000 people per hour.

The East-West junction will be effected by a monorail-service which has a capacity of 5,000 people per hour. This means of transport is very flexible as it will not only pass through the Exhibition grounds but also through the pavilions.

The question of accommodation will not present any particular difficulty, except perhaps on certain special days which are expected to attract a particularly large number of visitors to Lausanne. But the accommodation facilities of the town of Lausanne and the Lake of Geneva region will be quite sufficient to cope with the situation. Furthermore, previous experiences have shown that visitors to an exhibition generally come only for the day, going home in the evening or continuing on their way the next day, with the possibility of a second visit at a later date.

An accommodation service has been created, the facilities of which are already available to Swiss and foreign travel agencies. These include the reservation of accommodation at hotels, motels and guest houses as well as group accommodation and rooms to let in private homes. The Accommodation Service already accepts provisional bookings. These will be dealt with, in strict chronological rotation, as soon as prices are fixed, that is to say by the end of this year.

For some years past, Lausanne has been a city most frequently chosen for congresses. It is natural, therefore, that a number of national and international congresses should have been envisaged within the framework of the Exhibition. In order to facilitate the organisation of such congresses, the Exhibition authorities have set up a congress service. Its purpose is to provide suitable premises, technical equipment, reception services and enquiry points as well as secretarial and information services. This congress service has already registered a very large number of national and international congresses for 1964.

PROPAGANDA AND INFORMATION

The Swiss National Exhibition of 1964 comes at a particularly important moment of the evolution of the world. It is logical, therefore, to hold an event which recognizes this evolution and to consider it as an important means of information and propaganda.

As one of the aims of the Swiss National Exhibition 1964 is to make our country known throughout the world, it is necessary that this interest be considerable. Campaigns will therefore be launched by the local tourist offices, the travel agencies, the foreign travel agencies in Switzerland, the air and maritime companies, the different offices of the

Swiss National Tourist Office in the border regions, that is to say Italy, Austria, Germany and France, and of course in the Swiss Colonies all over the world. The 1964 Exhibition will be the rendezvous of the Swiss people and we strongly hope that all the Swiss established in foreign countries will be at that rendezvous.

LET US SEE HOW MATTERS STAND AT PRESENT

The preparation of the site, that is to say the filling in along the shores of the lake as well as the complete covering of the river Flon, is now finished. The work on the foundations (the laying out of water and gas pipes together with electricity cables, the construction of approach roads as well as roads within the Exhibition grounds, etc.) is almost finished. A few months ago we began the construction of buildings and superstructures in general; this stage will last until June 1963; the period from June 1963 until the opening of the Exhibition will be devoted to interior decoration and fitting. So far, all work is well up to schedule and even in certain cases ahead of it.

SWISS NEWS OF THE SECOND VATICAN COUNCIL

The news sheets the editor receives from the Swiss Telegraphic Agency in Switzerland (ATS) are of mandarin yellow colour. For special occasions or subjects green, pink or white sheets are used. Early in October a new colour was introduced — canary yellow — to bring all the news about the Second Vatican Council. Nearly 180 sheets have arrived so far, giving details about the preparation of this outstanding event, historical data, lists of participants, news of what has taken place and non-Roman-Catholic views and opinions.

One of the items of general interest which was reported was the proposed reform of the calendar (already put forward to the League of Nations and later the United Nations) according to which the year would consist of four quarters of 13 weeks each. The first month of each quarter would have 31 days, all the others 30. Leap Year's Day would be dateless. Thus dates would always fall on the same week-day. Easter Sunday should be on 8th April every year.

Another news flash sent was that seventy bishops from the Far East arrived by air — the first time ever that so many bishops travelled in one aeroplane!

We were told that the oldest bishop attending the Council was the Italian, Alfonso Carinci, who will be 100 in November. The youngest is the 34-year-old Bishop Alcides Mendoza Castro from Peru.

Some weighty information was given about the twenty Councils of the Church History; beginning with A.D. 325 at Nicaea; in Constantinople in 553, 680 and 869; going on to the Councils of Lyons (1245 and 1275), then Vienna in 1311, then Basle-Ferrara-Florence from 1431 to 1439, mentioning each time the major decisions taken, such as the Church Reform at the Fifth Lateran Council. The list ended with the First Vatican Council (December 1869), which was adjourned "sine die" in September 1870 after the outbreak of the Franco-German War.

The English press has reported on the ceremonies and meetings, and a colour film (over 33,000 feet were taken of the magnificent Opening Ceremony alone) will be shown later. But there are some special items which may interest the readers of the "Swiss Observer".

THE BUDGET

The National Exhibition's working budget anticipates a total expenditure of about 102 million Swiss francs; 60 million has been set aside for civil engineering and building, 15 million for running expenses (reception, accommodation organization, police, water, gas, electricity, events, camping, parking, etc.), 18 million for administration, publicly and information, and 8 million for transport.

Receipts are also expected to total approximately 102 million francs, being divided up as follows: 16.5 million from rentals (restaurants, kiosks, etc.), 47.5 million from sales including mainly the sale of admission tickets, and 20 million from subsidies (Confederation 10 million, Canton of Vaud and Town of Lausanne 2.5 million each, other cantons, towns and groups 5 million).

It should be pointed out that no other country in the world has ever organized an Exhibition on such a scale with subsidies representing only a quarter of the budget.

The Swiss National Exhibition — Lausanne 1964 is at present in the throes of creation. From now on, it will evolve very rapidly into a magnificent illustration of Switzerland's vitality.

The total membership of the Council is 3,043. Out of those about 2,800 dignitaries are attending the Second General Church Assembly of the Vatican. They include several ecclesiastics from Switzerland: the Titular Archbishop Pacini (Papal Nuncio in Berne), the Titular Bishop Jelmini (Apostolic Administrator of the Ticino and Dean of the Swiss Bishops' Conference), the Bishop of Basle and Lugano, the Titular Bishop Haller (Abbot of St. Maurice), the Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, the Bishops of Sion, St. Gall and Chur, the Abbots of Einsiedeln and Mariastein, and the Provost of Great St. Bernard.

Among the dignitaries from other countries was a score or so of Swiss nationals. So, for example, the Papal Nuncio in Uruguay and the Apostolic Delegate in Scandinavia are of Swiss nationality.

At the Opening Ceremony the Swiss Federal Council was represented by the former Federal Councillor, Dr. Giuseppe Lepori, in the capacity of an Ambassador Plenipotentiary on special mission. The second official representative was the Swiss Ambassador in Rome, Monsieur Philippe Zutter.

Amongst the six invited personal "Guests" was Professor Dr. Cullmann, lecturer on the New Testament and Old Church History at the Faculty of Theology at Basle University.

The Secretariat for the Unity of Christians had extended invitations to a number of non-Roman-Catholic organisations. Amongst those who accepted was the World Council of Churches in Geneva, whose delegates were Pastor Dr. Lukas Vischer (Swiss Reformed Church) and Professor Dr. George Caird (Oxford).

An army of 750 journalists from all parts of the globe attended the Council, 22 from Switzerland. In addition, over 300 lecturers, interpreters, translators, Latin shorthand writers, etc., are employed who were sworn to secrecy.

The Opening Ceremony was transmitted by Eurovision, and all three networks in Switzerland took over the transmission.

At the last Council the church dignitaries were almost exclusively European. Now, barely 100 years later, those taking part come from 133 nations and of all peoples and