

It happend in Central Switzerland

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IT HAPPENED IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

LUCERNE

In 1962 the Canton of Lucerne had an income of 123.3 million francs and expenditure of 122.7 million, a satisfactory result considering that the budget foresaw a deficit of some 1.7 million francs. The Town of Lucerne, too, made a surplus in 1962 of over a quarter of a million francs.

The question of whether Lucerne should have a University of its own has been discussed. The idea is supported by all parties and the project will now be studied by the competent authorities, the Confederation and the other Swiss Universities.

New credits have been granted for the building of flats for old people and a new staff building for the Cantonal Hospital in Lucerne.

The revised school bill was accepted, and from 1965 the beginning of the scholastic year will be in the autumn.

In Lucerne, too, the question of pollution of lakes and streams has been given special attention. This includes refuse disposal, and the various schemes will require a Federal subsidy.

On 12th May the electors of Lucerne re-elected the seven members of the Cantonal Government ("Regierungsrat"), as well as 170 members of the legislative body. A fortnight later they voted in favour of two communal proposals, the credit for road improvement to the amount of 1¼ million francs. The voters of the Town of Lucerne also approved credits for an old age home settlement — "Eichhof" — and some eight million francs for the second stage of the Tribschen building project.

In its first meeting after the elections, the Cantonal Parliament (Grossrat) held an extensive debate on taxes. Seven motions had been handed in concerning tax relief before the last session of the old Parliament. Income from taxes was 20% or 30% higher in the current year, but so were the demands made on the Canton. The Council passed a decree by which the government is empowered to hold two further teachers' training courses, as there is still an acute shortage of elementary teachers — 63 more are needed in the Canton.

Early in June several hundred teachers met in Lucerne for their annual assembly. Federal Councillor von Moos attended the meeting, which amongst other problems considered the theme, "Man within the State", and the conclusion arrived at was that one-sided knowledge should be guarded against — the most important aim of education was to train young people to become independent thinking citizens.

Another national meeting took place in April, the first Swiss study group on questions of adoption, which covered all aspects of the problem — sociological, economic and legal.

In May 200 handicapped boy scouts and girl guides met at Sursee for their annual rally, boys and girls from the German-speaking part of Switzerland who want to be scouts and guides in spite of serious physical handicaps.

Another national meeting was that of the Swiss Tenants' Association, which resolved to ask for continuation of rent control of old flats and for inclusion into rent control of all new buildings in order to ease the housing problem.

A technical conference of the international organisation for aerial traffic took place in Lucerne, at which over 500 delegates from 27 countries discussed the problems of all-weather flights. Pilots, engineers and executives took part.

The Swiss Orchestras' Association met at Willisau, and the Cantonal Brass Band festival took place in Lucerne.

A number of monuments of historic and cultural value have been secured in the Canton of Lucerne. After the sixteenth century St. Niklaus Chapel at Geuensee had been transplanted by several metres, and the Pilgrims' Church at Werthenstein dating from 1607 had been restored last summer, the Castle of Schauensee (Kriens), a picturesque and well-preserved building, has been secured by spirited action on the part of commune and citizens. The electorate of Kriens voted a credit of 1.5 million francs to purchase the whole estate in order to prevent it being sold on the open market.

The Church, Vicarage, Gardens and Cemetery of Hohenrain have been purchased by the Canton of Lucerne.

After the area of the Battlefield of Sempach had been assured of a dignified and peaceful future when new buildings were sanctioned there last summer, the Lake of Sempach, too, is now to be protected. Near Sursee (Wauwilermoos) a nature reserve for water and marsh birds is to be created.

At the Swiss Hunting Museum Castle Heidegg a special exhibition is taking place until October showing how stags have gradually been coming back into Switzerland.

When the Federal decree to have a railway in the Suhrental connecting Aarau and Sursee was announced in the spring the people of the valley expressed their joy by the ringing of all the church bells, for this crowns successfully the efforts made for years to have the region connected to the Swiss rail network.

Nottwil has been chosen as the seat of the new dairy school. There is already a cheese making centre and the conditions are ideal. [A.T.S.]

GLARUS

Another Canton whose accounts for 1962 show a small surplus is that of Glarus with a total income of just over 21½ million francs. Glarus, too, has increased children's allowances and cost-of-living grants. For the first time foreign workers whose children are living abroad are to be given allowances for them. Water pollution is a subject which receives close attention also in the government of the Canton.

The Commune Assembly of Elm decided by 73 to 60 votes to start negotiations with the Confederation with regard to a military station in the area of Erbs- and Wichlenalp. The latter is already in the hands of the state, and the Confederation is now negotiating with the Commune for additional land and about the erection of roads and buildings.

The hydro-electric power station of Linth-Limmern started production of electricity with one of its three Limmern generators on 20th March and thus helped to reduce the temporary shortage of current then prevailing.

The Huefifirn has become a landing strip for aeroplanes transporting material for the building of the Planura hut. In May there were two accidents, fortunately without loss of life, and the pilot and passenger of the first plane were able to descend on skis. A second plane tried to rescue the first, but again stuck in the snow and could not take off. Luckily its pilot and mechanic, too, were able to leave unharmed. [A.T.S.]

ZUG

The accounts for 1962 of the Canton of Zug showed a surplus of Fr.155,800. — with a total income of 24¼ million francs. The town of Zug also had a favourable balance. Both Canton and town had spent large amounts on road construction.

Early in February the first meeting took place of the new Grand Commune Council with its forty members. It

was decided to make use of the standing orders of the Cantonal Council until a special commission had worked out standing orders of their own. The Commune Council had been instituted — "Town Parliament" as it were — the Commune Assembly having grown too large to function efficiently. After the constituting meeting, the members went in solemn procession to the newly renovated Church of St. Oswald, where the swearing-in ceremony took place. The service was taken by Roman Catholic and Protestant clergy.

At their first business meeting in May subjects up for discussion were water pollution, new school buildings, sports ground installations to the amount of 7½ million francs, and road construction. The Council ratified the agreement to purchase land near the lake for a modern old age home. This decision had to be put to the electorate for acceptance.

The Canton has appointed a special commission to study ways and means of how best to restrict the economic boom which causes some concern to the authorities and the people. This problem is to be tackled on a nation-wide basis. The Zug Government has appealed to the citizens to co-operate and has asked that all building schemes of a certain size should be submitted for approval to the commission ("Konjunkturdämpfungskommission").

Subjects for debate in the Cantonal Parliament have been the financial contribution to the National Exhibition in

1964 (Fr.180,500), new scholarship proposals, the lesson that the Zermatt typhoid epidemic has forced upon the whole country, and housing subsidies for families and old couples.

In his presidential address at the general meeting of Nestlé Alimentana in Zug the former Federal Councillor Dr. Max Petitpierre referred to the contribution a firm like theirs, whose business was mainly established abroad, could make to Technical Assistance by which under-developed countries learned to help themselves. Dr. Petitpierre had been in politics for seventeen years and on leaving it for industry he was asked whether he was still thinking the same way now as before. His answer was according to his firm conviction that there is neither a gap nor a barrier between politics and economics. Industry and trade and politics are faced with the same problems today and they have to solve them jointly. This interdependence has grown stronger with the question of integration becoming more and more important.

The Zug Cantonal Department of Works invited representatives of various organisations and authorities of both Cantons Zug and Schwyz to Oberaegeri in order to discuss the future of the Battle of Morgarten area. After considerable deliberation it was resolved to ask the Confederation to take the necessary steps in order fully to protect this important historic site. [A.T.S.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

Prof. Leon Walther (73), Geneva, psychologist, professor at the Universities of Geneva and Fribourg;

Dr. Pierre Butticaz (45), Geneva, at the time of his death in Bolivia as geology expert on behalf of the United Nations;

Prof. Eugen Grossmann (84), Vevey, statistician and expert on finance, former professor and Rector of the University of Zurich;

Dr. med. Richard Zollikofer (92), former chief physician at the Cantonal Hospital of St. Gall;

Prof. Dr. Charles Du Bois (88), dermatologist, Geneva, Grand Officer of the French Legion of Honour;

Prof. Dr. med. et phil. Moritz Tramer (81), Berne, well-known children's psychiatrist;

Dr. phil. h.c. Leo C. Mohlberg (86), Zurich, former professor at the Istituto Pontificio di Archeologia Cristiana in Rome, expert on manuscripts of the middle ages;

Prof. Klaus Clusius (61), Zurich, famous for his works on isotopes, professor of chemistry at the University of Zurich;

Prof. Adrien Paris-Weitzel (85), Geneva, pioneer in reinforced concrete building, concerned in the making of the Simplon Tunnel, professor at the University of Lausanne;

Prof. Rudolf Pestalozzi (83), Zurich, philologist and historian;

Prof. Dr. Werner Billeter (57), headmaster of the Cantonal "Oberrealschule", Zurich;

Prof. Dr. Willibald Klinke (84), Zurich, well-known teacher and founder of the "Swiss Parents' Periodical" and the youth paper "Spatz";

High Court Judge Emil Rieder (89), Zurich;

Dr. iur. Konrad von Hettlingen (69), lawyer and politician from Schwyz;

Former National Councillor Walter Tuchschnid (70), Frauenfeld, industrialist and politician;

Hans Reinhart (83), well-known poet and author, Winterthur;

Cornelius Stieger (92), Nestor of the St. Gall journalists;

Etienne Journiac (71), former lawyer and well-known journalist from Le Locle, living in Berne;

Pierre Corrévon (53), Editor of "Tribune de Genève" and magistrate;

Pfr. Jakob Goetz (71), former "Stadtpfarrer" of Winterthur, educationist and socialist;

Artist and painter Hans Soppera (63), Zurich;

Composer Albert Béguelin (75), Tramelan;

Writer Alice Descoedres (86), Corcelles/Neuchâtel; pioneer of civil service;

Musician and composer Gérard Pralong (44), Sion;

Artist and painter Miss Sonja Sekula, from Lucerne and Zurich;

André Gardiol (68), textile industrialist in Geneva;

Willy Hofmann (71), Basle, head of the Swiss importers' and wholesalers' association;

Georges Blum (78), La Chaux-de-Fonds, watch manufacturer;

Fritz Schnorf (70), Zurich, Chairman of the board of the Swiss aluminium industry;

Edmond Kuffer (85), Neuchâtel, founder member of the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry and former president of the Tourist Office;

Lt.-Col. Emilio Fonti (68), Lugano, former civil servant and director of the Federal Arsenal in the Ticino;

René Grandjean (78), Lausanne, one of the best-known pioneers of Swiss aviation;

Dr. Fritz Berger (68), Basle, the expert on drumming and composer of many drum marches, he was also instructor for army drummers and known as the "King of Drummers".

Six centenarians died recently:

Mary Haldane-Heckford, Lausanne; Anna Alber-Zweigle, Fribourg; Ernestine Chavanne-Mouche, Porrentruy (101); Adèle Amiguet-Perrier, Rolle (101); Anne-Marie Margubron-Wald, Geneva (101); Caroline Bourquin-Jaccard, La Chaux-de-Fonds (102); and finally Marie de Coubertin-Rothan, widow of the founder of the modern Olympic Games, Lausanne, at the age of 102. [A.T.S.]