

# It happened in the canton of Zurich

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In 1962, the Swiss Federal Mint struck 112 million coins for the State, valued at 28.7 million francs, as well as 400,000 five-franc crowns commemorating the centenary of the Red Cross. It also executed orders for other countries by minting, in particular, 10 million aluminium coins and 5 million bronze coins for Middle Eastern countries, 20,000 fifty-franc gold pieces and 20,000 twenty-five franc gold pieces for the Principality of Liechtenstein.

The President of the National Bank addressed the annual meeting of the shareholders on the economic position of Switzerland. He stated that the world economic boom had been declining slightly since the past year and even in Switzerland there was a faint trace of slackening to be noticed. In several branches of industry orders had come in a little more slowly, the piled up orders were decreasing, and in many quarters more circumspection was being shown when making commitments. Nevertheless, the boom was still there and the strength of Swiss

economy was being overtaxed. The large number of foreign workers, the wages and price spiral, greater competition on the world's markets, and possibly a growing customs discrimination on the part of the Common Market, were dangers inherent in the present economy which could not be overlooked. The battle to keep an economic balance must be continued vigorously and with it the efforts to keep down the cost of living. Dr. Schwegler concluded by stressing that to maintain the value of money and of sound economic principles was the affair of the whole nation. Acting reasonably and with moderation on all sides would save trouble in the long run.

Finally, it will be interesting to learn that the budget of the Confederation for 1963 again predicts a surplus. When it was published in October last year it estimated a surplus of 372 million francs. Since then further credits for 28.6 million francs have been asked of Parliament, which should reduce the estimated surplus accordingly.

*(Based on reports from A.T.S. and O.S.E.C.)*

## IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

The citizens and inhabitants of the most populated Canton in Switzerland are proud to learn that according to the census of December 1962, carried out by the Cantonal statistical department, the Canton of Zurich has passed the million mark (1,002,000 inhabitants). Looking at the accounts for 1962 it is not surprising, therefore, to find that the Canton of Zurich had an income of 592 million francs and expenditure of 551 million, with a surplus of 41 million francs. The extraordinary accounts, however, showed a deficit of over 53 million, mainly due to large acquisitions of land and the building of national motor roads.

Well over a quarter of a million was received from the net profit of the "Sport Toto and Lottery" organisations, which sum was put into the Cantonal sports fund.

The Cantonal Legislative and Executive (Kantonsrat and Regierungsrat) have busy months behind them. After four years in office, a new Cantonal Parliament was elected at the end of April. 1,251 candidates had been nominated and 180 representatives were elected belonging to eight parties, the Social Democrats leading with 51 representatives.

In the elections of the Cantonal Government there was a surprise result: Dr. P. Meierhans, who had been most successfully in charge of building works, was not confirmed by the electorate. This means that there is now only one Socialist in the Government of seven members. Two new "Regierungsräte" have taken office: Alois Guenthard (police and military affairs) and Dr. Urs Buergi (health and welfare).

Parliament accepted large credits for educational, building and road projects, and passed bills on various subjects, for example the new film bill with special reference to the protection of youth. For ordinary cinema-going the minimum age is 16, which can be raised to 18 if found desirable for special films.

The electorate of the Canton had to vote on several constitutional proposals, amongst which the following were accepted: old age, invalidity and dependants' insurance for civil servants, the nature protection bill (which proposed between 5 and 8 million francs annually for the protection of worthwhile monuments and natural reserves), partial revision of the road laws, increase of children's allowances, and 2.7 million as Zurich's contribution to the National Exhibition 1964.

### ZURICH TOWN

The town of Zurich received 385½ million francs in 1962 and made a surplus of 42.1 million, which allowed the deficit in the extraordinary accounts to be absorbed. This satisfactory result was mainly due to an increase of revenue; 3.14 milliards of income had been taxed. The property of natural persons was given as 9,711 million and the capital of juridical persons as 6,557 million. Within five years the revenue from taxes had increased from 158.6 257.1 million francs. The value of realisable property had increased by 24.8 to 290.6 million. The staff of the municipal administration numbered 14,389.

Many were the proposals which the Town Council debated and passed on to the Commune Council. This started its new year early in May when the Liberal Dr. Eugen Hatt-Wiskemann was elected President. The business dealt with included increases in salaries of municipal employees, purchases of buildings and land, various sewerage and sanitary projects, a deficit guarantee of half a million francs to the Federal shooting championships in Zurich in July, 6.44 million francs for 20 trolley-busses to take 150 passengers each, six new refuse vans for nearly a million francs, the renovation of the "Volkshaus" at the Helvetiaplatz, and a number of educational and welfare projects.

In March and May the electorate of the town granted a total of nearly 70 million francs for various projects like road improvements, an open-air swimming establishment at Oberengstringen, the demolition of the old school at the Gotthelfstrasse and the erection of a new school on that site, new projects of the electricity works, a new cemetery Eichbühl with its appertaining buildings including a civil defence shelter, and a contribution to the game park Langenberg, one of the biggest game reserves in Central Europe.

### WINTERTHUR

The Municipal Government and Parliament (Great Commune Council) of Winterthur have been busy, too, purchasing land and buildings, granting credits for a youth home to be run in the centre of the town (Steinberggasse), for a water reservoir for fire fighting, a five million school project in the new district of Gutschick, new flats for old people and a contribution of Fr.100,000.— for the EXPO 1964.

The electorate (incidentally with a very high turn-out of between 75% and 81%) granted large credits for road improvements and a civil defence and first aid post. They did not accept the proposed credit of 3.6 million for the purchase of the Sulzer building on the Lindenberg.

The accounts of the town for 1962 showed a surplus of nearly half a million francs over Fr. 56,213,679.—expenditure.

The well-known "Technikum" (Technical College) has been enlarged and is now also to be called "Engineering School". On 11th May the new physics building and other extensions were officially opened.

#### OTHER COMMUNES

Amongst the projects which other communes in the Canton of Zurich had to vote upon was the purchase of shares in the artificial ice-rink at Wetzikon. Duebendorf voted for over 1½ million francs towards a refuse incinerating plant, whilst the Uster citizens agreed to the erection of a high-school building. Horgen voters approved the first part of a generous village centre building scheme between church and station which will cost 12.8 million francs. The electorate also accepted the erection of small flats for old people. Erlenbach granted large credits for the extension of the high school, for the purchase of a protected mansion at the Dorfplatz, for an old age settlement, and Fr.95,000.— as contribution to the Zurich Municipal Theatre. At Moenchaltorf the commune assembly debated and rejected by an overwhelming majority the plan to create an airfield in the area of Moenchaltorf and Gossau.

#### BUILDING SCHEMES

Roads are being built and improved all over the Canton, partly under the national motor road scheme, partly to improve traffic conditions. There are also various projects under way to improve the water position, especially with regard to purifying drinking water and cleansing the lakes and streams.

In Zurich there is a project of a traffic tunnel under the lake connecting the Mythenquai and Zürichhorn, and a plan to run an express road under the Sihl. The landing stage at the Bürkliplatz, which was erected in 1893, was considerably damaged in the ice period of last winter. A new and larger stage will be built 20 metres to the east.

A bomb-proof emergency hospital under the projected nurses' home in the Toblerstrasse is to be built at the cost of five million francs, and a second central laundry for the Zurich hospitals is to be built for 20½ million francs between the Josefstrasse and Neugasse. (The first communal laundry for hospitals was built at Regensdorf in 1943/44.)

Zurich-Altstetten is to have an indoor swimming pool, and with the inauguration in June of the "Amtshaus" Parking a further step towards centralisation of municipal administration was realised.

Among the many hotel projects up for discussion in and around Zurich a skyscraper of triangular base to accommodate some 550 guests now appears first on the list. Building costs are estimated at 25 million Swiss francs. The "Delta Hotel" is to open by the end of 1966. It will be situated near the junction of the high-roads to Basle and Berne, and with its underground garage facilities for 400 cars it should be of particular interest to motorists. On the other hand, with its large halls and conference rooms this new establishment will be able to cater for conventions of all kinds.

As the difficulties of finding staff increase, Zurich proposes to have conductorless trailer carriages for its trams. It is reckoned that they will save 147 conductors.

Under the heading of building, mention should be made of an unusual strike in Zurich. 800 plasterers began a strike on 8th April in order to get a forty-hour week. The Swiss Trade Association and the Swiss Association of Decorators and Plasterers condemn the strike and have appealed to builders not to employ strikers anywhere in Switzerland, as there is no justification for a forty-hour week under the present boom conditions. Strikes in Switzerland are rare indeed, and this particular one has lost the trade three times as many working days as the whole of Swiss economy has lost during the last eight years.

#### EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES

In March, Zurich showed a hobby exhibition of its municipal employees, the Swiss Butchers' Association held its trade show, the "Mefa", and the International Christian/Jewish Conference took place.

In April the German and Swiss dermatologists had their 26th meeting in Zurich.

In May the large exhibition of office furniture and equipment took place, the 13th "Buefa". A two-day conference of the national UNESCO commissions of Germany, Austria and Switzerland considered the German edition of the "UNESCO Courier", which has 17,000 subscribers in Switzerland. The 13th international congress of the "Association Internationale pour les Etudes des Bronches" and the general meeting of the employers' federation in the Swiss textile industry were held in Zurich. The Swiss bakers and confectioners gave a demonstration on modern midday feeding in view of the growing tendency to introduce "English lunch hour" without the long midday break. Members of the German and Swiss Chambers of Commerce met in Zurich, and a rally was held by the "Anti-Foreign-Legion Committee". It is estimated that 1,000 and 1,200 young Swiss serve in the French Foreign Legion, and the Committee aims at reducing this number. There was also an exhibition of textiles at the Arts and Crafts Museum.

In June the European furniture dealers held their annual general meeting, and finally, an exhibition on schools in Finland was opened which will last till 14th September.

#### EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

At the Crafts School a series of matriculation courses for working people has been introduced, and in April there was a ten-day international meeting on adult education. On 8th June the inauguration took place of the first school in Switzerland (Falltsche) which combines a free-time establishment for children and adults.

Within one year there has been an 18% increase in the number of students at the university and they now number around the 4,000 mark. There are difficulties with accommodation and staff, and the students find it extremely hard to get digs. Of the 4,406 students registered last winter 846 were foreigners and 707 women. The authorities plan new buildings and increased subsidies, also for extra-mural studies. Since the beginning of this year the University of Zurich has an electronic computer centre.

The International Business Machines Corporation support four research centres, one of which is outside USA, viz., in Switzerland. It began its work at Adliswil in 1955. The organisation then erected a new building at Rueschlikon at a cost of seven million francs. Eighty people,

amongst them two dozen highly qualified scientists work there. The official inauguration took place in May.

### ART

Several art exhibitions have been arranged in Zurich and Winterthur, amongst them far eastern artists as well as Swiss painters and sculptors. 250 drawings by Hodler were exhibited at the Helmhaus, there was a puppet show with special plays, and an exhibition of the culture and art of the Indians of North America was shown at the Feldstrasse School.

Basle composer Rudolf Kelterborn's first opera, "The Liberation of Thebes", had its first performance in Zurich at the end of June, and Armin Schibler's symphonic oratorio, "Media in Vita", on poems by Conrad Ferdinand Meyer, also had its premiere in Zurich.

After Friedrich Duerrenmatt's great success of "The Physicists" in Zurich last year, he produced a comedy in March, "Herkules und der Stall des Augias", based on a play for radio which he wrote in 1954. Whilst it was a success, "The Times" in its extensive review on 1st April considered that "despite the alterations and additions, the stage machinery, the ingenious production and the excellent acting, this comedy still displays the characteristics of a play for broadcasting". "The Times" also commented very favourably on the International June Festival, especially on "Tristan and Isolde" at the Stadttheater and Ostrovsky's comedy at the Schauspielhaus, "Eine Dummheit macht auch der Gescheiteste".

The Municipal Theatre went through a crisis last year, but the electorate accepted the increased subsidy proposals in November (Zurich youth had demonstrated in favour by a torch procession a few days earlier), and after Dr. Herbert Graf had resigned last year, a new director has now been engaged in the person of Dr. Hermann Juch. With Dr. Graf, the Chairman of the board, the well-known publisher, Dr. Martin Hürlimann, also resigned. There is also a new musical director, Christian Voechting from Basle. Rudolf Kempe is the new chief of the Thonhalle Orchestra and conducted a concert in the June Festival on the 25th of last month. Thus, the difficulties seem to have been overcome — last summer there was a conflict in the Municipal Theatre Orchestra when its members refused to play under Otto Klemperer — and Zurich music and theatre life is again taking its place amongst the foremost centres of art.

### NEWS AT RANDOM

In 1962 health in the Canton of Zurich was satisfactory. Poliomyelitis has disappeared except for one patient who had not been immunised, and for the first time no Zurich child was treated for tuberculosis at Davos. The 26 deaths due to influenza were mostly people over 80 years old. Cancer, though, was on the increase, and nearly a million francs was asked for apparatus for radiotherapy and nuclear medicine. Special research is being made into the effects of motoring fumes, oil-fired heating deposits and noise. The salt now contains fluor as well as iodine to improve teeth.

A large chemical firm offers its employees half a litre of free milk during the daily break and nearly all the staff have taken advantage — over 30,000 bottles per annum.

Zurich's oldest transport firm has donated a small railway to the Zoo from which animals can be seen in comfort and which can also be used to transport animals and material. Several generous gifts have enabled the

purchase of new animals. Thus, there are now two gorillas at the Zoo and the jaguar couple which has been on loan has now been acquired.

1962 has been a catastrophic year for the municipal forests of Zurich. Not since 1885 has the weather caused such damage and there will be problems for many years to come.

*(Based on reports received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)*

## BUSINESS IN PARLIAMENT

The three-week session of the Swiss Parliament opened on the Tuesday after Whitsun. The first business on the agenda was the international monetary agreement, which Switzerland has decided to join. The accounts of the Confederation for 1962 were passed, and those of the Swiss Federal Railways. Finance was the main subject at the beginning of the second week, when the proposed increase in salaries and pensions of the Federal Councillors were accepted with only the few Communist members against. At the same time an increase of daily allowance for the M.P.s was asked for. When a rise was asked for last time the Referendum was used and the proposal was defeated. New suggestions will now be worked out. The important business of the week was the new Professional Training Bill, which according to the experts is an excellent piece of legislation. More will be said about it when it has been completely dealt with.

On the Thursday of the second week the Federal Assembly took place, when the National Council and the Council of States met jointly. There was only one item, five applications for pardon. These concerned fines and convictions on account of customs and tax frauds. The same afternoon the various political parties went on their traditional summer outings.

The third and last week began with a debate on the labour bill. The annual report of the Federal Council, which comprises several hundred pages, caused lively discussions. It would be impossible to mention all the individual comments and suggestions. But mention should be made that National Councillor Allemann referred to the Swiss abroad who had suffered through the war. National Councillor Schmid-Rudin, who has always been a staunch friend of the Swiss abroad, regretted that not more compatriots outside Switzerland had joined the Solidarity Fund. He expressed that more should be done so that the Swiss abroad could take a more active part in the happenings at home. At the same time he recommended to the Federal Council that they participate in the proposed Swiss Centre in London.

The afternoon session dealt with the typhoid epidemic of Zermatt and a number of smaller matters. The report of the Federal Council was accepted, again with the Communists opposing on account of the Military Department.

The Session came to a close on 20th June after the last few meetings had dealt with private bills, varying from the price of land to the question of how participation at the poll could be stimulated.

*(Based on reports in "Schweizerisches Kaufmännisches Zentralblatt" and A.T.S.)*

### ERRATUM

In the issue of 14th June the article "Nuclear Weapons — the Swiss Electorate decides" contained an inaccuracy. It stated that there was a reactor research station at Wuerenlingen near Winterthur. This should have been "Wuerenlingen near Siggental, near Brugg, Canton of Aargau." We apologize for the mistake.