

It happened in the canton of Appenzell

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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF APPENZELL

In July the International Teachers' Conference met at the Pestalozzi Children's Village at Trogen. Seventy teachers from ten countries discussed "Adult Education — a Demand of the Present". The conference was held under the auspices of the Swiss UNESCO Commission and Various Swiss Teachers' Associations as well as of the World Organisation "Fraternitas". Dr. Willi Vogt, Zurich, Editor of the Swiss Teachers' Journal, was in the chair.

In August tens of thousands of visitors came to Appenzell, the chief town of the Half Canton of Appenzell-Innerrhoden, for the Swiss National Costume Day. It was said that there had never been so many people in the little town. The procession of a "Trachtenfest" is obviously the most picturesque of all processions, and the onlookers were most enthusiastic in their approval of the beautiful costumes from all parts of the country. At the official act of celebration on the Landsgemeindeplatz the "Trachtenobmann", Chancellor of State Binz, said that it was due to the 450th Anniversary of Appenzell's entry into the Confederation that the "Trachtentag" had taken on such vast proportions and was this year far more than a mere delegates' meeting held the day before. Several choirs took part in the celebration and it was a moving moment when the whole assembly sang the Appenzell Landsgemeinde song, "Alles Leben strömt aus Dir". In the late afternoon the visitors were able to watch an "Alpauzug", a procession of cattle and herdsmen in their quaint costumes on their way to the alpine pastures. The next Delegates' Meeting will take place in Solothurn next year, whilst the Federal Costume Festival and Folk-dancing rally will be held during the Swiss National Exhibition in Lausanne. It is of special interest to us Swiss abroad that this will coincide with the Assembly of the Swiss Abroad to be held at the EXPO 1964 on the last week-end in August.

In September the two Half-Cantons of Appenzell commemorated the 450th anniversary of their entry into the Swiss Confederation in 1513 when the Diet at last accepted Appenzell as the thirteenth Canton. This was after the battle of Novara and the campaign of Dijon. Appenzell was the last Canton to join the Confederates. The thirteen Cantons then remained on their own until the old Confederation's fall in Napoleonic times.

On Saturday, 7th September, at midday, the official celebrations began with a banquet at Herisau, the chief town of the Half-Canton of Appenzell-Ausserrhoden. The official Commemoration Act took place in the Protestant Church. Landammann Kuendig (Stein) welcomed the President of the Confederation, Bundesrat Spuehler, the two Federal Councillors Chaudet and Wahlen, the former Federal Councillor Kobelt, the Presidents and Vice-Presidents of the two Chambers of the Federal Assembly, official delegates from the Federal Court of Justice, the Federal Insurance Tribunal, many army personalities and representatives of numerous public bodies. All but one of the Cantonal Governments were present — Zurich was missing on account of the tragic Swissair accident at Duerrenaesch. The Bishop of St. Gall, and representatives of the Principality of Liechtenstein and of the Verarlberg were also amongst the guests.

Landammann Kuendig gave a short summary of the main events in the Canton's history. He then renewed the oath of allegiance to the Confederation in the name of both Half-Cantons and asked for God's continued protection.

Federal President Spuehler brought greetings of the Government and the Swiss people. He referred to the history of Appenzell. The acceptance of the Canton into the Confederation was the final event in a gradual development during one and a half centuries. The Appenzell people had already risen in the second half of the fourteenth century. Freedom and independence to them not only meant those of their political community, but also personal freedom and equality. It took four to five hundred years until the right of personal freedom which had been precious to the Forest Cantons and Appenzell became generally established in the rest of the Confederation and was finally anchored in the Constitution.

Federal Councillor Spuehler mentioned the battles for freedom of the Appenzell people at the Stoss and near Voegelinsegg (1403) since when they had been in close contact with the old Schwyzer. In 1524, eleven years after joining the Confederation, the Canton decreed freedom of faith, and, though seventy years later it divided into the Protestant and Catholic halves, that decision of the Landsgemeinde remained an act of religious/political wisdom which only received general validity in Europe centuries later. Appenzell was also amongst the industrial pioneers. The speaker mentioned the flourishing embroidery industry of the last hundred years. Today only half the people were employed in it, and it was therefore hardly surprising that over two-thirds of Appenzell citizens lived away from home. The Tourist industry was today responsible in some measure for extra earning possibilities.

Federal Councillor Spuehler had something to say about the character of the Appenzeller, his proverbial application, his wit, his cheerfulness and tenacity which made him liked everywhere. But these characteristics coupled with a sense of statesmanship had also fostered the Canton's solidarity with the world. The Pestalozzi Children's Village was only one example. Dunant, the founder of the Red Cross, too, had found his last refuge in Appenzell.

Bundespräsident Spuehler finished his address by referring to the present-day obligations of Switzerland and what will be expected of her in the world of tomorrow.

To the sound of music the guests then proceeded to the station in procession. A special train of the cheerful Appenzellerbahn carried them to the capital of Appenzell-Innerrhoden, where a service took place at the Standeskirche St. Mauritius. The Appenzell Cantata by Guido Faessler to the text of Georg Thuerer was given its first performance. It is the contribution by Innerrhoden to the Jubilee and describes the events which lead Appenzell to enter the Confederation, ending in the solemn federal oath.

As the congregation left the church, the bells were rung again. The Jubilee ended in the Festival Hall at Appenzell, where Landammann Karl Dobler welcomed the guests. Folkloristic entertainment brought the evening to a close. The originally planned festivities at Herisau and Appenzell were cancelled in consideration of the air disaster. The Commune of Herisau decided to put the Fr.5,000.— which had been earmarked for the festivities at the disposal of the Commune of Humlikon, which had lost a whole generation in the air crash. The Council also granted Fr.15,000.— as a jubilee gift to the Herisau Youth Library. The Landsgemeinde of Ausserrhoden had already decided to document their gratitude for being part of the Confederation by creating a foundation "Pro Ap-

penzell" with the aim of protecting the interests of the Canton and furthering science and art. The initial capital is a million Swiss francs.

A number of Appenzell Communes celebrated the Anniversary on 1st August, the National Day. At one such meeting the village of Walzenhausen (A.Rh) honoured one of its citizens, the former Consul-General in Budapest, Carl Lutz, whose humanitarian activities during the war were appreciated by Jews the world over. In Haifa there is a Carl Lutz Street, and he has been nominated several times as Nobel prize-winner for peace in consideration of the tremendous help he gave to condemned Jews; it is estimated that he saved about 50,000 of them from extermination. Walzenhausen accorded Carl Lutz honorary citizenship.

During the Anniversary celebrations in the Canton a pageant, "Du and I", was performed. In it the author, Walter Koller, showed scenes of the Appenzell history in the first part, whilst he devoted the second part to the national life of Innerrhoden.

Finally, Innerrhoden invited 1,300 schoolchildren on a trip to the Ruetli, the birthplace of the Swiss Confederation, on the shores of the Lake of Lucerne.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Nordostschweiz".)

COMPTOIR SUISSE NATIONAL AUTUMN FAIR

From 7th to 22nd September Lausanne was host to the Comptoir Suisse. In 38 modern halls 2,409 exhibitors showed their goods — a trade market of great importance. Agriculture, industry, trade and craft-work composed a living panorama of the country's main activities; it gave a clear picture of the present situation of the national economy, the standard of living of the people and the country's possibilities of trade on the European and world levels.

At a time when economists throughout the world are concerned with the vital need to promote agriculture, not only in the big industrial powers but even more so in the new countries, the Lausanne Fair can pride itself on presenting every year the most complete agricultural fair organized in Switzerland.

The Comptoir Suisse, though by definition mainly a national event, invites other countries to participate as guests of honour, with official displays. Thus, in the past, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Italy, Morocco, the Belgian Congo, Tunisia, Brazil, India, Argentina, Canada, Portugal, China, Austria, Australia, Greece and Yugoslavia

have been represented in successive years at the Lausanne National Fair. This international participation demonstrates the growing importance of the Fair and affords a good opportunity to strengthen the close ties that already link Switzerland with other countries.

This year, an important Far Eastern country, Japan, was the Lausanne National Fair's guest of honour in a special pavilion, thus bearing witness to the desire of the Japanese government to establish new economic and social relations with western Europe.

It will be one hundred years on 6th February 1964 that Switzerland and Japan concluded the first friendship and trade agreement and at the same time started to exchange diplomatic relations. The Japanese Pavilion at this year's Fair displayed Japanese work and in the tea pavilion visitors could partake twice daily in the Japanese tea ceremony.

The first day was specially designed to welcome the press, and over 400 journalists attended. Federal Councillor Chaudet delivered an address as representative of the Government on the Official Day, 11th September.

A considerable Swedish delegation visited the Comptoir, consisting of Members of Parliament, mayors and representatives of municipalities. On the Swiss Federal Day of Prayer the traditional service was held in the Beaulieu Park, attended by a large number of visitors.

When the Comptoir closed its doors on 22nd of last month, 875,000 visitors had been to the Fair — of 72 nationalities. Next year the Comptoir will have to make way to the National Exhibition. In its halls over sixty national and international conferences and an art exhibition will take place.

Incidentally, another Comptoir was held at Fleurier, the second Comptoir Commercial of the Val-de-Travers. Ten thousand visitors passed through its gates.

(Mainly based on A.T.S. reports.)

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR OWNERS OF SWISS PAINTINGS

The Swiss Art Institute in Zurich is cataloguing the complete works of the following three Swiss artists:

Leopold Robert (1794-1835)
Frank Buchser (1828-1890)
Ferdinand Hodler (1853-1918)

All owners of any of these artists' works, letters or other documents are asked to get in touch with "Schweizerisches Institut für Kunstwissenschaft", Lindenstrasse 28, Zurich 8.

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