

It happened in the Canton of Zurich

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the pupils are Argentinian. It is a Swiss contribution to the development of Argentina.

"The Swiss American" is the monthly "official organ of the North American Swiss Alliance", a strong fraternal benefit organisation with men and women members.

The "Swiss Journal" is the weekly paper for the Swiss on the Pacific Coast and is published in San Francisco. On the back it carries a "Vereinskalender" which tells readers addresses and names of officers as well as other interesting data. There is a Bowling Club in San Francisco, an "Aelpler Gruppe Inc." in Newark, California, also a "Feldschützen Verein". The "San Joaquin Valley Swiss Echoes Singing Society" is at Ripon in California. There is a Swiss Ladies' Society in Los Angeles, a "Schweizer Schützenverein Wilhelm Tell" at Holtville in California, a Ladies' Society at Tacoma, a Swiss Ladies' Chorus "Alpenglüh" in Portland, Oregon. At Seattle in Washington a Male Chorus "Alpenroesli" has its home, and there is the Portland (Oregon) Swiss "Turnverein". There are many more, and the Swiss Athletic Society of Los Angeles won the coveted General Guisan Trophy for marksmen of the Swiss Abroad (1964). The American Swiss still enjoy our native wrestling, and "Schwingfeste" are nothing unusual. They arrange "William Tell Festivals" and other patriotic gatherings, and the Christmas celebrations and festivities are manifold. There was a photo in one of last year's issues of the "Swiss Journal", which showed the participants of the "Pacific Coast Swiss Singing and Yodeling Festival" in Seattle—I counted about two hundred of them, many in national costumes, and there were three thousand visitors!

The "Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung" is the weekly gazette of the American Swiss. It was founded in 1868 and is published in New York by the Swiss Publishing Co. Inc. It is larger than the "Swiss Journal", but like the latter looks very much a newspaper. It, too, is in English, with some contributions in our national languages. It carries a woman's page including recipes.

There are many Swiss societies in that part of U.S.A., benefit and benevolent societies (with a women's division). There are bands and choirs, the Swiss Mercantile Society of New York, the "Bäre Club" of the Bernese, an "Appenzeller Verein", gymnasts, ski fans, oarsmen—all have a chance of meeting regularly amongst fellow countrymen and women. There is even a Swiss Country Club, Canton 6, Ohio, 2401 Swiss Avenue, S.W.—"Eigentum der drei

Schweizer Vereine". There is a "Schweizer Halle" in Cleveland, Ohio, where the Male Choir, the Gymnasts and the Swiss Dramatic Club meet. ("Schweizer und Schweizerinnen, schliesst Euch den Vereinen an!" is printed at the foot of the advert.).

And all these Swiss organisations, and a good many more not mentioned, organise their outings ("Record Attendance at Swiss Colony Outing—2000"), festivals ("Saengertag at Swiss Home, Mt. Kisco", "Wilhelm Tell Festival at New Glarus"), competitions ("25th National Turnfest in Milwaukee"). But here are also Presidents' Assemblies—Dr. Halbeer, Director of the ASS visited several groups during his tour of U.S.A. And there is a Committee for the Young.

News which I have read in the "Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung" ranged from happenings at home to reports on events like the "American Swiss Friendship Dinner" and the "Dedication of the New Development Research Center of CIBA Pharmaceutical Company in Summit, New Jersey". Prominent Swiss are mentioned, i.e. Dr. Henry Mohaupt in Fort Worth, who discovered a new explosive supposed to be ten times stronger than dynamite, Dr. O. H. Ammann, designer of the George Washington Bridge in New York.

And now New York is to have a Swiss Center by 1966. The "Amerikanische Schweizer Zeitung" said (with photo):—

NEW SWISS CENTER—This striking 11-story building at 608 Fifth Avenue on the southwest corner at 49th Street will be the location of the newly-formed Swiss Center. According to Dr. Victor H. Umbricht, president of Swiss Center, Inc., the Center is meant to become a landmark at one of the best locations in New York City from which to project and foster Swiss commercial, cultural, travel, financial, and industrial interests. The Swiss Center was formed by 14 Swiss companies. The building is being leased from Robert Goelet, owner of the structure, for an original term of 17 years.

And with this piece of splendid news we return to London where a Swiss Centre is being built at the moment. Swiss Communities in many parts of the world which have their own homes and centres are hoping with the Swiss Colony in Great Britain that our Centre, too, will become a true social and cultural meeting place for our fellow countrymen in the British Isles.

Mariann

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

The fourteenth volume on the census in 1960 issued by the Federal Statistical Office comprises 293 pages on the Canton of Zurich. Between 1950 and 1960, the population of the eleven districts of the Canton increased by 22.6% from 777,002 to 952,304. We know that since then the million mark has been reached, and on 1st January last, the figure stood at 1,019,102. Figures show that the rate of growth has slowed down. The town of Zurich showed 801 inhabitants fewer than on 1st January 1963, the new total was 439,983, but the figure for June shows a new increase to 445,680. The town of Winterthur had an increase for the same period of 704 and counted 86,658 inhabitants at the beginning of this year. The Commune of Dietikon whose population was only 7,132 in 1950, registered the twenty-thousandth inhabitant on 23rd April. The biggest increase, however, took place at Oberengstringen: 229.1% in ten years.

The Canton of Zurich also showed a decline in the number of newly erected flats for the first time in 1963; 8,571 is 14% less than last year. Nevertheless, the average of the 'fifties has still been surpassed by 1,577 flats. Many of the country communes, however, show a considerable increase in the building of houses.

There is a great shortage of rooms for students — the Canton has made grants for students' homes. Credits for scholarships have been increased considerably, and new school buildings have gone up or are being planned in many parts of the Canton: 73 million francs for a new cantonal school in Zurich, nearly ten million francs for a school at Seebach, 15.4 million francs for a high school at Zurich-Stettbach, a trade college at Rueti and a school at Meilen. This Commune has also made a grant towards the creation of a "Technikum" at Rapperswil. The new EMPA buildings were opened in the autumn; these new

premises of the federal testing and research station for industry, trade and building, were erected at a cost of 62.5 million francs granted by the Federal Assembly in 1956. The scheme for the extension of the Cantonal Hospital will cost 37 million francs, and the home for epileptics in Zurich is to be enlarged. The University, the Municipal Playhouse and the hospital Waid in Zurich, a subway at Erlenbach, the extension of the "Heil-und Pflegeanstalt" Rheinau, a new enlarged "Stadtgärtnerei" in Winterthur, the renovation of the Predigerkirche in Zurich are all projects in process of being realised. Already inaugurated have been the refuse utilisation plant at Wetzikon, the new Rifle-range at the Albisgüetli, the INRESCOR Institute for international industrial research at Schwarzenbach, a C. G. Jung Clinic for psychology, and the Regional Hospital at Uster. This Commune is also to have a Green Belt and to modernise its sewerage system and its gas provision. The electorate of Rueti, on the other hand, has rejected the proposed grant for the erection of a Tibetan settlement, and Zollikon refused to accept the scheme (1.3 million francs) for the renovation of the Dorfkirche.

The citizens of Zurich and Winterthur, too, have had to go to the poll on several occasions to decide various questions. There were no fewer than eight different proposals before the Canton in the last few months. On 5th July, the electorate accepted the changed provisions for supplementary old age benefits, a credit for an ophthalmic ward in Winterthur and a grant of 26.5 million francs for a hospital in the Limmattal.

The Municipal Council and the Cantonal Parliament have busy months behind them. It would fill pages to report on their deliberations. Here are just a few of their decisions at random: Water pollution, special allowances for Civil Servants and for needy old age pensioners; salary increases for teachers, and professors of the University of Zurich; consideration of the five-day week and introduction of English working hours, i.e. with only a short luncheon break; help for the orphans of Humlikon and the earthquake victims of Skoplje; grant for training youngsters from Swiss mountain regions; subsidies for art institutions in Winterthur and Zurich; participation in the share capital of Swissair.

The cantonal accounts for 1963 show a surplus of 10.5 million francs (639.4 million francs income). The extraordinary accounts for building operations show a deficit of 19.6, and those for road construction a surplus of 12.4 million francs.

The ordinary accounts of the town of Zurich are balanced with 395 million francs, but extraordinary expenditure exceeded income by 87 million francs. Winterthur showed a small surplus with an income of 59,009 million francs. "Thrift needed in the town of Zurich" was the heading of one of the news sheets received in November and confirmed in June.

Gone back, too, has the number of tourists in Zurich in 1963, and the figures of June this year also show a slight decline over the same period last year. 824,123 visitors stayed in Zurich hotels, over eight thousand fewer than last year.

Road construction in 1964 will cost 104 million francs for the national roads in the Canton and six million francs for other roads. Traffic is on the increase, there are 13,000 more motor vehicles than last year, and several improvements are planned in Zurich, such as the Bahnhofplatz. The new Europabrücke, the longest bridge in Switzerland,

is in use, and Winterthur has a "Green Wave", a modern installation for regulating the traffic. Trolley buses are planned for Zurich and Winterthur, the question of a tunnel under the lake is again topical, so is an underground railway.

Shortage of staff has made the management of the Zurich trams decide to adopt a new measure which will enable it to do without some thirty ticket collectors. The trailers on the trams are reserved exclusively for the great many season ticket holders, thus doing away with one ticket collector per tram. Passengers open and shut the doors themselves. Passengers without season tickets have to use the front vehicle, which has the usual conductor selling tickets. Checks carried out unexpectedly, will help to discourage passengers trying to travel without paying.

The famous Zurich Bahnhofstrasse is celebrating its centenary this year. There will be some exhibitions, and the postal authorities have given permission for a special date stamp on 29th August.

Other jubilees include the centenary of the Bank Waedenswil and of the Swiss Re-Insurance Company, 75 years of "Freies Gymnasium", of the "Nervenheilstätte Schloessli" at Oetwil am See, and of the Agricultural College "Strickhof". The mill Bussenhausen-Pfaeffikon has been in the hands of the Egli Family for five hundred years.

There has been a Shakespeare celebration in Zurich and a visit of the Royal Ballet, and the British Swiss Chamber of Commerce met there in May. There were "Days of Baltic Culture", the Ninth International Silk Congress, an international meeting of toy manufacturers, Israel Weeks at the Jelmoli Stores, and the Thirteenth International Study Group "Im Gruene" at the Gottlieb Duttweiler Institute at Rueschlikon.

Well-known visitors to Zurich include the Kings of Sweden and Norway, King and Queen of Bhutan (Himalaya), the Mayors of Helsinki and Manila, the Premier of the Sudan and the American Minister Luther H. Hodges. A Swedish air squadron visited Zurich, and on 23rd July, Mrs. Bandaranaike, Prime Minister of Ceylon, paid a visit to the town on the Limmat.

In May, there was a special sale of oranges in Zurich for the benefit of the Swiss agricultural school Nachlat Jehuda in Israel. The school children of Zurich have collected Fr.228,000.— for the building of a secondary school at the agricultural training centre "Loka Niketan" in North India; it is their contribution to the "Free the World from Hunger Campaign". There is again a "Helvetia" on the Lake of Zurich, a new boat which made her maiden voyage on 10th June. Zurich has now thirty women police assistants and the first self-service petrol tank. The "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" has been awarded the "Città di Roma" Prize.

Franz Schnyder is filming another Gotthelf novel, this time "Geld und Geist". He commented on his choice: "There is no other Gotthelf book as well suited for our times as "Geld und Geist"; man in a political and cultural sense and a whole people in a wider sense cannot exist if they don't submit to a higher power." In the centre of the novel is the relationship between men, the significance of married life and the problem of faith in face of a materialistic attitude — the right subject in this year of the Swiss National Exhibition.

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)