

Sport

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and Federal Councillor Schaffner commented on the undoubted success of the big national show. The Vaudois President expressed thanks to the Federal Council for the honour of having been host to the EXPO whose "spirit must go on and carry fruit". Federal Councillor Schaffner described it as a national event which would go down into the history of the country and become a spiritual heritage for future generations.

The ceremony ended with the "Cantique Suisse", and to the sound of the EXPO church bells, the crowd dispersed in a nostalgic mood to spend a last evening on the site of the 1964 National Exhibition.

The EXPO 64 is over. Born under difficulties, beset with teething troubles, fighting through a laborious though promising adolescence, it matured late, and its full greatness and brilliance were fully acknowledged only in its later life. People, patterns, principles — the EXPO had to be literally conquered by the visitor — but how worthwhile it was!

(Figures from A.T.S.)

PARLIAMENTARY AUTUMN SESSION

In our issue of 9th October, we reported on the main issue the Swiss Parliament had to face in the first week of the session, the "Mirage" affair. More will be published in the next number. In our last issue we informed readers of the latest progress regarding the Swiss Centre in London. Parliament was asked to grant the Swiss National Tourist Office an extraordinary subsidy of 3.8 million francs to extend their New York and London agencies. In addition, an interest-free loan of 5.3 million francs was proposed. It was accepted unanimously.

In his opening address, the President of the National Council referred to the disgraceful happenings at Les Rangiers, and later the report on economic measures *vis-à-vis* foreign countries was received from the Federal Council.

The second week began with a motion that the Confederation should no longer have to give consent for the establishment of bishoprics on Swiss territory. Business of great importance for the mountain farmers concerned increased subsidies for cattle holders. It will cost the Confederation between 36 and 41 million francs.

The next big issue was housing, which is very much tied up with the measures taken to stop the excessive economic boom in order to curb inflation. Several speakers stressed the importance that the construction of reasonably priced flats and houses must on no account be stopped. The present regulations come to a close at the end of the year, and a new proposal for increased social housing facilities was accepted by Parliament.

The debate on the Bill for the continuation of limited measures for price control took up three meetings. Price control covers rents, milk and dairy products and other goods vital for use inside Switzerland. Twenty speakers took part in the debate in which the crucial point was a possible easing of rent control. The electorate will have to vote on the new building proposals, and in the meantime Parliament has agreed to the proposed price control measures. In the debate on measures to curb the increased cost of living, both Federal Councillor Schaffner as Minister for Economic Affairs, and Federal Councillor Bonvin as Minister of Finance, made a speech of 75 minutes' duration each. The gist of their statements is that the increase has slowed down but is still going on, the danger of inflation is not yet over, discussions are still going on with the interested parties regarding lowering of customs tariffs, increase of savings, salaries and wages structure. A decrease in the demand for building land and houses has been registered.

The last week of the autumn session began with the final item still to be dealt with from the business report by the Federal Council for 1963. It concerns the former leader of the section "Heer und Haus", Dr. Vögeli who had been removed from his post. The National Council, seeing that the Federal Council has no "Verwaltungsgerichtsbarkeit", now had to consider an individual case. The punitive character of Dr. Vögeli's dismissal was removed, and thus the Federal Council's report for 1963 could be put aside.

The EXPO finances were discussed, and the loan of 18 million francs which the Confederation made in March, has now been changed into an interest-free advance. In July another such advance was made. Parliament has agreed without opposition — nobody is under the illusion that these sums will ever flow back into the federal treasury!

The revision of the law regarding the provisioning of the country with cereals was accepted after prolonged deliberations. Many were the motions, postulates and interpellations which were received and dealt with. They covered questions of defence, sport, supervision of banks, building of old age homes and flats, family allowances in agriculture, refuse disposal, tax defraudation, water, roads and railways, Nazi criminals and Egyptian arms dealers, compulsory paying-off of mortgages, ownership of flats and extension of aid in catastrophes.

In the final voting the following proposals were dismissed: Continued limited measures of price control (119:10), Increase of subsidies to cattle keepers in the mountain districts (148:0), Revision of military exception duty to include "Landsturmalter" (137:0).

The winter session will begin on 20th September.

(Based on news from A.T.S. and "Schweizerisches Kaufmännisches Zentralblatt".)

SPORT

A mural at the National Exhibition in Lausanne reminded the visitor that one Swiss in ten is a marksman, one in sixteen a gymnast; one in thirty plays football, and one in fifty-four is a mountaineer. Much later come tennis and hockey, as well as other sports. It is interesting, therefore, that the medals brought back by the Swiss from Tokyo are in sports which don't figure in the table, equestrianism, rowing and judo. Sixty-nine strong the Swiss team went to Tokyo to compete in twenty-three events, and although there were some disappointments, particularly in gymnastics, shooting and athletics, one gold, two silver and a bronze medal are a very handsome return.

In the Grand Prix de Dressage, Sergeant-Major Henri Chammartin, riding a 13-year-old bay gelding "Woermann", born in Sweden, had, as "The Times" put it, "so smooth a test that they seemed to be floating from movement to movement. The pirouettes, piaffes and the passage of this pair were magnificent and would be hard to beat". The silver medal for the team was presented to Miss Marianne Gossweiler on "Stephan", Fw Henri Chammartin on "Woermann" and Wm Gustav Fischer on "Wald".

The second silver medal surprisingly went to the 25-year-old Eric Haenni from Delsberg in the very sport which originated in Japan and which figured for the first time at an Olympiad: judo (light weight).

The Zurich policeman Göpf Kottmann received the first medal for Switzerland in the Tokyo Games on his thirty-second birthday, a bronze for rowing (skiff).

Apart from medals for the first three in any event, the next three were given an Olympic diploma, and this means that altogether eleven Swiss athletes received the formal acknowledgment that they are for ever engraved in the annals of Olympic history: three dressage riders (one of whom the only woman in the Swiss team), three oarsmen (not yet mentioned Melchior Bürgin/Armin Studach), two marksmen (Hans Albrecht and August Hollenstein), one athlete (Urs von Wartburg, javelin), one free style wrestler (Peter Jutzeler) and one judoka. Those not amongst the medallists figured in fourth and fifth places.

All the successful competitors, above all the medallists, were given a rousing welcome home. The riders traditionally were served Champagne at Kloten, Miss Gossweiler was driven in an open Landau through her home town

Schaffhausen. For Kottmann, motorised and lake police formed a guard of honour, and he was presented with the boat in which he had done his training and which is to be his own property now. The Zurich government gave him a week's holiday and made a present to him of the hours of duty which he had off for training and which he ought to have done on his return. 15,000 people at Delsberg accorded Judoka Haenni a warm welcome, and there was a reception at the Town Hall.

In the meantime, the gymnasts and the athletes are already considering what measures could and should be taken to improve their standards in order to meet future challenges more successfully.

(Based on news by A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten")

IT HAPPENED IN NORTH-WESTERN SWITZERLAND

BASELSTADT

The tenth volume on the results of the federal census of 1960 deals with the Canton of Baselstadt. The Canton comprises three communes, Basle, Riehen and Bettingen. It has increased its population from 29,698 in 1850 to 225,588 in 1960. The town of Basle registered 206,746 inhabitants on 1st December 1960. This number has further increased since then to 238,324 at the end of September, mainly due to foreigners, who number 33,000. The census of 1960 showed 99,737 citizens of Baselstadt and 103,391 citizens of other Cantons — a total of 90% Swiss.

Between 1860 and 1960, the Protestants decreased from 75% to 59.8%, and the Roman Catholics increased from 24% to 35.8%.

In spring, the cantonal legislative and executive authorities had to be elected. An interesting experiment prior to the election was very successful, two Parties, the Liberal Democrats and the Social Democrats arranged a number of public meetings at which political questions were discussed. It was interesting to see that the meetings were attended by members of both Parties as well as by large numbers of "neutrals", which proved that the political interest is much higher than might be deduced from the comparatively low number of citizens voting on polling days. The Basle Parliament consists of 130 seats, of which the Social Democrats have 42 (39 previously), Radicals 26 (25), Liberals 19 (21), Conservative Christian Socialists 19 (20), Landesring 11 (9), Partei der Arbeit (Communists) 8 (8), Evangelicals 5 (5). Among the seven members of the government are three Socialists, two Radicals, one C.C. Socialist and one Liberal — all as hitherto.

Vast sums have been granted by Parliament during the last few months, for the transport of energy from various hydro-electric power stations to Basle, for road corrections, for the enlargement of the Johanniter Bridge, for the extension of the voltage net of the electricity works, and the widening of the viaduct. Large and costly projects are under consideration, so for instance the one hundred million franc scheme of the "Bäumlihof" area, new trams (in 1963 there were 100 million tram passengers), and a new viaduct across the Heuwage.

There will be a centre for paraplegics (so far none exists in Switzerland) thanks to generous gifts from industry, mainly the chemical industry of Basle, and a federal subsidy. The seventh school building at Riehen was inaugurated in April, and the fifty-third in Basle (Mädchen-Oberschule). Riehen also has a new Kornfeld Church.

University students are still short of accommodation and social premises — there was a demonstration combined with "protest picnic" by the students in favour of a "Mensa".

1963 was another record year for the Basle Harbour. Fleet and harbour installations coped with goods at times exceeding a million tons a month. The total for the year was 8,028,847 metric tons (1962: 7,081,578). 12,471 boats arrived in the harbour in 1963, and revenue from customs also increased. In June, the training ship "Leventina" of the Schweizerische Reederei A.G. celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary. 1,113 young sailors have been trained there.

The number of jubilees was again high during the summer. After the "Töcherschule"'s 150th anniversary, the golden jubilee of the "Badische Bahnhof" and the twentieth anniversary of the Swiss Academy of Medical Sciences last year, 1964 has so far brought the centenaries of "Popular Lectures", the Ophthalmic Hospital and the St. Elizabeth Church. In April, the Freie Evangelische Schule celebrated its 75th anniversary, in June, Federal Councillor Tschudi gave the official address at the 125th anniversary of the Basle Kunstverein, and the home of Parliament, the well-known red sandstone Rathaus reached the venerable age of 450.

Basle is a favourite venue for conferences, and apart from its own special festivals like the famous carnival (even "The Times" carried a picture on 20th February of masked drummers) the St. Jakobsfeier in August and the traditional autumn fair which was opened on 24th October by the ringing of the "Martinsglöcklein", the Swiss Youth Parliament chose Basle for its general meeting. This was attended by 150 delegates and decided in favour of a Federal University. The European Zionist Conference, the annual meeting of the Swiss Union of Customs Officials, the International Congress on Medicine, the delegates' meeting of the Swiss notaries, the fourth international fair on wood (30,000 visitors) and the World Congress of Hairdressers took place in Basle. Federal Councillor Wahlen opened the European Conference on Culture, "Europe and the World", at the end of September, and a month later, Antal Dorati conducted the BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The electorate rejected a subsidy to the "Komoedie" Theatre, but the management are confident that they can save it by private support. Basle spends a maximum amount on cultural institutions; in 1957 already, the state spent 3.6 million francs on music alone, and in 1963 subsidies amounted to 7.04 million francs.