

It happened in North-Western Switzerland

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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 "Töughterschule"'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.

Dr. h.c. Emile Dreyfus has made gifts of a further 2.5 million francs to the University and various Jewish institutions. The Cathedral again has a "Turmbläserstube" 196 steps above the Münsterplatz. And finally, some news of the famous Basle Zoo: in 1963, 469 species with a total of 2,103 animals were looked after. Of the six gorillas ever born in captivity, Basle now boasts three. A new record of visitors was registered in 1963: 872,578.

The American Ambassador in Switzerland presented an Alaska bear to the Natural History Museum.

BASELSTADT

Just over four years ago the "Verfassungsrat beider Basel" begun its task of working out a draft constitution for the re-united Canton of Basle. The new constitution has now been accepted by the Council with 88 to 24 votes. In spring the final draft will be worked out after consideration of any public demands (öffentliches Eingabeverfahren). If all goes according to plan, the electorate of the two Half-Cantons will be able to vote on the constitution. They agreed in principle to re-unite over twenty-five years ago. Subject to acceptance, the new Canton may be born by 1970, though it must be realised that the next stage will be a difficult one, particularly in view of the question of finance. There are many opponents, specially in Baselland, and a popular movement for maintaining an independent Canton Baselland has been active.

The eleventh volume on the results of the federal census of 1960 dealt with Baselland. The Canton with its four districts and seventy-five communes has increased its population by 37.9% in ten yeears to 148,282. The increase in 110 years has been 210%. The communes adjoining Basle register the highest increases, whereas in the Waldenburg area six of the fifteen communes show a decline. 87.3% of the inhabitants were Swiss on 1st December 1960, and Italians made up the biggest number amongst the foreigners. The Protestant community has gone back from 80 to 65%, and the Roman Catholics have increased from 19 to 33%. By June last, the number of foreign workers was 30,303, only 706 more than in the previous year.

The new President of the Landrat was elected in June in the person of National Councillor Paul Wagner (Socialist) from Zunzgen. The new Vice-President is National Councillor J. Tschopp (Catholic) from Münchenstein. Justizdirektor Dr. Paul Gürtler is presiding over the "Regierungsrat" in the present term of office 1964/5.

The cantonal government presented a report on building to the cantonal legislative. Private building has increased, but state projects have gone back from 25.6 to 22.8%. Road construction has increased, though the Baselland share of the national highway programme is behind by about two years. A first project for the "Gymnasium" Münchenstein has been accepted (cost of 16 million francs). On 7th October, the first large water purification plant of North-Western Switzerland "Birs 1" became operational. Other waste disposal plants have been planned for Ormalingen/Gelterkinden. Baselland, together with Basle, Solothurn and the Confederation, are contributing financial help to the Birsigthalbahn. Baselland has decided to join the intercantonal concordat for creating an agricultural technical college near Zollikofen. The Landrat also agreed to grant financial support to the "Regio Basiliensis" — the federation of Basle, Mulhouse and Freiburg — on the same basis as Baselstadt.

On 24/25 October, the electorate accepted four proposals, revision of the legal constitution and of the Church law (the latter enabling an increase state subsidy to the

three Churches), the change in family allowance regulations which will benefit foreign workers, and a proposal to change paragraph 37 of the constitution, which allows the introduction of the principle of domicile for social assistance.

When the Cantonal Bank, today one of the twelve largest banks in Switzerland, celebrated its centenary in May, it donated large sums to social institutions and above all for the furtherance of vocational training.

The international radio amateurs met at Muttentz in August, the cantonal building insurance institutions held their 61st meeting in Liestal, and the "Rovers", some 1,152 of them, competed for the "Rover Sword" early in October. The winning team was "Eleida" from Schiers.

The Church Council demanded a protest against the behaviour of Archbishop Makarios. Earlier in the year, the renovated St. Margarethen-Kirchlein at Binningen was inaugurated.

AARGAU

The Canton of Aargau came in for quite a bit of unflattering criticism earlier this year on account of its refusal to grant the necessary credit for the Swiss National Exhibition. In March, the electorate rejected the proposal. It was felt that the negative poll was by way of protest to the authorities for presenting the case badly and too late. Due to the citizens' decision, no EXPO Aargau Day could be held. At the high schools and in the Youth Parliament, there was much protest, and the Press supported the movement. The Press and 300 Aargau teachers visited the EXPO a week before the electorate had to vote again. To everyone's surprise, there were 37,430 naves against 33,312 ayes with a voting participation of 74.6%. Only Aarau and Baden accepted the credit which was for Fr.463,000.— as contribution to the exhibition and for Fr.220,000.— for organising an Aargau Day. Immediately following the deploring result, the initiative was taken to collect money, and the Press took the patronage. The collection was to show that the Aargau was in sympathy with the Suisse Romande and the EXPO. The Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Union Federation supported it, and on 4th September some 2,200 school children attended the EXPO on the special "Aargauer Jugendtag". Early in October the Press Committee reported that the collection finally amounted to Fr.618,203.—. This sum was composed of 5,575 payments from private sources, 923 from firms and organisations, 52 from Communes. Expenses were minute thanks to the work by the Press being done on a voluntary basis. The funds collected paid for the Youth Day, and on 5th October, the rest of Fr.561,846.— was presented to the EXPO. Thus the honour of the Aargau has been saved.

The census of 1960 showed, according to the 17th volume on the results published in June, that the population in the 233 communes increased by 20% between 1950 and 1960. During 110 years, the increase to 360,940 since 1850 was 180%. The biggest increase (1950-60) was registered at Neuenhof with +123.2% and the biggest loss at Wislikofen with -16.8%. Just over 10% were foreigners on 1st December 1960 of whom the majority were Italians. As regards denominations, there has been practically no change compared with 1850, and the Protestants still have a small majority.

Early in January, the Cantonal Parliament appointed a committee of enquiry regarding an accusation of mismanagement in the Aargau Department of Justice. At the end of October, a report has been presented according to which a number of accusations have been found justified

and recommendations for better management and supervision were made.

The Canton's building programme has been widespread, including road construction. Baden is to have a civil defence centre at Schlossberg Stein costing 27 million francs. The number of subsidised flats will be increased by 1966 from 600 to 1,000. New hospital premises include an administrative building and nurses' home for the Heil- und Pflgeanstalt Koenigsfelden, an extension to the surgical clinic and a new laundry for the Cantonal Hospital Aarau, and new buildings for the Freiamter Kreisspital Muri.

New school buildings will be erected at Villnachern (2.2 million francs) and Spreitenbach (5.8 million francs), and the same amount will be spent on extending the Cantonal School in Aarau. The second Cantonal School was inaugurated at Baden at the end of June. The question whether the Canton should have a university is still very topical, and an organisation in favour of it was founded at Wuerenlingen in July ("Hochschulverein").

Early in the year, the first women clergy were elected in the two parishes of Kirchberg and Ammerswil. A new R.C. Church was blessed at Rudolfstetten. The Parish of Densbüren at the Staffleggstrasse in Aarau celebrated its tercentenary, and so did the R.C. Chapel at Tegerfelden. Dottikon's R.C. Church looks back on a hundred years by inaugurating a completely renovated church. During the renovation of the church of Windisch, it was found that the building dated back to the year 1300. Roman relics have again been found in several parts of the Canton, the most sensational is a Roman theatre which has recently been discovered at Lenzburg.

Finally, a short trip through the Aargau (in alphabetical order). After a break of forty-eight years, the supporters of the Stolze-Schrey shorthand system met in Aarau in June, and in September the town was host to the International Dog Show. Baden's electorate has rejected an Initiative to have an "Inhabitants' Council" (Commune Parliament). The Pakistan Minister of Commerce visited Baden, and in June, the Swiss Publishers' Association met there. The Aargau cantonal Press made their traditional "Badener Fahrt" in July, and the Association of Swiss Grammar School Teachers met at Baden in September. *Birr* celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Pestalozziheim Neuhof where some seventy youths are educated in the true Pestalozzi spirit. *Bremgarten* can look back on one hundred years of the first branch office of the Federal Postal Administration. The office has been in the hands of the same family for the whole time. The printing works Effingerhof A.G. at *Brugg* celebrated its centenary, and in June, the thirteenth Yodelling Contest of North-Western

Switzerland was held at Brugg. The Commune Assembly of *Fislibach* rejected union with the town of Baden by 206: 127 votes. At *Jonen*, a memorial was unveiled in honour of Army Corps Commander Jakob Huber, Chief of General Staff 1940-45. *Lenzburg* has always been a cultural centre, and the Philipp-Albert-Stapfer-Haus on Schloss Lenzburg is to get a subsidy from the Canton. The Swiss "Geisteswissenschaftliche Gesellschaft" met there in May, and the Swiss historians in September. Also in September, the "Strafanstalt" Lenzburg celebrated its centenary. There has been much controversy about the projected oil refinery at *Maegenwil*. The Commune is for its construction, mainly on account of a welcome influx of revenue, but organisations like the "Naturschutz" object. The President of Tunisia, Mr. Bourguiba, spent a holiday at *Schinznach-Bad*. The Commune of *Villmergen* has been left Fr.100,000.— by the manufacturer Josef Koch-Berner. In June, Traugott Lauper looked back on 65 years in the employment of the spinning works Heinrich Kunz at *Windisch*. The electorate of *Wohlen* agreed by a small majority to the formation of a Commune Parliament. The President of the District Court of Zofingen, Dr. Karl Hauri, was murdered by a summoned man, a gardener Erwin Steockli. His successor is Dr. Hans Dubs, Staff Manager of the Chemical Works Siegfried and lecturer at the University of Basle. "VAPKO", the federation of official fungus control offices met at *Zurzach* on 1st October. Ninety men and women from all parts of Switzerland met and tried to classify over four hundred different fungi.

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Basler Nachrichten".)

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