

It happened in the canton of Schaffhausen

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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF SCHAFFHAUSEN

Then madness seizes on the whole wide flood.
Turned to a fearful thing, whose nostrils breathe
Blasts of tempestuous smoke, wherewith he tries
To hide himself, but only magnifies.
And doth in more conspicuous torment writhe,
Deafening the region in his ireful mood.

Wordsworth's Sonnet on the Falls of the Rhine.

The annual accounts for 1964 of the Canton of Schaffhausen ended with a loss of Fr.400,000.—, revenue amounting to 41.9 mio. A tax reduction was agreed to by the Cantonal Parliament, and a cost of living increase of 4.5% was awarded to state employees. Children's allowances were increased from 15 to 20 francs per month. Higher pay for hospital doctors necessitated an increase in charges made by the Cantonal Hospital. The extension of the new Cantonal Hospital will cost 30 mio. Two new substations of the Cantonal Electricity Works at Wilchingen will require a sum of 7.5 million francs. Other costly projects for the next five years will be the "Pflegeheim", the agricultural college, industrialisation of the Herblinger Valley, road construction (20 mio) and waste water plants (10 mio).

Three buildings were officially opened earlier this summer, a new "Gewerbeschulhaus" near the main station in Schaffhausen, the "Hopfegarte" school at Stein am Rhein and the new packing machine factory of the SIG Neuhausen at Beringen.

It was decided after much debating that Schaffhausen should not have a by-pass but an express road through the town. 78% of the Neuhausen electorate accepted the plans for the new town centre. The frontier adjustments between Constance and Neuhausen are to cost Fr. 600,000.—. Germany and Switzerland will each contribute one-third, and the rest will be borne by the affected Communes.

The Canton of Schaffhausen has resigned from the North-Eastern Federation for Rhine Navigation. Two new boats have been launched, the "Thurgau" and a few days later a special boat to be used for wedding parties and similar outings. The latter was officially "christened" when the "Schweizerische Schifffahrtsgesellschaft Untersee

und Rhein" celebrated its centenary. In June, the motor boat "Rhyfall" sank with 45 passengers on board, fortunately without casualties.

In spite of the economic boom, 1964 was a heavy year for welfare work, and over 40 more cases had to be put on probation than in the previous year. Juvenile delinquency has also increased, and there is a lack of homes.

At Feuerthalen, a plaque was unveiled in honour of the famous composer Prof. Heinrich Sutermeister, at present lecturing at Hanover University. Another great honour was awarded to the Municipal President of Schaffhausen Walther Bringolf, who was made an Honorary Citizen of the town at a ceremony at the Allerheiligen Museum on 22nd October.

On 1st September, some four thousand children took part in the traditional "Kinderfest" which takes place every five years. On 11th and 12th September, Beringen celebrated its millennium. The village was mentioned for the first time in the "Oehninger Stiftungsurkunde" in 965, at that time called Peringen. The former farming village is now a suburb of Schaffhausen.

Traces of gold have been found in the neighbourhood of Schaffhausen, and during building operations in Schaffhausen station, a piece of the old fortress town wall was discovered.

Since the end of September, two advertising papers have been distributed free of charge to all households once a week, the "Schaffhauser Bock" and the "Wochen-Express". They will also contain radio and TV programmes and special contributions for the Italian workers. In the Canton of Schaffhausen with its 67,000 inhabitants, three municipal dailies and four country papers are published.

[A.T.S.]

ANGLO-SWISS ITEMS

Amongst the Swiss visitors to Great Britain this summer was a group of 104 farmers who visited the Royal Show at Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth. They also toured farms in the county of Nottingham. 74 Rovers represented Switzerland in the "Explorer Belt Expedition", a march from Bath to Plymouth. Fourteen young Swiss were awarded a special belt.

At the Conservative Party Congress in Brighton, National Councillor Albin Breitenmoser, Basle, attended as a Swiss representative.

London's Guy's Hospital has launched a big recruiting campaign for Swiss nurses. Nursing services in Switzerland are not pleased with this appeal by Guy's, as there is already a shortage of nursing staff in Switzerland.

For the first time, former participants at the courses at Wilton Park College at Steyning, Sussex, met in Berne

on 16th October. About 150 took part from Germany, Great Britain, Austria and Switzerland. The Director of Wilton Park, Dr. Heinz Koepler, gave an address on Great Britain and Europe.

[A.T.S.]

TYPHOID ON THE ETZEL

Early in October, there was an outbreak of typhoid in the Etzel district of Schwyz. It affected boys from St. Gall, Thurgau and Zurich who had been on school excursions in that region. There were forty-five proved cases and a few uncertain ones; all have recovered. The boys drank tea at the same hotel, and it is understood that that was the source of the infection which is believed to be a secondary one, the germs having been carried to the hotel by an Italian woman who had been a victim of the Zermatt epidemic in 1963.

[A.T.S.]