

It happened in the cantons of Fribourg and Neuchâtel

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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF FRIBOURG AND NEUCHÂTEL

CANTON OF FRIBOURG

The annual accounts of the Canton of Fribourg showed a small surplus for 1965, revenue standing at 115.5m. and expenditure at 115.3m. francs. In a special session in July, the Cantonal Parliament dealt with a new election law with a view to the forthcoming elections in December. A demand for a Referendum has now been registered with 35 signatures (25 needed). If the necessary 6,000 signatures are collected within ninety days, the electorate will have to vote on the new law, and the December elections cannot be carried out according to the new procedure.

The railway line Fribourg-Gruyères-Morat finished the last financial year with a loss of Fr.1,444,131.—, a slightly smaller deficit than in the previous year.

The new Rector of Fribourg University is P. Heinrich-Otto Luethi. The Synod of the Protestant Church of the Canton of Fribourg appointed a special commission at their meeting at Morat in June, to study the problem of a Christian, but non-denominational, school and its financing.

A record number of visitors was registered at the exhibition "Archaeological Discoveries" which ended in Fribourg in July. Over 3,600 schoolchildren from the Canton visited the interesting exhibition, and schools from other Cantons also travelled to Fribourg, a total number of 5,616 visitors. A new book "The Fribourg Grenadiers" was published in May.

COMMUNES

The Municipal President of the town of **Fribourg** elected in spring, is Lucien Nussbaumer (Radical). The tax rate has been lowered by the Commune Council. The accounts of the Citizens' Hospital showed a deterioration for 1965, those of the Orphanage, however, have improved. One of the reasons for the Hospital's lower income is that their own wine harvest was not up to expectation. The town of Fribourg is expected to have 48,000 inhabitants by 1990, and far-reaching traffic plans, including a by-pass are being considered. Today's population numbers 38,000, and a new way of refuse disposal had to be decided on; an incinerating plant has been ordered. A new cereal silo was opened in May; it stands right in the middle of the town. And finally, in June, the new vocational, trade and commercial school was inaugurated.

From **Bulle** comes the news that a new sanatorium for the prevention of tuberculosis has been opened at Les Sciernes d'Albeuve at the foot of the Moléson. Contributions have been made by the Canton, by the Foundation "Jean-Marie" and Nestlé.

In June, the factory of Luxit s.a. at Châtel-St. Denis was completely gutted by fire. The firm of Migros has not been given permission to exchange land for the erection of a purchasing centre at **Morat**. The General Council of the townlet has agreed to the finance plan for the badly-needed secondary school which will cost nearly 11 million francs and will be built in three stages over the next six years.

The old patrician estate and farm at the hamlet of **Staffels** were destroyed by fire. At the end of May, the new buildings of Crémo s.a. at **Villars s/Glane** were opened for the production of butter, cream and yoghurt.

CANTON OF NEUCHÂTEL

The 1965 accounts of the Canton of Neuchâtel showed a surplus of a good half million francs, expenditure standing at Fr. 93m. The new President of the Council of State is Louis Barrelet. The Radical Jean L. Luginbuehl is the newly elected President of the Cantonal Parliament. From 1st July, children's allowances have been increased by 5 to 35 francs per month. The Liberal, the Radical and the National/Progressive Parties have combined to create a fund for the scientific study of political problems.

The Cantonal Parliament has approved a credit of 8.5m. francs for the erection of equipment of several university buildings. The water of the Lake of Neuchâtel is polluted to such an extent that bathing has had to be prohibited, except in one or two properly checked places. The Society for the Protection of the Neuchâtel countryside has joined organisations in other Cantons in their protest against a Transhelvetic Canal.

Tourism in the Canton has developed satisfactorily during the past 15 years. For the whole of Switzerland, the decline in the number of visitors for 1965 was 5%, whereas for Neuchâtel it was only $\frac{1}{2}$ %. The annual prize of the Neuchâtel Institute was awarded to A. Monnier, teacher and author. The new Curator of the Cantonal Museum of Archaeology is J.-P. Jequier, Lic. sc. The campaign "Chantiers de l'Eglise Neuchâteloise" has again been successful in the third of its five years of action; the Community Centre of Cressier was opened in December, the building of the Youth and Educational Centre of Loverain at Geneveys-sur-Coffrane has been started, and plans are in hand for the Community Centre of St. Jean at La Chaux-de-Fonds. Since the number of Roman Catholics has increased in the Canton of Neuchâtel, a General Vicariate and three deaconships have been created.

The 1965 vintage is better than expected in Neuchâtel, though the year was a bad one for viticulture. The quantity is lower by one-third as compared with 1964. From 1st October, chamois hunting will again be allowed in the Canton for one month.

COMMUNES

The new President of the Municipality of **Neuchâtel** is the Liberal Philippe Mayor. There is now an Italian Vice-Consulate in the town. The General Council is presided over by the Socialist J.-P. Gendre for the new term of office. New police barracks were inaugurated in Neuchâtel at the end of April.

At the end of June, the new hospital at **La Chaux-de-Fonds** was opened; it has room for 400, later 500, patients and cost 35 million francs. The new factory centre for invalids and physically and mentally handicapped has been partially opened. It also includes a swimming pool, libraries and flats for the old.

In spring, the new large cement factory at **Cornaux** became operational; its name is Juracime s.a.; it was officially opened early in July and is the most modern in Europe with a production capacity of 200,000 metric tons p.a. which, however, can be stepped up to 600,000 tons.

The referendum was used at **Fleurier** to defeat the building of a regional school in a public park. A Swiss woman living in USA has given the Commune Fr.40,000.— for the renovation of the church which was partly destroyed a few months ago. There is great indignation at **Le Locle** against the proposed closing down of the Le Locle-Besancon line. In June, the new building of the watch manufacturers "Zodiac" was opened. The Castle of **Motiers** in the Val de Travers, which is being renovated and altered at the moment, is to become a cultural centre.

Every year, the traditional festival commemorating the last bear hunters of the Jura, is held at la Ferme-Robert near **Noiraigue**. It was towards the end of the eighteenth century that the last bear was shot in the district. For the first time in the Val de Travers, a woman has been elected Commune President in the person of Berthe Vaucher-de la Croix at **Travers**; she is a nurse and 59 years of age.

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

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Miss Rosa Zoellig (100), the oldest inhabitant of St. Gall.

Louis Lonfat (67), Charrat (Valais), for 30 years in the Cantonal Parliament; President of the Catholic/Conservative Party of Charrat.

Anton Hensler (58), Einsiedeln, well-known actor in the *Welttheater* where he played the part of the beggar for 36 years and assisted the producer.

Prof. Dr. Maurice Jaccottet (72), Lausanne, from 1928 to 1964 at Lausanne University as expert in child medical science.

Dr. Rudolf Niederhauser (84), lawyer, editor of the "Basler Volksblatt"; elected *Regierungsrat* in 1919; for many years in the National Council.

Alfred Grunwald (37), Brig, well-known, mainly religious, painter.

Hermann Tobler (86), Panisnières/Loire, citizen of Thal and connected with his place of origin although in France for 55 years; in 1961, he gave the land and financed the building of a home for old people at Thal.

[A.T.S.]

DOG SHOW

Berne's International Dog Show (10th-11th September), third largest event of its kind in Europe after Cruft's Dog Show in London and the Dog Breeding Show in Frankfurt, is the year's major canine event in Switzerland. It is expected that more than 1,500 dogs of 110 different breeds will participate, with major West European and Swiss breeders displaying their finest animals. The many events of the show, including special training exhibitions featuring more than 100 watchdogs, will be held in the Wankdorf Stadium, whose grandstands can hold more than 60,000 viewers.

AT RANDOM NEWS

The Swiss painter Alois Carigiet has been awarded the Hans Christian Andersen Medal of the International Curatorium for Children's Books.

Fritz Rindlisbacher from Liebefeld (Berne) has won the first prize at the international photographic competition "Cambarogno Lago Maggiore 1966"; his photo is called "Bähnler-Bahnen".

A DC-4 freight machine of "Balair" transported the electronic equipment for the rocket training ground of the European space research organisation at Kiruna-Esrange in Sweden. Several Swiss firms contributed towards the most modern technical equipment which was produced in record time. Four Swiss specialists accompanied the transport.

The Swiss Aero Club has again organised an exchange of young pilots. Whilst Swiss aviators went to Canada, Portugal and Great Britain, young pilots from those three countries have been able to spend three weeks in Switzerland.

The Commune of Farnern, Canton of Berne, has elected unanimously Dr. Ernst F. Aleman as Honorary Citizen. Dr. Aleman is an *Auslandschweizer* of the third generation; his family has been resident in Buenos Aires where his grandfather founded the largest German-speaking daily paper in 1889.

The Volkart Foundation has given a further Fr.17,000.— to the World Wildlife Fund at Morges. A similar sum had been given by the Foundation for nature protection projects in India, and the new donation is to go to Pakistan.

The Director of the Zurich Zoo, Prof. Hediger, has been asked to go to Sao Paulo to help in the extension of of the Zoological Gardens there; he had already been of considerable assistance when the zoo was created a few years ago.

A nine-year old boy slipped when diving at the Zurich indoor swimming pool. He knocked his face on the diving board and lost his two upper front teeth, roots and all. Members of the Cantonal Lake Police, who were training at the time, dived for the two teeth, recovered them, and they have been re-fitted. [A.T.S.]

INTERNATIONAL ASPECT OF THE "COMPTOIR SUISSE"

Lausanne Fair from 10th to 25th September

The 47th Lausanne National Swiss Fair, the "Comptoir Suisse", opens its gates on 10th September. It is the country's most important economic autumn event. What distinguishes it from other official Swiss fairs is the pavilion of honour allocated every year to a different foreign country. This custom was introduced after the second world war, when France was invited to take part in the 1945 Lausanne Fair. The idea was successful and soon aroused the greatest interest among Switzerland's trade partners.

Not only European countries, but nations from all continents have been exhibiting during the past twenty years.

This custom has just benefited from a new concession on the part of the Federal Government: the Fair has been authorised to invite two guests of honour each year instead of one as previously. Consequently, this year, the pavilions of Finland and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will be open to visitors. 2,400 Swiss exhibitors will be represented in agriculture, industry and crafts.