

May day in Switzerland

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The voters in Zurich granted credits of 50 million francs, rejecting only one project, that for an emergency garage for the Municipal Police (5.6m.).

In the six districts of Appenzell Innerrhoden, the elections took place on 5th May. At Gonten and Oberegg, the so-called *Regierende Hauptmannämter* had to be newly filled. One of the most original Appenzellers, *Hauptmann* Restoni Raess, retired after 36 years on the Council and was replaced by Josef Streule (Bruelisau). The equally renowned and witty Emil Manser of Gonten had to be replaced after 29 years by Willi Signer, although he objected because he had just had his eleventh child and therefore no time to rule!

The Grisons electorate agreed to participation in the new technical college at Buchs (St. Gall); this will mean 3.285 m. francs towards the building cost ($\frac{1}{3}$) and 180,000 francs for the first three years each. After that, an annual contribution of 3,460 francs per every Grisons student will have to be paid.

The Grisons people also elected their Government. Messrs. Schlumpf, Stiffler and Ludwig were re-elected, and Dr. Georg Vieli (Cons.) was newly elected. For the fifth seat, a new vote is necessary.

The *Landschaft* Davos has rejected the project for a gymnasium and *Aula* at Davos-Platz.

With a terribly small Participation of only 12.5%, voters in Neuchâtel agreed to the revision of the *Strafprozessordnung*, to a grant of 160,000 francs to the Cantonal Office for work medicine and hygiene, to a credit of 17m. for the new building of the cantonal *gymnase* in La Chaux-de-Fonds, to a credit of 8.6m. for the erection and equipment of buildings in the university district of Neuchâtel, to the proposed changes in the vocational training laws and to a maximum contribution of 10m. francs for the promotion of housing.

The Solothurn voters agreed to an increase of the basic capital of the Cantonal Bank from 25 to 35m. francs.

Uzwil citizens agreed to several million francs for road construction, but rejected the project of a football training ground and the proposal to purchase the "Epp" estate at Niederuzwil. Participation was 75%.

Women have been given the vote at Delémont, Villeret, Montignez, Bémont and Pontenet, Crémines, Courtelary, Grandval, also Renan and Burgdorf. This means that well over twenty Bernese Communes have granted their women citizens the vote.

The electors of Chur, too, have voted in favour of women's suffrage, and in the Canton of St. Gall, women have been given the vote in church matters.

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

MAY DAY IN SWITZERLAND

Labour Day on 1st May was marked this year by two anniversaries: the 50th of the General Strike and the 20th of the Declaration of Human Rights. Speakers in many places recalled certain demands which had still not been met, such as an improvement in the Swiss Old-Age Pension, centralisation of sickness funds, university reform, vote for women, etc. The large contingents of Italian and Spanish workers in the processions were remarkable, also the Viet Cong flag carried again and again by students.

In Berne, five processions gathered outside Parliament, for the first time with a group of Socialist students of the *Forum Politicum* of Berne University. Solidarity with the workers was stressed "workers bring decades of experience — students a thousand ideas".

The Zurich demonstration was held under the motto "Peace in Vietnam". 5,000 people listened to the Berne Municipal President Tschaepaet who spoke on Vietnam, Israel and Greece as well as on Switzerland's social problems. This was followed by protest marches against Greece, U.S.A. and Swiss Machine Industrialists.

5,000 people took part in Basle, and for the first time, Baselland trade unions held an open-air meeting rather than a procession. Federal Councillor Tschudi gave an inventory of unfurnished national tasks at a gathering in the *Stadt der Arbeit*, Winterthur. In Schaffhausen, Municipal President Bringolf took the opportunity to thank the electors for their trust in him during nearly 36 years.

In Western Switzerland, the status of women was the theme frequently, and in the Ticino, too, May Day Celebrations were well attended. The President of the Swiss Trade Union Federation, National Councillor Leuenberger, addressed the Swiss people over the radio. He said that the 1st May had lost its former character of class war, but that it was still its aim to stand up for a better and fairer social structure.

[A.T.S.]

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