

It happened in North-Eastern Switzerland

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IT HAPPENED IN NORTH-EASTERN SWITZERLAND

SCHAFFHAUSEN

In old Germanic, ship is *scafa*, in middle German *scheff*. In 1045, the town in the North of Switzerland was called Scaffhusun, and a few years later Scefhusen, the place where ships are sheltered. At that time, Emperor Henry III granted the minting right for Schaffhausen to Count Eberhard von Nellenburg, who held high office in Zurich. From then on already, Schaffhausen was a busy trading town on the Rhine. *Graf* Eberhard founded the Monastery of Allerheiligen. Its first monks probably came from Einsiedeln, founded by his daughter Reginlindis. A number of patrician families from surrounding areas came to Schaffhausen, and in the fourteenth century, Duke Frederick of Austria gave the town the right to work out its own constitution. Suddenly the guilds became political bodies, and the citizens formed the Councils. The Mayor's office was open to all, and of all the Guild Towns (Basle, Zurich and St. Gall), Schaffhausen was the most democratic. The aristocracy formed their own group, the "Herrenstube", and the traders belonged to the "Untere Stube". The last of these families died out in Schaffhausen, in this century only, others had left on account of the Reformation. Schaffhausen was famous later for painting, glass painting, silk and wool embroidery, and the women were renowned as skilled needlewomen. One of the few embroidered family trees, a rare thing comes from Schaffhausen. One of Schaffhausen's characteristics is the many oriel windows; over 250 of them in all styles from the late Middle Ages to the *Biedermeierzeit*.

Today, Schaffhausen is a progressive town of over 38,000 inhabitants. Of these, however, only about 15% are citizens of the town, about 65% of the Canton and other parts of the country, 6% resident foreigners and the rest temporary foreign employees. Nearly two-thirds are Protestants, and one-third Roman Catholics. The town has a budget for this year of 37,000m. francs revenue and 38.7m. expenditure (inspite of an increase in taxes of 10%). The accounts for 1967 were similar. The extension of the water supply system will have cost the town over 12m. francs by the time it is completed. Councillor of States Dr. Kurt Baechtold will take over the job as Municipal Librarian in succession to E. Schellenberg on 1st December, and by the end of the year, the popular Mayor National Councillor Bringolf will retire, having been in office for 36 years. He has done much for the town, such as the creation of the annual International Bach Festival and many international art exhibitions at Allerheiligen. For his merits, the town made him an Honorary Citizen.

The accounts of the Canton showed a deficit for 1967 of 1.9m., revenue standing at 68 million francs. The budget for this year estimates an even higher loss. Due to the favourable accounts of the Cantonal Bank (1.78m. francs surplus), a special extraordinary payment of a quarter of a million was made to the Canton's Treasury.

45m. francs has been budgeted for additional buildings to the Cantonal Hospital. Increases of up to 25% have been decided for patients. Dr. A. Uehlinger is the new chief physician at the hospital in succession to Dr. H. Schmid.

Whilst motor vehicles are on the increase and have surpassed the 20,000 mark (in 1938 there were 1,258), tourist figures for last year have gone down. On the other hand, the 421,000 passengers who used the Rhine

boats were a record. The Rhine, incidentally has been found very clean around Schaffhausen and all bathing was allowed this summer. The Canton, too, had worries with rabies which has been menacing several Swiss Cantons.

The "Arbeiter-Zeitung" celebrated its Golden Jubilee; one of its first editors was the retiring Mayor. Another anniversary was celebrated recently, when the "Vereinigte Kammgarnspinnereien" was 100 years old. The "Klettgauer Zeitung", too, is in its centenary year. North of Schaffhausen, a medieval settlement has been discovered. So far, excavations have exposed church and cemetery. The slight adjustments to the German-Swiss frontier around the Canton of Schaffhausen have nearly been finished, and exchange of small plots of land have been effected in order to make a clearer frontier with Germany. It is a year since the main alterations came into force, and the population celebrated the event. A technical commission did the work, and all the changes have been marked in the plans, and some 100 heavy marking stones have been put down, bearing the two initials "G" and "S". The old stones dating to 1839 were inscribed "CG" (Canton Schaffhausen) and "GB" (Grossherzogtum Baden).

ST GALL

The Cantonal Parliament has had a busy summer. This is at present the largest in Switzerland with 204 members. A proposal has been made to reduce the number to 180. Like many other Cantons, St. Gall, too, estimates a deficit for 1969. The budget shows revenue of 306.6 million francs and expenditure of 309.7m. Last year already, accounts of extraordinary expenditure carried a deficit of 15.2m., mainly due to national road construction. Ordinary accounts showed a surplus of 3.3m., with 263m. francs expenditure. Water protection, too, was and is an expensive item. Education is expected to cost large sums again, especially the Canton's contribution of 7m. towards erecting a new technical college at Rapperswil and 7.7m. for one at Buchs, both intercantonal. The Government has agreed that the Catholic Cantonal School build a new school in St. Gall-East on condition that at no time in the future should new buildings be opened near its present site, i.e. the Cathedral. According to a regional planning decision, a middle school should be put up in the region Uzwil/Flawil/Wil. There is growing "feminisation" in the primary teaching staffs of the Canton — already at the end of last year, there were over 300 women as against 280 men. 8.4m. is being used to renovate the training college Maria Berg at Rorschach.

Tuberculosis increased from 6 to 21 new cases last year, and there were nearly 3,000 cases needing attention, amongst them 222 foreigners. X-ray campaigns went on, and so did vaccinations. The St. Gall welfare office for the infirm looked after 1,190 people including children, and inspite of help from "Pro Infirmis" funds, sale of cards and handsome private contributions, they made a deficit. The "Hilfsverein für Gemütskranke" helped 60 people, and large sums were spent on welfare for the blind (teaching, training and keeping a home for blind old people).

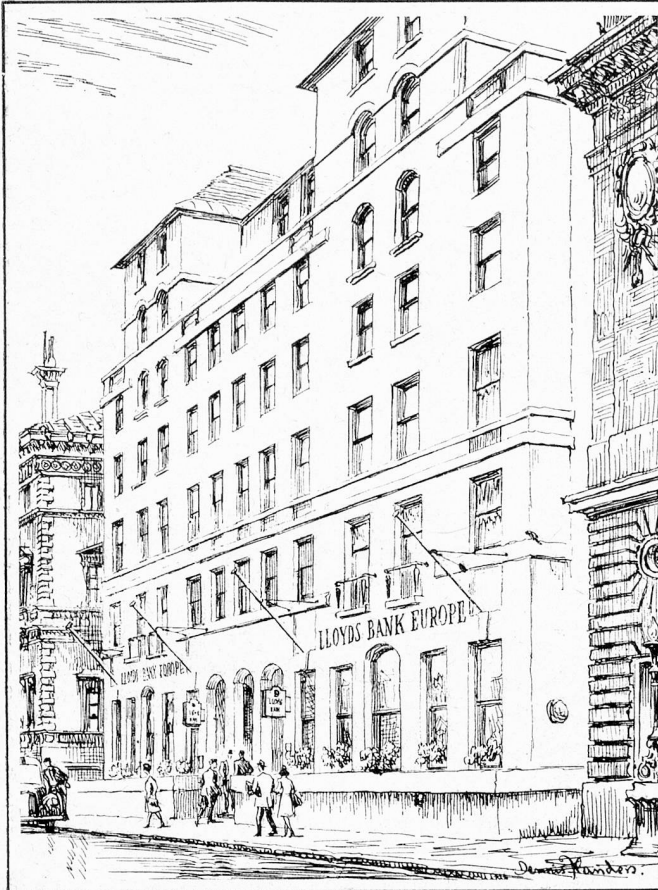
On culture, too, the Canton spends large sums, and subsidies to the new Municipal Theatre and the *Konzertverein* have been increased.

The Canton makes awards to drivers whose records are absolutely clean.

The new President of the Evangelical Synod is Prof. Dr. E. Ehrenzeller (in succession to H. Zogg), and the newly-elected Rabbi of the Jewish Community is Rabbi Imre Schmelzer (succeeding Dr. L. Rotschild).

The Municipal Council of the town of St. Gall has also been busy under the new *Stadtammann* National

Councillor Hummler. The Talhof girls' school is to be enlarged, roads are to be improved, and the first step has been made to keep the inner town free from all traffic. To celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the St. Gall Political Commune, a gift in cash was given to all the old people who are on the list of the municipal *Altersfürsorge*. The



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town has a new crest, an upright black bear with red and gold on silver background. All this coincides with the completion (last year) of the Baroque Cathedral renovation and the new, most modern and quite spectacular theatre.

The postal coach service Nesslau-Wildhaus celebrated its Golden Jubilee earlier this year.

Water protection plays an important part in the Canton, and several purification plants have become operational or are being built at Gossau, Lichtensteig, Ebnat-Kappel, Wattwil and Altstaetten. At Bazenheid, a new garbage incineration plant, the eleventh of this kind in Switzerland, is being erected to serve 52 Communes.

Several Communes have new schools, such as Gossau, Niederwil and Abtwil. At Amden, where avalanche protection barricades have recently been extended, a new Youth Home for holidaying has been opened mainly for young people from St. Gall town and Thal. At Buetschwil, an insemination centre for cattle has been started to serve the whole of Eastern Switzerland.

THURGAU

The Thurgau citizens are teased for their "long fingers", but also for their dry humour, and a "Schamauch", one from outside the Canton, never quite knows whether a Thurgauer is serious or just pretends to be. As to their flowery language, here is a sample from "Novämberstag am Untersee" by Adolf Ribli: ". . . *Etz chrüüched ä Ysebahnschine we Blindeschlycher über s Strössli, s Baawärterhüsli stoot scho lang nüme, aber we e ticki Tooschebaabe hocket düi besser vorne en Bunker und als hälli Garnchlungele ligged d'Stachtrootrugel dernäbet*".

But to get down to business, serious business at that. The Thurgau has created the position of a savings expert (*Sparexperte*) as from 1969, and *Staatskassier* P. Hubmann, Frauenfeld, has been appointed for the job. For last year, there was a deficit of 3.75m. francs in the ordinary and 2.7m. in the extraordinary accounts, and in the budget for next year, a loss of 4.8m. and 4m. francs respectively is forecast, with revenue at just over 140m. Together, ordinary and extraordinary accounts surpass the 200-million mark for the first time. The Cantonal Parliament rejected a proposal to have their expenses (*Taggeld*) increased. Both Cantonal Bank and Electricity Works made profits last year. 18 million francs will be needed to improve the Mittel-Thurgau railway. Building activities in the Canton have gone back, except for hospitals and schools. The Thurgau electorate had voted 32m. francs for the extension of the Cantonal Hospital at Muensterlingen, plus an additional credit of 12m., and now another 7m. is needed. New Cantonal Schools at Romanshorn and Kreuzlingen have been planned, women have been given the vote in educational matters, and Thurgau citizens and inhabitants will no longer have to pay middle-school fees. Several Communes have granted women the vote in church matters, though some have refused, and at Erlen, the women themselves have rejected the idea. In the Hinterthurgau, the Canton has a region which can be classified as mountain farming district. Of the 152 houses concerned, 40 have been improved with the help of the Confederation, Cantons and Communes. Beavers died out in the Canton 250 years ago; Norwegian beavers have been introduced, and it is hoped that the species will breed again in Thurgau waters.

Arbon has plans for a subterranean emergency hospital (3.9m. francs) and Ermatingen for a new *Rathaus*.

Kreuzlingen was in the news because the German town of Constance has honoured the former *Bezirksstatthalter* Otto Raggenbass, called the "Saviour of Constance" for his mediation in the second world war, by naming a road after him. The Basilika St. Ulrich celebrated its millennium, and new swimming baths were opened in the summer. At Weinfelden, the R.C. Ministry reported that a record number of 118 babies had been christened in 1967, but only 44 among them Swiss. *Grundbuchverwalter* E. Hug has retired after 54 years of State service at Sirnach. At Steckborn, the foundations of a 800-year-old church were discovered when the Evangelical Church was renovated.

And now some figures at random: On the Lake of Constance, the Swiss professional fishing industry reached an all-time record of 523,000 kg. of fish (value 1,085 million francs) in 1967. In the Thurgau, there are 1.3m. fruit trees, 938,000 of them apple trees; 3,700 deer; 1,270 pubs of one kind and another; 20,600 primary school children; 28,500 foreigners (5.1% more than in the previous year); 569 industrial undertakings with nearly 30,000 employees, half of them foreigners.

APPENZELL AUSSERRHODEN

They say of the Appenzellerland that it is so hilly that one can nowhere put down a full milkjug without spilling it over one side. Not exactly ideal territory to develop industries. Yet the Canton was one of the most densely populated and highly industrialised in the 19th century, first with the manufacture of linen, later of cotton and more especially with skilled embroidery. Metal and wood industries, too, played their part in the growth of the Canton. Outside Switzerland, the two Half-Cantons enjoy a reputation as Cantons with Open-air Parliaments, as a people where men wear beautiful and rich costumes and make special rustic music, and, of course, for the Pestalozzi Children's Village at Trogen, which is growing every year.

Foreign labour has again decreased in the Canton, the Italians still making up the largest contingent (2,245 out of 3,742). Heiden's new District Hospital with room for 70 patients, a maternity ward, laboratory and an air raid shelter for 100 has been opened. 3m. francs will be spent on a bypass of Teufen. News from the Canton has been remarkably rich in legacies and large monetary gifts of all kinds for hospitals, cultural and social purposes and schools. As a 75th anniversary gift, the "Gewerbeverband" has enabled the Cantonal School at Trogen, which is to be renovated extensively, to have a special hall where the "Pendler" may have their mid-day meal and do homework.

INNERRHODEN

As usual, very little news is to hand from this small Half-Canton. Thanks to the generosity of the late Dr. Karl Kellenberger, G.P. in Lucerne, a Foundation was created for the purpose of training young Innerrhoder. The new Chapel at the Sealpsee (Alpstein) has been consecrated to the memory of St. Klaus — it serves mountaineers and *Sennen*. The renovation of the Convent Church of Appenzell, built in 1913, has been completed.

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse, "Femina" and "Appenzellerland".)