

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK
Band: - (1972)
Heft: 1641
Rubrik: Swiss events

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The Swiss Observer

Published Twice Monthly at
63/67 TABERNACLE STREET
LONDON E.C.2
Tel: 01-253 2321

Telegrams: Paperwyse Stock London
HON. PRESIDENT: Robert J. Keller
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24 issues Frs. 25— or £2.50

Swiss subscriptions may be paid into
Postcheck Konto Basle 40—5718

Editor's telephone: 01-602 1378

COMMENT

VOTING HOLIDAYS

According to Article 45bis of the Federal Constitution, voted by the people in 1968, the Confederation may, taking account of the special situation of the Swiss living abroad, enact regulations determining their rights and duties, in particular with respect to the exercise of political rights, the carrying out of military obligations and to assistance.

Four years later, nothing practical has been undertaken to realise the political aspect of these provisions. It is well nigh impossible, for a host of technical reasons, to allow the 300,000 Swiss citizens abroad to take part in federal votes, let alone on cantonal ones. In fact, this is officially out of the question. When three Swiss societies in Great Britain were called to debate this issue two years ago, they overwhelmingly rejected the idea, mainly on principle (it was not fair that people exempt from Swiss taxation should be fully privileged voters) and also because it was feared that political strife would have been thus induced in the Swiss Colony.

However, to please the Swiss living in France and to a lesser extent those living in Germany, who miss their national political rights, new proposals are currently being worked out in Berne to institute an *Aufenthaler-stimmerecht*. According to this scheme, a Swiss abroad would be entitled to vote after having remained for three weeks in Switzerland. They would thus be given the privilege of mixing holidays and politics.

Such a proposition is rejected with even more vigour than the former prospect of full political rights by several members of the Swiss societies who have studied this problem because of its added disadvantage of geographical inequality. It is obvious that only the Swiss living in neighbouring countries, above all in France and Germany, would be able to avail themselves of this new right. The representatives at the Commission of the Swiss Abroad in Berne will pull their full weight to fight the scheme. There is no doubt that the majority of residents in this country, many of whom have survived without voting for forty years or more, would not feel particularly despoiled if the idea were abandoned. But Article 45bis would remain a dead letter as far as its political aspects are concerned.

(PMB)

The Americans have sufficient means to have two or three types of aircraft satisfying the original specifications laid down by the Military Aircraft Commission. The Swiss Air Force could never afford having two different jet fighters on a single mission, one being used to protect the other. Engineers will readily point out that the original specifications were contradictory, because manoeuvrability and high payloads are in conflict with the high speeds and acceleration required for self-defence or interception. It is likely that engineers will also agree that the model which approaches these all-round qualities is the Mirage-Milan.

Many observers believe that the evaluators have not only been motivated by technical reasons. Many Air Force chiefs are biased against the Mirage, either because it reminds them of the trouble of the IIS version, or because of possible anti-Gallic or pro-American feelings. This should be more apparent, for cultural reasons, among German-speaking officers.

The leader of the pro-Corsair faction, Mr. Heiner Schultess, Head of the Arms Supply Division, has worked for many years as an engineer in the American aerospace industry. According to an article in "La Suisse", this has influenced his decision and introduced emotional elements in the selection process. The paper also says that the Head of the Political Department may be inclined to please the Military.

One of the firmest supporters of the competing Milan is Mr. Nello Celio. His reasons are political: Asking for a large order in a Common Market country would be a good way to start Swiss-E.E.C. co-operation.

(PMB)

SWISS EVENTS

FEDERAL

Stalled progress in E.E.C. negotiations

Switzerland's negotiations with the Common Market are due to be completed by the end of July. Her efforts to work out a free-trade agreement that would not be disadvantageous in the agricultural field have been somewhat frustrated by the E.E.C. Executive Commission while it met in Luxembourg during a special session on the agricultural aspects of the future agreements with the three non-candidate countries.

The original difficulties standing in the way of a free-trade agreement have not been completely resolved. They are threefold. First, the Common Market would like to obtain unilateral agricultural concessions. Switzerland, Sweden and Austria are thus asked to import more Common Market wine, vegetables and fruit without the compensation of an expanded market for their own agricultural production. Switzerland has excess dairy products

which it would like to sell to her Common Market neighbours, and Austria has too much meat. Yet the E.E.C. is adamant on this point, and considers that the industrial advantages already awarded are a sufficient sop to please the three non-candidates.

The second point relates to the "safety clauses". Should a disagreement occur between the E.E.C. and one of the three future associates over the implementation of an agreement clause, then the two parties can either voluntarily discuss the matter, or the "injured party" can unilaterally disrespect the contentious clause, pending an enquiry by a joint commission. The Swiss feel that they could too easily be the victims of such an arrangement and insist that consultation (a kind of cooling off period) should be made mandatory before the event of a dispute.

The third point concerns the "origin" of the industrial products which the associate countries will or will not be allowed to export and of tariffs into the Community. This subject is highly technical and has been debated at considerable length, parti-

cularly as regards horological products. Basically, the E.E.C. is only prepared to accept those Swiss exports that have been entirely manufactured in Switzerland. This rules out certain machines, a variety of chemicals and textile products and electronic components that have been semi-manufactured in non-E.E.C. countries and later fully manufactured in Switzerland.

Six hundred million francs for the Federal Institute of Technology

In a recent Message to Parliament, the Federal Council has asked for new credits of 583 million francs for the enlargement of the Federal Institutes of Technology at Zurich and Lausanne. Berne's objectives are that the two institutes should cater for 18,000 architecture and engineering students by the end of the decade, 10,000 for Zurich and 8,000 for Lausanne. Lausanne, which presently has only 1,600 students, would for the first time get the major share of federal funds and approach parity with Zurich.

New rolling stock for the Federal Railways

The Federal Railways are currently stepping up their investments in new rolling stock. Standing currently at 200 million francs a year, these

investments are expected to rise to 350 million francs in 1976. The most important item will be the renewal of goods freight rolling stock. Of the 24,000 goods wagons on the Swiss network, 12,000 will be scrapped by 1980 and 9,000 new ones built. New passenger wagons will be introduced in 1975. New engines will operate on the Gothard this year. Identified by the symbol "Re 6/6", four of these locomotives are presently under test. They are modified versions of the engines presently used on the Gothard. With their 10,600 h.p.'s, they can pull an 800 ton train on the Gothard's 2.6 per cent gradients at 140 k.p.h.

Swiss delegation satisfied with the results of the UNCTAD Conference

In a Press conference in Berne, Ambassador Fritz Rothenbühler, of the Commercial Division of the Department of Economy, said that the recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Santiago had not been a failure, despite the disillusionment expressed in various quarters over its results.

Mr. Rothenbühler had led the Swiss delegation to Santiago. He said that the conference, which had no actual power decision, had paved the way for important monetary negotiations with third world countries next year. He stressed that, given the difficult monetary situation and the fact

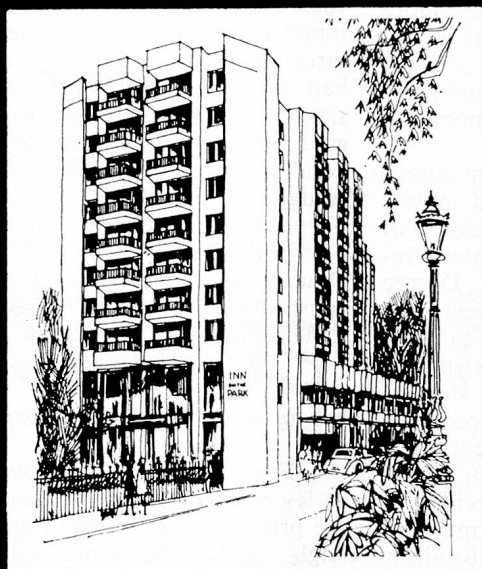
that the resolutions of the previous UNCTAD Conference in New Delhi had not taken effect, it was difficult to expect more of the Santiago gathering. He said that Switzerland had objected together with the majority of rich countries, to the setting up of a special fund in favour of the 25 poorest nations of the world but had recommended more practical assistance measures. He said that stabilisation of commodity prices depended first on the producing countries agreeing among themselves on priority products.

Mr. Pierre Graber, Head of the Political Department, also spoke during the conference and outlined the prospects of Swiss development aid for the next three years. Also present was the third world specialist, Tibor Mende. He said that the progress of developing countries depended first and foremost on the appropriate use of their human and material resources.

Switzerland and the I.M.F.

Mr. Samuel Schweizer, Chairman of the Board of the Swiss Bank Corporation, said that Switzerland would be ill-advised at this stage to become a full member of the International Monetary Fund.

Speaking at the centenary celebration of the Bank, which was held during a festive gathering at the Swiss Fair complex, he said that Switzerland should not join the IMF and the World



Vintage Room

Standing at the Piccadilly end of Park Lane, the Inn on the Park was recently named 'Hotel of the Year' by Egon Ronay. The Vintage Room, on its first floor, could equally be said to be deserving of the title 'Restaurant of the Year'. It specializes in presenting succulent steaks and traditional Ribs of Scotch Beef . . . the meat faultless . . . the service impeccable. Its subdued and intimate decor, continuous dancing from

9-0 until 3-0 a.m., and easy parking, make it an ideal after-theatre rendezvous. While at lunchtime, it is rapidly becoming a 'club' for those who appreciate good food luxurious surroundings and today's greatest rarity – personal service.

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Bank, as both organisations had shown little discipline in their handling of Special Drawing Rights. He said that all the theories in support of doing away with gold in the international exchanges ignored the basic fact that the only foundation of Special Drawing Rights lay in their relation to a determined quantity of gold and consequently to the parities linking convertible currencies. Detached from these foundations, Special Drawing Rights would have no other support but the Dollar, which, according to Mr. Schweizer, had been unduly attacked.

The Chairman was in favour of more Swiss-European co-operation. Such co-operation could prove inevitable in the event of a common European monetary policy.

Other speakers at the centenary meeting were Mr. Nello Celio, President of the Confederation, and Mr. F. Hauser, President of the Executive Council of Basle-Town. The attendance heard the Basle Chamber Orchestra play musical works by Honegger, Vivaldi, Handel, Stravinsky and Mozart under the leadership of conductor Paul Sacher.

However, the next day, Mr. Celio met Mr. Paul Volcker, American Under-Secretary to the Treasury and had talks with him on Switzerland's eventual membership to the I.M.F. Present at the meeting were Mr. Edwin Stopper, Governor of the National Bank, Mr. Paul Jolles, Head of the Commercial Division of the Department of Economy and Mr. Pierre Nussbaumer, in charge of the economic and financial services of the Political Department. It is expected that Switzerland will join the I.M.F. in 1974.

Easier naturalisation for foreigners

Mr. Kurt Furgler, new boss of the Department of Justice and Police, is conducting reforms to make Swiss naturalisation easier for foreign residents. A study group under Federal Judge Otto Kaufmann was expected to present him with a report in June. Mr. Kaufmann will come out with three major proposals. They are that young foreigners and aliens should be entitled to naturalisation if they have lived in Switzerland since the age of six and for more than ten years, and if they have made their application before 22; refugees can become Swiss citizens if they have remained in the country for more than eight years; the husbands of Swiss women, as long as they have resided in Switzerland for six years and that they apply after three years of marriage.

These proposals would reduce the shortest term of residence necessary for naturalisation from twelve to

ten years. Naturally, it must be borne in mind that this is a field still left to the entire discretion of communes and cantons. So far, they have been reticent to ease the traditionally stringent requirements of naturalisation. The proposals will probably take the form of an appeal to the cantons to reduce the shortest period for naturalisation from twelve to ten years.

Federal vote on currency and building

The Swiss people were called to the polls during the first weekend of June to sanction two Federal Council decrees on monetary and housing matters enforced last year. They had to be ratified by the electorate within 12 months, in accordance with the Constitution.

The first item concerned the "protection of national currency". On 8th September last, three weeks after the American decision to suspend the gold convertibility of the dollar, the Federal Council asked Parliament to approve an "urgent decree" conferring the legal means of enforcing prompt measures, should the Swiss franc come under excessive pressures from foreign speculators. The Federal Council refused to give details of the measures it might plan to take, explaining that any revelation of monetary strategy was contrary to the interest of the Swiss currency. In the event, the Swiss franc hasn't come under undue attack since last September, and the "blank cheque" which Parliament had been asked to sign was never drawn.

The second package was more explicit. Last June, the Federal Council asked for special powers to slow down the pace of the building industry. Building is a kind of thermometer, measuring the pulse beat of the economy. Owing to the tremendous demand for new private and public buildings, contractors are masters of their prices and help to maintain inflation. According to the Decree passed last June by Parliament, the Federal Council is entitled to stop non-essential building projects in certain urban areas under well defined conditions. Thus urgently required housing estates will take precedence over luxury villas and swimming pools. The Federal Council will decide, in the last resort, whether a museum should wait a couple of years to allow the building of a hospital or a new school.

These somewhat uninspiring issues had already been debated at length. The beautiful weather which appeared that weekend did not encourage many people to go to the polls. Participation was extremely low (25.8 per cent for the whole country) despite the many cantonal polls organised on the same Sunday.

In Berne, voters rejected the necessary alteration of their school laws for membership to the Intercantonal convention on education, and the citizens of Zurich had the beginning of the school year switched back from Autumn to Spring, turning back on their decision last year to have the beginning of the school year in August, as required by the Intercantonal convention. Last year's vote had been contested by the "Group of 133", who had actually brought the case to the Federal Court and who had launched the popular initiative. Thus Zurich and Berne are provisionally non-members of the Intercantonal Convention on Education.

Another interesting cantonal vote took place in Basle, where a popular initiative in favour of free trams was rejected by an eight-to-one majority. In Schaffhausen, voters refused to give their local authorities a new computer and in Aargau, it was decided to overhaul the cantonal constitution. Finally, the women of the Grisons voted for the first time on cantonal matters.

CANTONAL

Record signature collection on the "Ban Hunting" initiative

Five weeks after having launched a popular initiative to ban hunting in the Canton of Geneva, a lawyer, a teacher and a physiotherapist had collected over 17,000 signatures. Only 10,000 signatures are required for an initiative in Geneva. By the time the three member organising committee had gathered this remarkable tally of signatures, they still had five days to go before remitting them to the Cantonal Chancery, who will thereby be pledged to put the issue before the people within the next twelve months provided that it is legally possible. Doubts have been raised about the constitutional rights of cantons to initiate legislation on hunting.

Where to map a gas pipeline

Fruit growers of the lower Rhone valley reacted angrily to the news that the projected natural gas pipeline from Aigle to Noville would cut through valuable apple orchards. The farmers complained that they had not been given sufficient notice and put before a "fait accompli".

The projected route of the pipeline was made known by the contractors, the engineering and planning firm Electrowatt AG, hardly a month before the decision on the layout was to be finalised. The news first appeared in the federal information gazette on

19th May, with a 30 day complaint period. The fruit growers of Aigle complain that nothing was published in the cantonal gazette and said that they were practically faced with expropriation.

There was considerable difficulty in mapping the pipeline owing to the necessity of avoiding the industrial area of Aigle and of scarring a nearby golf course. Eighty angry peasants had a meeting with representatives of the Electrowatt company and insisted that the pipeline should use a route alongside the Rhone valley canal, thus avoiding land of good agricultural quality. If the pipeline crosses through the orchards in the area, it will be necessary to cut a 20 metre swathe of trees on either side so as to make sure that their roots do not damage it. It would be necessary to convert some of the country's finest apple orchards into vegetable gardens.

Harvard Business School to open in Lausanne

The Harvard Business School, the most prestigious institution of its kind, is to organise regular courses for business executives in Autumn 1973 in Lausanne, where it will use the existing premises of the "Institut pour les méthodes de direction de l'entreprise" (IMEDE), one of Switzerland's major business schools. The Harvard Business School had planned to open

courses in Europe some while ago. The choice fell on Lausanne owing to its existing links with IMEDE. Professionals in the field welcome this decision and expect stimulating competition.

The average age of Harvard Business School students is 44. They are selected from higher executive levels and usually get training in view of their promotion to general management. About 25 per cent of the students that enrol in these courses come from Europe, which illustrates the European potential of these schools.

Opening of the "Bibliotheca Bodmeriana"

One of the finest private collections in Switzerland opened in Geneva on 15th June. The "Bibliotheca Bodmeriana", a collection of 150,000 items bequeathed by the former International Red Cross President, Mr. Martin Bodmer, who died last year, to the "Bodmer Foundation", is now open to the public. Mr. Bodmer (father of Mr. G. Bodmer, former Press Attaché at the Swiss Embassy in London) has accumulated a priceless and unique collection of documents of all ages in a life ambition of creating a "library of World Literature".

Beginning with Cuneiform clay tablets and Egyptian papyri scrolls, the collection contains exhibits of Far Eastern, Mexican, North American

and Polynesian culture. In 50 years of collecting, Mr. Bodmer had assembled valuable manuscripts of such literary giants as Goethe, Shakespeare, Flaubert, Montesquieu, Verlaine, Kafka and Kierkegaard. The collection also contains valuable portions of the Scriptures dating from the second century AD and priceless Greek and Latin documents. Mr. Bodmer's villa in the plush Geneva suburb of Coligny is now a museum open to the public every Thursday.

AIRLINES

"The Lydda massacre should never have happened"

Mr. Knut Hammarskjöld, General Secretary of the International Air Transport Association (IATA) said that the Lydda Airport massacre, where a suicide squad of three Japanese extremists killed 27 passengers and wounded a further 80, would never have happened if national governments had respected the various recommendations voted by the airlines to put an end to air piracy.

Speaking at IATA's Geneva headquarters, Mr. Hammarskjöld said that airlines were doing all they could to prevent such disasters. There was a limit to what they could do without paralysing air transport and they required more backing from the govern-



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ments concerned. He said that security measures should immediately be taken in the airports where they were still insufficient.

Meanwhile the Lebanese authorities were questioning a young Swiss suspected of having planned a skyjack for the Popular Liberation Front of Palestine. The accused, who has not been named, had been arrested in Beirut ten days before the Lydda massacre in connection with a drugs case.

A "fourth terrorist in Switzerland"?

Osamu Maruoka, 21, believed to have been closely associated with the three members of the Japanese suicide squad at the Lydda airport massacre, was being sought in Switzerland at the time of writing. The Japanese police had previously made it known in Tokyo that he had sent a letter to his father dated from Berne on 5th June, stating: "I'm doing fine. I expect to return home for the New Year Holidays".

Maruoka's participation in the Lydda attack had been implied by the testimony of Ozo Okamoto, the only survivor of the three terrorists, now awaiting trial in Israel. Careful examination of the handwriting of the letter had convinced Japanese investigators that it had actually been sent by Maruoka.

Delegation to Peking

An official delegation has left for Peking at the request of the Federal Council for exploratory talks in view of opening air traffic between Switzerland and China.

BUSINESS

Slight slow-down at Roche

The AGM of the pharmaceuticals giant, Hoffmann La Roche was held on 15th June in Basle. The Board recommended the distribution of a

500 franc dividend per share, the same as last year. The fact that the dividend hadn't been increased reflected a slight slow-down of the group's turnover last year and also took into account a scrip issue of 6,400 shares in 1971.

It is estimated that the group's profit has increased by 10 per cent in 1971 (compared with approximately 15 per cent the previous year) and that its turnover reached six billion francs. Figures are of course unpublished and Roche is virtually a private company. The last time it had to seek funds on the capital market was in 1920, 52 years ago. The Roche share capital is nominal: In all 16,000 shares and a scrip issue of 54,400 distributed free to the original shareholders are recorded in the balance sheet.

Selling at approximately 190,000 francs, Roche shares are the most expensive in the world, and the firm's capitalisation (including scrip issues) is equal to only 16 times its profits.

Roche's main products continue to be vitamins (a quarter of turnover) and such universal products as "Librium" and "Valium". It also produces perfumes and new drugs for cancer and Parkinson Disease. For the past few years the company, which has 29,000 employees, has made a big drive in electronic medical appliances.

DEFENCE

Compromise over the Cavalry

The Military Commission of the National Council has decided to open a debate on a Federal Council Message recommending the phasing out of the cavalry, but at the same time asked the Government to find ways of maintaining part of the Dragoon squadrons. In a marvel of diplomacy, the Commission first said "yes" to the Federal Council, and then "wait".

Rarely has such a minor issue caused such controversy in Switzerland. Popular initiatives of education, civil service, social security, rents, all major and fundamental issues, have gathered nowhere as much support as the petition organised to save 18

squadrons of cavalry (about 2,000 men and horses) in an Army of over half a million men. This petition was backed within weeks by 432,000 signatures. Such a thing had never been seen before. It appeared that every second serviceable man had signed it and shown his care for the survival of this minute fraction of the Army.

The arguments for and against the maintenance of the Cavalry have been repeated innumerable times in the Swiss Press. The Federal Council and the Military Department requires new effectives for the Tank Grenadier companies, which are below strength. As there is no pool of transferable manpower in the Army, the idea was to draw the men required from the units of least military importance. The Cavalry, despite its aura of tradition, was considered as matching this description. The experts believed that it had accomplished its task.

The supporters of Switzerland's mounted troops thought otherwise. Cavalry, they claim, presents a number of key advantages, even in modern warfare. It requires no logistics and doesn't rely on petrol. It is highly manoeuvrable and can be used on any terrain. Cavalry units are furthermore endowed by "esprit de corps" and operate closely with the indigenous population. Although it may not be as efficient as a tank in a full scale battle, it can be used for support operations and mountain warfare.

Faced with this controversy and the clamour for the maintenance of these mounted units, the Military Commission found a compromise which will only prolong the quarrel. It can be expected that the subject of the Cavalry will be raised again for some time in parliamentary and military circles.

BEHAVIOUR

A failed insurance fiddle

A 32-year-old Sicilian labourer of retrieving a handsome lump sum from the insurance company. The plan failed and he got an 18 month



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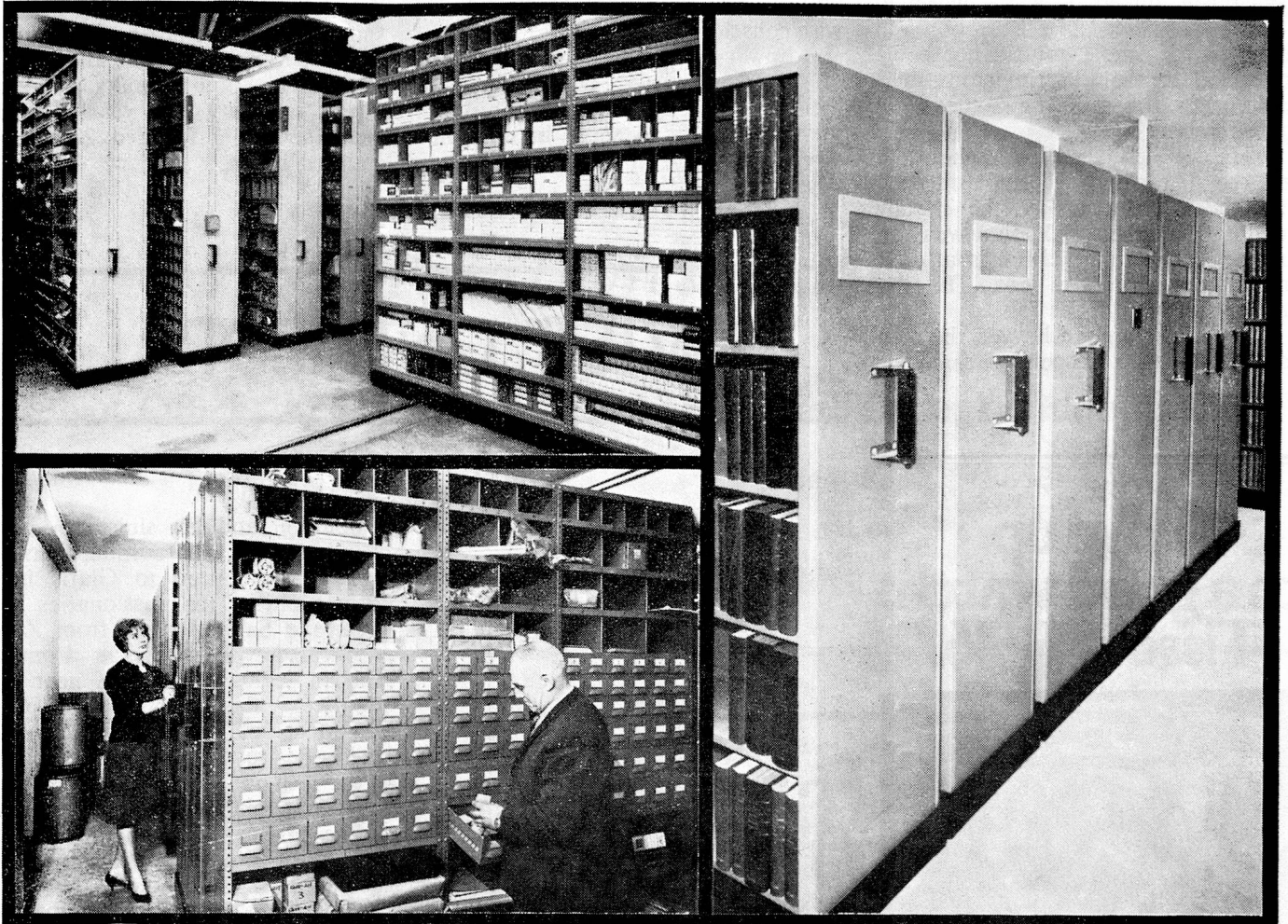
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jail sentence instead, luckily suspended for five years.

A father of three children, the man had felt the need for more money in order to move to a better house. He had paid 3,150 francs for his house but had insured it for 50,000. The idea had come from a television programme. Having sent his wife and children to his native Italy, he set a peculiar fire-raising time device in action. It consisted of a kitchen clock mechanism, linked by a cog wheel to a hair dryer placed in a heap of wood shavings, the whole contrivance being connected to the electric mains. The device was timed to be actuated in the afternoon.

Hardly had the fire broken out and the first clouds of smoke seeped through the windows of the shabby building than the neighbours were on the spot. They smashed the front door and stamped the fire out. The fire brigade finished off the job.

Thanks to a good lawyer, the man got away with a suspended sentence.

He refuses to pay military tax

A pop singer was sentenced in Fribourg to five days imprisonment for refusing to pay military tax. Gaby Marchand had been previously sentenced a first time for the same offence, but his determination had earned him a suspended sentence. The singer didn't have to absolve military duties, but has to accomplish a few days of civil service duties every year. His attitude was motivated by "solidarity with conscientious objectors". It turned out, however, that he had never heard of the Munchenstein Initiative, which aims at giving conscientious objectors the opportunity to serve in non-military units.

Alleged Italian terrorists arrested in the Tessin

Four Italian left-wing extremists were arrested in the village of Golino, Tessin, in connection with the enquiry into the murders of the millionaire and Marxist editor, Giangiacomo Feltrinelli and the subsequent assassination of the Milan Police Inspector Luigi Calabresi. One of the men detained was Enrico Castelani, believed to have been with Feltrinelli shortly before his death. Castelani had also been wanted for his alleged participation in bomb assaults against the Pirelli company last year. The four men lived in a fortified 200-year-old customs house.

SWISS CATHEDRALS

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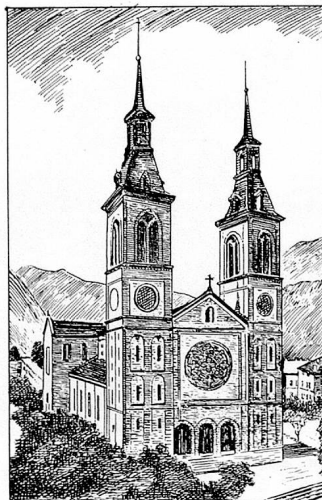
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GLARIS: THE BASILICA

Legend has it that the Irish monk and missionary Fridolin who, after labouring at home and in France at Poitiers, founded a church at Säkingen on the Rhine, and known as "the first apostle of Allemannia", did convert the Glaris region in the 6th Century.

The country of Glaris became the suzerainty of the Convent of Säkingen in the 8th or 9th Century. The patron of this convent, Saint-Fridolin, became the patron saint of Glaris where he also propagated Christianity. His frequent travels gave him the name of pilgrim.

His effigy appears in the cantonal coat-of-arms: "Gules, a St. Fridolin pilgrim habited sable, his head within a nimbus or, his dexter hand holding

a bourdon and his sinister a book".

According to tradition, Christianity was introduced to Glaris in the Roman era by the missionaries Saint-Felix and Sainte-Regula from Zurich, who made their escape from the Theban legion's massacre near Saint Maurice, Valais.

Most of Glaris' edifices were utterly destroyed by the disastrous fire of the 10th and 11th May, 1861; among others the old church, mother church of the canton, the 10th or 11th Century tower was spared from previous fires in 1265, 1337 and 1477.

Glaris is not rich in remarkable buildings, the great fire of 1861 having destroyed most historic and interesting buildings of the old Glaris. Yet, worth mentioning is the parish church (Stadtkirche) of imposing dimensions, a Romanesque style basilica with two towers, to serve at a time both Catholic and Protestant worships, the reform that Ulrich Zwingli had in view and did prepare during his priesthood in Glaris from 1506 to 1516. The total absence of painted or sculptured decoration is noticed, a concession to the spirit of Protestantism.

The church possesses a ringing of eight bells and an excellent organ. One can see in the sacristy the ancient chalice used by Zwingli during mass.

Glaris has always proved a keen and strong love of liberty gained at the battle of Näfels in 1388, and has developed a firm spirit of independence and solidarity. Its constitution rests on the principle of pure democracy, exercised by the "Landsgemeinde Parliament" which has, at all times, remained the supreme authority of the country.

Pierre Savoie