

# 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 Scafhusun, 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 (in spite 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 1258), 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 262m. 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 inter-cantonal. 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 officer for the infirm looked after 1,190 people including children, and in spite of help from "Pro Infirmis" funds, sale of cards and handsome private contributions, they made a deficit. The "Hilfsverein für Gemuetskranke" 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 Schmelczer (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 girl's 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 **Älterfursorge**. The 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 Nesslerau-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, Ebnet-Kappel, Wattwil and Altstätten. At Bazenheid, a new garbage incineration plant, the eleventh of its 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.

— The Swiss Observer