

It happened in the Canton of Solothurn

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tunities thus offered them. It will be necessary for Swiss concerns and associations to pay greater attention than before to this field of activity and to examine objectively what possibilities it offers them and their skilled labour. It would in fact be a great pity if these precision industries were to continue to go in for minor accessory work for foreign rockets and satellites. It is to be hoped that Swiss industry will rise above its modest subsidiary role and that institutions will be created, as far as possible by private enterprise, to act as links between the international organizations concerned and Switzerland's official organizations on the one hand, and private firms on the other. For this purpose, a federal consultative commission will soon be set up, composed of scientists and representatives of the Confederation and industrial circles; among other tasks incumbent on this commission will be that of helping to establish contact between the "European Organization for Space Research" — of which Switzerland is a member — and the economic circles concerned. This organization (and more precisely the representatives of the economy within it) should be able to count on the very keen interest of private enterprise, and it is to be hoped that the latter for its part will be able to set up a structure strong enough first of all to assume the role of partner and later to represent the interests of private concerns.

(By courtesy of "Swiss Industry and Trade" Review.)

SWITZERLAND'S CONTRIBUTION TO NUCLEAR SCIENCE

The new "Dragon" reactor, at the Winfrith nuclear centre (G.B.), has just been put into operation.

The machine for loading and unloading the fuel, which is an important part of the plant, was made in Geneva and assembled at Winfrith by SECA Ltd., a firm formed for the job by two big Swiss engineering concerns, Sécheron Ltd. and Charmilles Ltd. The machine was submitted to very severe tests, both in the works during preliminary assembly and at the time of the final assembly in the reactor chamber. The quality of the workmanship and the running tests carried out at high pressures and temperatures, corresponding to the operating conditions of the reactor, were entirely satisfactory.

[O.S.E.C.]

IMPORTANT SWISS AID FOR TURKEY

The agreement just concluded at Ankara between Switzerland and Turkey for carrying out a milk-industry programme constitutes the first step in the rational development of the great possibilities that Turkey, a country rich in pasture-land which however has lain neglected for centuries, offers in this field.

Turkey's five-year economic development plan provides for the creation of seven or eight sectors of the milk industry, two of which are to be set up in 1964. From the outset the Turkish Government had requested Switzerland's assistance, a request to which Switzerland readily responded. The agreement between the two countries relates to a joint scheme under which Switzerland will supply equipment and technical assistance. The latter will consist in granting fellowships for studies in Switzerland and sending experts to train Turkish supervisors in Turkey.

The scheme has two complementary aspects. Kars, with its vast grass-covered plains, is the chief centre of dairy production. However, since its development is checked by the lack of outlets, the Kars industry will be supplemented by that of Istanbul, the major centre for the consumption of dairy products in Turkey. At Kars itself a plant will be built for the production of powdered milk and of bulk butter and cheeses. These primary products will be transported to the various centres of consumption. Istanbul in turn will be equipped with a plant for processing milk from the neighbouring areas and, since local production is insufficient, refilled milk powder at Kars. Other products will also be handled, such as butter, cheese, ice-cream and the famous Turkish yogurt, reputed to be the best in the world. It is estimated that 100,000 litres of milk will be produced at Kars and the same amount processed at Istanbul.

Swiss experts and technicians will be in charge of managing and running the new industry. The Kars plant will be equipped with a modern Swiss school devoted to the technique of Cheese-making.

The cost of these schemes will amount to about 6.5 million Swiss francs (\$1.6 million). Out of this sum, 500,000 Swiss francs (\$120,000) will be donated by the Swiss Government. The rest will be supplied under long-term credit insurance contracts, at a low rate of interest.

[O.S.E.C.]

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF SOLOTHURN

The thirteenth volume of statistics compiled from the census of 1960 deals with the Canton of Solothurn. Between 1950 and 1960, the 132 Communes and 10 districts increased by 17.6%, and for the first time the number of inhabitants went above 200,000 (by 816). In 110 years, the population has grown by 188%. Thirty-six Communes show decreases, with the lowest minus 21.9%. Ninety-six Communes register increases, with the highest plus 59.3%. On 1st December 1960, 9.6% of the population were foreigners amongst whom seven-tenths Italians.

In 1860, out of every thousand inhabitants 861 were R.C., in 1960 577. On the other hand, the Protestant population has increased from 138 per thousand to 393.

The latest figures to hand regarding foreigners in the Canton of Solothurn show that on 31st August 1963 nearly 30,000 aliens (of whom 5,137 children) lived there.

In May, the electorate of the Canton accepted four proposals. One Bill provides new hunting and shooting

regulations. A second concerns changes in the building laws and allots the Canton the right to plan cantonal roads. The third legislates for special teachers' training courses, and the fourth legalises Church and public holidays.

Building activities on Solothurn territory increased in 1963 to 275.79 million francs as against 227.53 in the previous year. The extension and renovation of all the cantonal hospital buildings are progressing. To comply with the Federal decree to reduce building, a special commission has been formed to supervise the building programmes.

The big project known as the "Jura waters correction" is advancing according to plan. The aim is to lower the level of the lakes by 2.5 metres and to dehydrate the swampy surroundings. In all parts of the Canton, water purification schemes are being realised slowly but surely. The Communes of Nuglar and Dornach are now equipped with modern waste water plants. A working party for the protection of the Aare has been formed.

The trade and factory inspectorat of the Canton reported that too many holiday and sparetime jobs were being done by children, and the authorities appeal to parents, teachers and employers to keep juvenile work to a minimum.

The town of Solothurn had a population of 18,629 at the end of last year (1962: 18,945). Of these 2,376 were foreigners; Italians (1,379), Austrians (180), Spaniards (149) and Hungarians (69), etc.

An extraordinary meeting of the Commune Assembly in June was attended by 255 voters. They accepted the proposed higher limit to which the Commune authorities could make expenditure without the Assembly's explicit consent. They also decided to keep the closing hour of shops to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Every fully employed Commune functionary received a special free day to visit the EXPO, as well as a free admission card.

The venerable Town Hall of Solothurn is to have a modern lift installation, both for passengers and goods. The latter is particularly urgent, as, for example, ten tons of forms and papers have to be carried annually from the ground floor to the second floor for the tax administration alone.

The staff building with a nurses' training centre at the "Bürgerspital" will take two years to complete; it will have seven storeys. The shortage of staff compelled the management of the hospital to close some of the rooms for two months.

The station square will be renovated; the alterations will include widening the Roethibridge.

The Cantonal School in Solothurn gets bigger every year: 1,285 pupils in 61/62, and last year 1,373. 40% are girls, and the staff comprises 62 professors, 16 teachers and 70 assistant teachers.

From other Solothurn towns and Communes some news at random (alphabetically):

Balsthal: the electors rejected a proposal to reduce taxes by 10% and agreed to make a contribution to the renovation of the "Rösslisaal". The new President of the District Court was elected in the person of Fürspreh Joseph Baschung.

Biberist: The Commune Assembly accepted the annual accounts for 1963 and decided to create the position of a full-time building administrator. A new building plan has recently been worked out. The electors also decided to join the waste water group of Solothurn-Emme.

Dornach: On the last Sunday in September, the new district hospital Dorneck was inaugurated. It has taken six years to build and cost 9.2 million francs, of which the Canton of Baselland paid 4.2 million francs.

Gerlafingen: The firm of von Roll A.G. has taken over the "Gewerbliche Berufsschule" from the Commune and will in future run the college as part of their own undertaking.

Grenchen: At the end of 1963, there were 19,225 inhabitants in the town, 315 more than a year previously. For the first time, Grenchen has overtaken Solothurn.

After violent campaigning, the electorate accepted the new proposals for increased teachers' salaries. Earlier in the year the Inhabitants' Commune Council accepted plans for the erection of an old-age settlement with flats for 36, a home for 36 and a nursing home for 12-15 people.

The Grenchen airfield registered increased activity over the last year, in spite of unfavourable weather conditions.

The Third Triennial Exhibition of Original Graphic Art (based on a competition) took place at Grenchen this summer.

Guldenthal: the Federal Military Department has decided to give up the project of a shooting training centre there.

Gunzgen: The Swiss Aluminium Company (Alu-suisse) has bought a large area of land for the purpose of building new factories. There was anxiety regarding fluor damage, but the company has assured government and Communes that there would be no damage to crops or in any other way.

Lommiswil: Four graves have been discovered in which several skeletons were found, probably dating back to the seventh century.

Olten: The electorate accepted a proposal to make family allowances to municipal employees. The Commune Council and Assembly have decided to close the gas works and to join the "Gasverband Mittelland". The poison-free gas will be produced in Basle and is to be conducted by pipes as far as Berne and Neuchâtel. The Aare is so dirty that the health authorities of Olten had to prohibit bathing in the Olten area.

After 13.8 million francs had been granted for new school buildings, a project has been worked out for a multi-storeyed staff building for the cantonal hospital in Olten. Later, a credit was granted for bringing certain parts of the hospital up to date. The "Saeli-Schlössli" has been renovated, too, the favourite beauty spot dating to 1870.

A new postal motor coach service has been put into operation from Olten to Wolfwil.

The Olten branch of the Business and Professional Women's Club has celebrated its tenth anniversary.

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

SWISSAIR SOLAR HOLIDAYS

Swissair's "Solar Holidays" to the Middle East, Tunisia and Greece are a logical extension of the inclusive-tour idea, which has helped to make the British holiday-maker so air-minded.

Many of the better-off Britons want to range further afield on holiday and "Solar Holidays", which are to start on 1st November, are aimed at this ever-expanding section of the British public. No similar arrangement is in operation in any other country in Europe.

The ten holiday programmes chosen to launch Swissair's "Solar Holidays" cover Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Iran. The jet aircraft operating on these routes are Convair 990A Coronados — the fastest airliners in the world — and Caravelles.

The scheme will provide all the money-saving advantages of inclusive tours and the convenience and freedom of choice of ordinary scheduled services. It is Swissair's response to the existing and potentially great demand for the type of holiday that has until recent years been looked on as a prerogative of the rich.

Examples of inclusive charges:—

Nine days in Tunisia from £77 18s. 0d.; 12 days in Israel for £153 10s. 0d.; 20 days in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan for £164; 17 days in the Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt: £272 for each of two people.