

It happened in the cantons of Zug, Glarus and Schaffhausen

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1965)**

Heft 1473

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-688013>

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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF ZUG, GLARUS AND SCHAFFHAUSEN

ZUG

The smallest Canton in Switzerland has to face very heavy expenditure in the next ten years: road construction, water protection, civil defence and social housing will cost the vast sum of about 350 million francs. The budget for 1965, which was accepted at the first meeting this year of the Cantonal Parliament, shows a small deficit with revenue of 33.8 million francs. The new President is the Liberal Max Kamer (Zug). The new "Landammann" is Regierungsrat Dr. Hans Huerlimann, and the new "Statthalter" Regierungsrat Silvan Nussbaumer.

The cost of living grant which hitherto was 11% is to be 14% for the present year. The town of Zug has also increased the salaries of its civil servants. The budget for 1965 is balanced with income and expenditure at 15.3 million francs. The dog tax has been raised from Fr.20.— to Fr.40.— which has resulted in a good deal of protest and a Referendum.

The Commune of Walchwil had the highest taxes in the Canton fourteen years ago. Now its tax rates have been lowered and Walchwil will thus have the lowest taxes in Zug.

The new headmaster of the Cantonal School will be Prof. Dr. phil. Rudolf Hess (Unteraegeri) in succession to Dr. Herbener. The Zug Parliament voted for annual subsidies to the Free Catholic Teachers' Training College St. Michael in Zug and to the Evangelical Teachers' Training College in Zurich. This will entitle the Canton to several places at the said institutes. There is a shortage of teachers in Zug like elsewhere.

The Evangelical State Church has its own mortgage and loan co-operatives in the Cantons of Grisons, Zurich, St. Gall, Thurgau and Schaffhausen, and these have now been joined by Zug.

Huenenberg is the scene of oil prospecting, and news of oil of a different kind was given early in February, when some thousand litres of fuel oil ran into the sanitary system of the town of Zug. Fortunately, the drinking water supplies were not affected.

The R.C. community of Unteraegeri received a legacy of Fr.60,000.— by the late Joseph Nussbaumer for the renovation of their church.

GLARUS

Another small Canton which has financial worries is Glarus. It is particularly the Walensee road which needs an annual outlay of some Fr.120,000.—. Social housing and 4.7 million francs for the extension of the Cantonal Hospital will weigh heavily on the cantonal treasury. The budget for 1965 estimates a deficit of half a million francs with an income of 23½ million francs.

The new Cantonal Vet was elected in the person of Dr. med. vet. Jakob Blum (Schwanden) in succession to his father. The business for the "Landsgemeinde" in spring is being prepared according to the constitution.

The Bishop of Chur consecrated the new R.C. Church of Mollis on 22nd February.

A Glarus federation is in favour of the Toedi-Greina railway which is considered essential for improved communication between Eastern and Southern Switzerland.

Braunwald is conducting a campaign to attract more guests to its hotels. The resort is putting the emphasis on the fact that its streets are completely free of motorised traffic. While this is unquestionably attractive to holiday-makers, it has certain disadvantages for the town itself. Braunwald may be reached only by a mountain path or a cablecar. In order that tourists and hotel guests are not forced to carry their luggage from the cablecar terminus to their hotels, which are often some distance away, the town recently introduced a "noiseless" taxi service. Heavy loads are transported in two-wheeled, horse-drawn carts, while lighter loads are pulled by strong Bernese herd-dogs — who seem to enjoy the exercise.

SCHAFFHAUSEN

On 21st December, the Schaffhausen Grand Council held its last meeting of the year and also of its four-year term of office. It was the last meeting, too, for twenty members who retired either by resigning or by not having been re-elected. The President made an appeal to the youth of the Canton to take part actively in public service. The elections had taken place in October (participation of nearly 90%) after the traditional "Henkermoehli". The new Council began its work on 18th January, when the twenty-third legislative period was opened by the President of the Government, Regierungsrat Erwin Hofer. The Municipal President Walther Bringolf referred to his forty years as cantonal M.P. This was followed by the election of the new President, Werner Zaugg (Social Democrat). In his inaugural speech he congratulated the first woman President of a Cantonal Council, Geneva, and hoped that this would give Schaffhausen good reason for introducing women's suffrage in cantonal matters.

The new Council now has only 80 members as against 82 previously. The new Parliament consists of 27 Social Democrats (26 so far), Liberal Democrats 18 (19), Catholic/Christian Socialists 8 (7), Farmers', Trades' and Citizens' Party 18 (22), "Landesring" 3 (3), Democrats 2 (3), Evangelicals 2 (1), Young Liberals 1 (0). All five members of the Government have been re-elected.

The electorate agreed to the revision of the legal organisation in the Canton, which includes the division of the Cantonal Court into two Chambers. In November, the voters of town and Canton agreed to industrialise the Herblinger Valley at a cost of 36 million francs.

The Canton is to have a new pension scheme administration. Some 1,500 public servants are in it, and its capital stands at over 80 million francs. The minimum pensions are to be raised, too. The accounts for 1965 estimate a deficit of half a million francs, with revenue amounting to 48.2 million francs. Taxes are to be reduced.

At present, there are 7,000 foreign workers in the Canton and about 2,300 workers who commute between Germany and Schaffhausen.

Building in the Canton will cost 170 million francs in the new year. The new building laws allow a maximum height of 24 metres.

In 1964, motor vehicles in Schaffhausen increased by 7.8% to 15,390. On the other hand, accidents went down slightly. The new bridge leading from Schaffhausen to Feuerthalen is 19 metres wide. The first bridge there

was built in 1480 and was demolished by floods two hundred years later. The second one, too, was of wood, but after 1550, a massive stone bridge was built, which was damaged in the middle of the eighteenth century. The Appenzell bridge builder Grubenmann constructed the next one, again of wood and with a roof. It was burnt in 1799, when the French retreated over it. The next bridge is the one which has now had to go, sacrificed to the traffic of the twentieth century.

The Cantonal Electricity Works are to be enlarged and supplemented by two new plants at Hemishofen and Wilchingen (credit 8½ million francs).

The question whether the Upper Rhine should be made open to navigation is still being hotly debated. The first projects date back to after the first world war. Up to now the Rhine can only be navigated as far as Rheinfelden. The sports fishermen of the Lake Constance and Rhine regions have founded a committee against the proposed navigation. Schaffhausen's industries deny any alleged economic advantages.

After renewed negotiations, the Confederation and the Federal German Republic signed an agreement on 24th November, regarding the correction of the German-Swiss frontier at Schaffhausen.

Bargen is to have new customs buildings for which the Confederation needs 3.41 million francs. One of the largest waste water plants in the Bodensee region, a German-Swiss undertaking, is to be constructed, on Swiss soil at Ramsen.

An industrialist of Schaffhausen has bought an old mill (seventeenth century) at Buesingen, a German enclave, 4 km. from Schaffhausen, and has made it into a quaint hotel and restaurant, with a hall for two hundred people. The tourist trade last year has shown little change as compared with 1963. The number of visitors from abroad accounted for nearly 70% of the total.

The wine harvest for 1964 is termed "sehr gut geraten" with a quality above average. In September, the Cantonal Agricultural Co-operative celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

News from individual Communes is to hand from Schaffhausen and Neuhausen only. The electorate of the Canton's capital re-elected Walther Bringolf as Municipal President. At a previous poll, it decided by 5,454 to 640 votes to replace the trams with trolley-buses. There is a problem in the old town concerning modern traffic. A special commission "Pro City" is studying how best to combine the present shopping centre without undue traffic congestion. The shore of the Rhine is to be re-developed between the new bridge and the "Salzstadel", an historic warehouse from the year 1674.

There is to be a modern refuse incinerating plant, combined with the waste water clearing station. Schaffhausen has a new artificial ice rink combined with a swimming pool (to be opened in 1966). The new goods station necessitated the scrapping of the last natural ice rink, and now the town's skating enthusiasts make good use of the new facilities — within the first six days over 10,000 skaters visited the rink.

On 3rd November, there was a special service at the Schaffhausen Cathedral, commemorating the foundation of the first church on its site 900 years ago. In collaboration with leading archaeologists, the original walls have been restored during the past year. In the course of excavations, the tomb of the founder of the Abbey and the town Eberhard von Nellenburg, was discovered. The present Cathedral dating back to the twelfth century was renovated between 1950 and 1960. Thirty thousand letters and documents have been saved in the Municipal Library.

It concerns the neglected ministerial library, and the scientific research concerning these documents was carried out by a Hungarian Dr. Endre Zsindely from Zurich and financed by various bodies, including the Church and Schaffhausen industry.

The news from Neuhausen told of the closing down of the "Tonwarenfabrik Ziegler A.G.", founded in 1828. The Inhabitants' Council, the local Parliament, was founded in 1895 when Neuhausen had only 4,000 inhabitants. Today's population numbers 12,000. Seventy years ago, the accounts showed expenditure of Fr.125,000.—, today this is 5.7 million francs. Building alone at present in the course of construction costs ten million francs, including a new old-age home, school buildings and the construction of a "Leichtbenzin-Spaltanlage". (*The Editor would welcome some enlightenment regarding this term — she finds it impossible to translate correctly*). The local Parliament of twenty-five was re-elected by the citizens in November. They had previously accepted a new constitution which provided for greater financial competences and for a second full-time Commune Councillor.

Over forty young employees and apprentices from the Klettgau sent a petition to the Federal Council, asking for better adjustment of teaching methods according to modern conditions. The problems of the excessive boom, the young petitioners maintain, cannot be solved alone by economic and political measures — education should play a more vital part. The man or woman who wants to drive a car has to pass a test — but thousands of young people start a family without any preparation whatever. The petition refers to the "Path of Switzerland" at the EXPO and asks the Federal Council to use its influence in the maintenance of sound ideals.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

SWISS CONTRIBUTION TO NUCLEAR RESEARCH

A short while ago, the Oerlikon Engineering Works in Zurich carried out their final trials with one of the biggest electro-magnets they had ever built, an apparatus designed for the bubble chamber of the National Institute of Nuclear Research at Chilton (Harwell), Great Britain. This magnet weighs approximately 85 tons, 12 tons being accounted for by the exciter winding and 72 by the yoke. Magnets are frequently used nowadays in atomic research centres. It should be noted that the Oerlikon Engineering Works, which have already supplied a number of magnets to CERN (European Nuclear Research Centre), produced their first electro-magnet for the Zurich Institute of Technology sixty years ago, and have built 300 since then, 200 of them since 1959.

[O.S.E.C.]

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Happy the man, whose wish and care
A few paternal acres bound;
Content to breathe his native air

In his own ground.
Whose herds with milk, whose fields with bread,
Whose flocks supply him with attire,
Whose trees in summer yield him shade,
In winter, fire.

POPE.