

# In happened in North-Western Switzerland

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# IT HAPPENED IN NORTH-WESTERN SWITZERLAND

## BASELSTADT

The budget for 1966 of the Canton of Basle estimates revenue of 367,500 million francs, expenditure of over 382,000 mio, a deficit of well over 14,500 million francs.

The Basle Government visited Leningrad in August, and the Leningrad municipal authorities returned the courtesy visit in September.

The forty seats of the newly elected Basle Citizens' Council are distributed as follows: Social Democrats 9 (at hitherto), Radical Democrats 7 (7), Liberal Democrats 7 (9), Catholic/Christian Socialists 7 (8), Landesring 4 (2), Evangelicals 4 (4), "Partei der Arbeit" (Communists) 2 (1). The new President is the Liberal Eduard Voellmy, that of the Inner Council Dr. A. Moppert (Socialist). Women, too, are members of the Citizens' Council. In October, the Cantonal Parliament decided after much deliberation, that married women could be employed as teachers.

In October, 45 million francs were granted by the Grand Council for a subsidiary electricity plant, two University Institutes and the enlargement of the Friedmatt Nursing Institution.

The "Basler Verkehrsbetriebe" showed a deficit of 1.7 million francs. Thirty mio have been asked for 20 new trolley cars, 20 cars and as many trailers, 10 trolley and 14 ordinary buses. Fares have been revised and increased.

The number of students registered at Basle University is well on the way to 4,000. A new students' home was inaugurated at the Mittlere Strasse; it has 101 rooms, large common rooms and 25 garages.

The Basle Science Prize has been awarded to Prof. Dr. Peter Diehl, a physicist of only 34 years.

After the University had a Churchill Memorial Service in June, it was the 700th anniversary of the birth of Dante, which was commemorated in December. Just before Christmas, the Basle students formed a Students' Parliament.

Larger subsidies are to be paid to the Municipal Theatre, its pension fund and the "Basler Orchester Gesellschaft". The so-called Art Credit again amounted to Fr. 70,000.— for prizes, awards and acquisitions.

The Thomas Platter Haus (fifteenth century) is to be saved and renovated. The Swiss Monument Trust and the Basle "Co-op", the ACV, will contribute financially.

2.5 million francs will be needed to renovate the Basle Town Hall dating back to 1775. A new secondary school "Brunnmatt" was opened in the Gundeldinger district in September. Not counting kindergartens, this is the fiftieth school in Basle.

An international toy museum is to be created in the "Landvogteisitz" of the former burgomaster Wettstein at Riehen. This Commune now has well over 20,000 inhabitants.

A new comprehensive employment agreement has been made for the Basle chemical industries. It fixes wages and three weeks holidays after four years of service.

The Thiersteiner school celebrated its Golden Jubilee in November. The St. Clara Gymnastic Society looks back on 75 years and the ACV on a century. The Danzas Transport company celebrated 150 years of activities, and in September, the "Bürgerspital" commemorated 700

years of existence. Nearly as long ago as this hospital was founded, the first bridge across the Rhine was built (1285).

A large trial took place at the Basle Court of Justice in which 24 men were involved, concerned with forging customs documents for watches. Just before Christmas, 34 year-old Henri Schihin absconded, leaving behind debts of at least 1.5 million francs. On 30th November, a large fire caused much damage at the Basle Airport Muelhausen.

Finally, the last "Rekrutenschule" in Basle of the Medical Corps was released on 20th November. In future, the "Sanitätsrekruten" will be trained in Lausanne. Basle will no longer have the title "Waffenplatz", and the barracks in the Klingental will be used for other purposes after the end of 1966.

## BASELLEND

The budget of the Canton of Baselland for 1966 also shows a deficit. Revenue is estimated at 167 million francs, and the loss is expected to be 10½ mio. Building alone, including land purchase, will be over 59 million francs. Vast sums will be needed for roads, the express road through the Ergolz Valley, the Hauenstein roads and others. *Gymnasien* in Liestal and Münchenstein, trade schools in Liestal and Muttentz and the "Technikum beider Basel" will have to be financed. To this will be added 140 mio francs for the Bruderholz Hospital and 70 mio for waste water plants. Financial prospects cause anxiety.

After a long debate the Cantonal Parliament decided by 53 to 7 votes to ask the popular consent for gradual women's suffrage. The R.C. Church Synod of the Canton has declared in favour of women's vote in church matters.

The number of foreign workers in the Canton sank by 19.1% to 24,634 in a year from 1st November 1964.

On 15th December, four million metric tons of freight had been handled in a year in the Rhine Docks of Birsfelden and Au. Optimistic estimates 24 years ago had visualised a bare 400,000 tons per annum.

The Cantonal Gymnastic Society, at a cost of a million francs, has created a home for 144 youngsters on the Tannenbodenalp above Quarten (St. Gall).

Binningen is to have an old people's home. Frenken-dorf has the most modern brewery in Switzerland (Ankerbrauerei A.G.).

Liestal, the birthplace of Nobel prize winner Carl Spitteler 100 years ago, has now a by-pass. Oberwil looks back on 150 years of belonging to the Confederation; the Birseck was joined to Basle by a decision of the Vienna Congress. The Weiher Schloss at Pratteln is to be renovated.

30,000 visitors attended the celebration when Reinach became a Municipal Commune on reaching a population of 10,000. Successful excavations were completed in October in the bear caves near Tecknau. Under the direction of Prof. Elisabeth Schmid of Basle University, more skeleton finds have been brought to light, all of great scientific value.

## THE FUTURE CANTON BASLE (?)

A Council to work out the Constitution of a new Canton Basle combining the two Half-Cantons Baselstadt and Baselland, was founded in 1960. Its work has been going on. In 1965, there were six meetings, partly in Basle, partly in Liestal.

There is still considerable opposition in the "Baselbiet". On 26th September, there was a popular meeting at Augst arranged by the movement for an independent Canton Baselland. About 600 people attended. They sent a resolution to the Federal Council, expressing disappointment that the federal authorities had so far not yet given certain guarantees through legislation to safeguard peaceful procedure in the event of any Canton splitting up or two Cantons uniting. The resolution also expressed concern that by preparing a "Grosskanton" and the resulting liquidation of two flourishing Cantons, the peace and fruitful regional co-operation in North-Western Switzerland will be disturbed.

There was also criticism of an unfair Press trying to belittle the movement of independence.

*(News by courtesy of the Agence  
Télégraphique Suisse.)*

## RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Alfred Ammann (76), Lucerne, architect.

Hendrik Kraemer (77), Geneva, died at Driebergen (Netherlands), Honorary Professor of the Faculty of Theology of Geneva University and former Director of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey; former Vice-President of the International Mission Council.

Emile Walch (92), Chardonne, former banker in Zurich; since 1913 at Chardonne of whose Commune Council he was a member for twenty years.

Msgr. Anton Lautenschlager (67), Zug, vicar of the "Stadt-zugerische Pfarrei Guthirt"; died due to a car accident.

Karl Schuler (67), Schwyz, well-known politician of Central Switzerland; lawyer; Commune Councillor and Schwyz Cantonal M.P.; one-time Secretary of the "Innerschweizerischer Bauernbund"; Editor of its paper.

Onésime Crettex (93), Champex, the *doyen* of the Swiss mountain guides; he made the first ascent of the Aiguille de Javel in 1896, together with Baron Hessling.

Dr. Peter Mueller (56), Ruswil (Lucerne), lawyer; Commune President; Sursee District "Regierungsstatthalter"; member of the Cantonal Council for twenty years; Councillor of States since 1955.

Leopold Schumacher (93), Lucerne (from Buonas), former Manager of the "Siegwartbalken Fabrik", then of the Credit Bank; Colonel of Mountain Infantry.

Frau Dr. med. Adèle Thommen-Weissenberger (93), Basle; opened her medical practice in 1900 and was the oldest woman doctor in Basle.

O. Oscar Blanc (88), Fontanivent/Montreux, Liberal member of the Vaudois Parliament; farmer and wine grower.

Henri Pannatier (74), Vernamiège/Sion, "Glöckner der EXPO"; *doyen* of the Swiss vergers; in service with his Commune for over 60 years.

Henri Laufenburger (67), Mollens/Sierre, Professor of financial economy at Geneva University; author on the subject.

Albert Zwahlen (73), Wohlen/Aargau, President of the federation of Aargau "Hutgeflechtfabrikanten" and member of many organisations of his trade and others.

August Suter (79), Birsfelden, sculptor; creator of the Spitteler monument in Liestal.

Karl Uetz (63), Muensingen/Berne, author; former teacher; awarded several Bernese art prizes for his writings in dialect.

Oscar de Chastonay (68), Sion, manager of the Cantonal Bank; former Councillor of State.

Prof. Pierre Bovet (87), Grandchamp/Neuchâtel, Professor of philosophy at Geneva University; author; was awarded several honorary degrees.

Georges Graz, Geneva, during and after the war in charge of the central office for prisoners of war of the International Red Cross Committee.

Dominik von Euw-Camenzind (71), Brunnen, Social Democrat Commune Councillor and President, "Statthalter" of the Schwyz district.

Henri Struebin (80), Neuchâtel, well-known figure in commerce and owner of one of the finest collections of weapons in Europe, which is to go to the town of Neuchâtel.

Ivan Mahaim (69), Lausanne (originally Belgian), studied in Lausanne; heart specialist, professor and writer; director of the Clinic of Céry.

Dr. Max Oettli (86), Glarisegg/Thurgau, former teacher of natural sciences at Glarisegg "Gymnasium"; from 1921 to 1946 Secretary of the central office for the fight against alcoholism in Lausanne; writer.

Alzert I. Welti (81), Amriswil, well-known painter and poet from Zurich; son of the famous painter Albert Welti; author of "Servet in Genf", "Steinbruch", "Der Dolch der Lucretia", etc.

Federal Judge Dr. Jakob Heusser (64), Zurich; lawyer, Social Democrat; on the Federal Tribunal since June 1964.

Prof. Walter Muschg (67), Basle, literary historian and author; Professor at Basle University.

Dr. ing. h.c. Arnold Kaech (84), Lucerne, well-known engineer with experience in many countries; oldest living Honorary Doctor of the ETH.

Oberstdivisionär Paul Wacker (74), Berne, Divisional Commander of Infantry; retired from the Army in 1950, but served as Commander of the Swiss Commission in Korea.

Alfred Schaetzle (58), Lucerne, in charge of the family business "Seeverlad- und Kieshandels A.G."; 1945-1965 President of the "Gewerbeverband" Lucerne; from 1947-1951 Liberal member of the Lucerne Parliament; former "Safran Zunftmeister und Fritschivater"; President of the Rowing Club Reuss; one-time President of the Swiss Rowing Federation.

Erich Ullman (73), Winterthur; agronomist and dairy expert, mainly in the Thurgau whose Councillor of States he became in 1939; he retired in 1963; held rank of Colonel in the Army.

Gustav Adolf Schelling (72), St. Gall, for 47 years in the "Helvetia" Insurance; General Manager and member of the Board; from 1942-1955 Liberal Democrat member of the St. Gall Educational Council, as well as of many other educational bodies.

Ruben Lanicca (84), Thusis, Grisons politician; National Councillor (Democrat) from 1935 to 1947.

[A.T.S.]