

# It happened in the cantons of Fribourg and Neuchâtel

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# IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF FRIBOURG AND NEUCHÂTEL

## FRIBOURG

The annual accounts of the Canton of Fribourg were very nearly balanced, slightly on the right side, at around 115 million francs, a good three million francs better than estimated. The accounts of the Municipality of Fribourg, too, ended favourably at something like 18 million francs.

The Fribourg Parliament confirmed Councillor of States P. Torche in his office. Monsieur Torche had to be replaced as *Conseiller d'Etat*, however. None of the three candidates received the necessary absolute majority in the first poll at the end of February. The second time, on 13th March, the Liberal Radical, National Councillor Paul Genoud, was elected. The February elections for the Commune Councils in the Canton was marked by a move to the Left. In the town of Fribourg, the Conservative Christian Socialist Party has lost its absolute majority which it had held since 1903 and has now only one member in the executive body of nine. In most Communes, voting participation was very high, and in many cases it was over 80% of the electorate.

It was revealed at a Press Conference in February that Fribourg University, for the first time, counted more than 3,000 students. The largest increase has been registered in the Faculty of Philosophy I, whereas the Theological Faculty showed a slight decrease.

The *Hochschulopfer* of the University of Fribourg for 1965 amounted to a total of Fr.1,164,803.—, a few hundred francs more than in the previous year.

## NEUCHÂTEL

The annual accounts of the Canton of Neuchâtel for 1965 ended with a surplus of half a million francs, revenue standing at 93½m.

The electorate had to go to the poll on 20th March, and the four projects which were accepted reflect the main concern of the cantonal authorities: protection of the Jura Hills, vineyards and lake shores (three-fifths of Neu-

châtel territory will come under some sort of protective regulations); a credit of 8.6 million francs for ground amelioration and water mains; a credit of 47 m. for improving cantonal roads; the purchase and construction of a building for the training college of Neuchâtel (1¼ million francs).

A speech laboratory is to be added to the Commercial College, and the capital of the Cantonal Bank is to be doubled.

The Neuchâtel Parliament accepted a resolution which requests the Federal Assembly to extend women's suffrage to federal level.

The Canton's population at the beginning of the year stood at 160,973; there are 5,881 more women than men.

The 118th anniversary of the Revolution which led to the foundation of the Canton was celebrated as usual on 1st March.

The budget for 1965 of the town of **Neuchâtel** estimated a loss of nearly 2½ million francs. The accounts closed with a slight surplus, revenue standing at 44.8m. The movement against the construction of a national road along the lake front continued its fight against the planned road which would separate the town from the lake.

**La Chaux-de-Fonds** is to have a training centre for nurses and auxiliary nursing staff. The electorate of **Colombier** rejected a proposal to build blocks of flats at reduced rents.

The school authorities of **Couvet** decided to introduce the five-day week for their school also during the winter. The population of **Le Locle** has increased by 142 to 14,858, including 3,544 foreigners. The Commune of **St. Blaise** celebrated its Patron's Day early in February. Apart from various kinds of entertainment, the young men and women citizens who have come of age are received into the adult Commune in a Church Service.

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

## A TOP ORGANISATION FOR THE SWISS CLOTHING INDUSTRY

In order to be better prepared for tackling today's big tasks, which can only become increasingly important in the future, four Swiss organizations have just founded a Central Union of the Clothing Industry in Zurich. This new institution consisting of the Swiss Association of Ready-to-Wear and Lingerie Manufacturers, the Swiss Union of Men's Clothing Manufacturers, AFRA: Associazione fabbricanti ramo abbigliamento del cantone Ticino, and the Group of Ready-to-Wear Manufacturer-Retailers for Men and Boys aims above all to co-ordinate economic policy and employers' policies, to promote relations between the affiliated organisations and to represent the interests of the latter with the authorities and other associations. It intends, in addition, to tighten the links with the clothing industry on the international level.

[O.S.E.C.]

## SUCCESS OF SWISS INDUSTRY IN BRAZIL

The Charmilles Engineering Works Ltd. in Geneva recently received an order for two vertical shaft Pelton turbines for the Capivari Power Station in the province of Parana, Brazil. Each turbine, rated at 70,000 kW (95,000 h.p.) under a head of 2,467 feet, will be provided with four jets driving a single runner. The units will be controlled by Chamilles electrical governors. In its final stage, the station will be equipped with four units, so that in view of this future expansion of the plant, the original order placed with Charmilles comprised four 1,050 mm. diameter spherical valves for shutting off the feed pipes. This big order also included the supply of a 700 kW auxiliary turbine and a 2,800 mm. diameter penstock valve of the butterfly type.

[O.S.E.C.]

## REMEMBER THE SOLIDARITY FUND OF THE SWISS ABROAD