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

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1967)**

Heft 1535

PDF erstellt am: **29.04.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-696225>

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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

The population in 1966 increased slightly to 1,051,000.

In March, 1,280 candidates contested the 180 seats in the Cantonal Parliament, 637 in the town of Zurich alone (for 86 seats). The newly elected Cantonal Council chose Josef Nigg as its President. Incidentally, the M.P.s in the Canton include six medical practitioners.

At the end of the year, 15,312 officials, employees and workmen, including teachers and the police, were employed by the Canton. Salaries and wages increased by just under 27m. to 277.2m. francs. The number of teachers went up by 342.

The Canton's funds showed a decrease by 31.8m. to 107.5m. francs in 1966. The 1966 deficit was 15.9m. francs, revenue standing at 897.5m. The budget estimates a surplus of 2 million, with expenditure reaching the staggering estimated total of 1,117.8m. francs. The Canton have agreed to a credit of 13.5m. towards the increase in capital of NOK (North Eastern Powerworks).

The tariff of the Cantonal Hospital newly in force in 1966 raised the income by 4.7m. francs as compared with the previous year. The new staff house for the Cantonal High-Altitude Home at Arosa in the Grisons was opened mid-October; the cost of adapting the former Hotel Surlej was 1.9m. francs.

In 1966, the Canton spent 490m. francs on National Roads, without counting the connecting road network. Whilst the number of motor cycles declined in 1966, the number of registered motor vehicles increased by about 16,000 to 233,000. The Sihltal railway celebrated its 75th anniversary in September, and the Forchbahn will soon introduce new rolling stock, the old carriages being 50 years old.

Tours on the lake are increasing in popularity, and the number of ordinary passengers also increased during the summer of this year. The "Turi-Sub", an archaeological diving club, discovered several new traces of lake-dwellings. Further investigations will be made this winter — no diving is possible during summer on account of boating.

The women's voluntary military service, the "Frauenhilfsdienst", celebrated its silver jubilee in the Canton of Zurich in spring. There was an exhibition on the anchored motor boat "Helvetia" with the aim of recruiting more women and girls.

Men and women of the Evangelical Reformed Church of the Canton of Zurich accepted the new Cantonal Church constitution, which, briefly, aims at spreading the responsibility to all members of the community. The newly elected Church Synod consists of 56 theologians and 124 laymen, amongst them seven women. At its first meeting, it elected the first woman Church Councillor of the Canton, Mrs. Hulda Autenrieth-Gander (Rueschlikon), well-known in women's organisations. There are seven Councillors in all; the President of the Synod, Dr. A. Geilinger (Winterthur), was confirmed in office. At the moment, over 20 Ministers are wanted in the Canton.

The R.C. citizens elected the 15 members of their Central Commission of the Canton at the end of May, and the President, Dr. B. Flueller (Kuesnacht) was re-elected, it was the first time that women were able to vote with the men.

In July, the electorate rejected by a large majority the 72-million franc credit for a new Cantonal School at Oerlikon. It was not the school as such, but the vast amount of money the citizens objected to, though all the Parties had been in favour. On the other hand, the two

proposals for legal reform and new water laws were accepted with large majorities.

The number of students at Zurich University increased by a further 500 this summer to 6,827, of whom 830 were foreign nationals. The University now has a new Institute for Operational Research and Electronic Computer Work, in charge is Prof. Dr. H. P. Kuenzi. The Foundation for Student Homes, started with a gift of 2 million francs by the "Schweiz. Rückversicherungsgesellschaft" on the occasion of its centenary, started activities when a large student's home was begun at the Witellikerstrasse; it will house 100 students. Another home with rooms and flatlets was opened in May, started at the initiative of former ETH members. Talking of insurance companies, the "Zuerich Versicherungsgesellschaft" made a net profit of 20.8m. francs in 1966. The new President of the Cantonal Bank is Mr. Emil Straub, the new Vice-President Mr. Hans Storrer.

"A year of helping — a year of learning — a year of facing life", that is the motto of the new voluntary Zurich "Sozialjahr". At the moment, 26 young girls are being trained, first in a course at the domestic training college, then they work for three months each in two families, in a kindergarden and in a hospital.

The amount spent by the Canton on scholarships in 1966 went up by 10% to 3.33m. francs, of which 1.3m. went to 527 students of the University and the ETH, 1.25m. to 831 pupils of cantonal middle schools, the Winterthur technical college and teachers' training colleges. For the first time, the Canton received a Government subsidy of nearly half a million francs for scholarships.

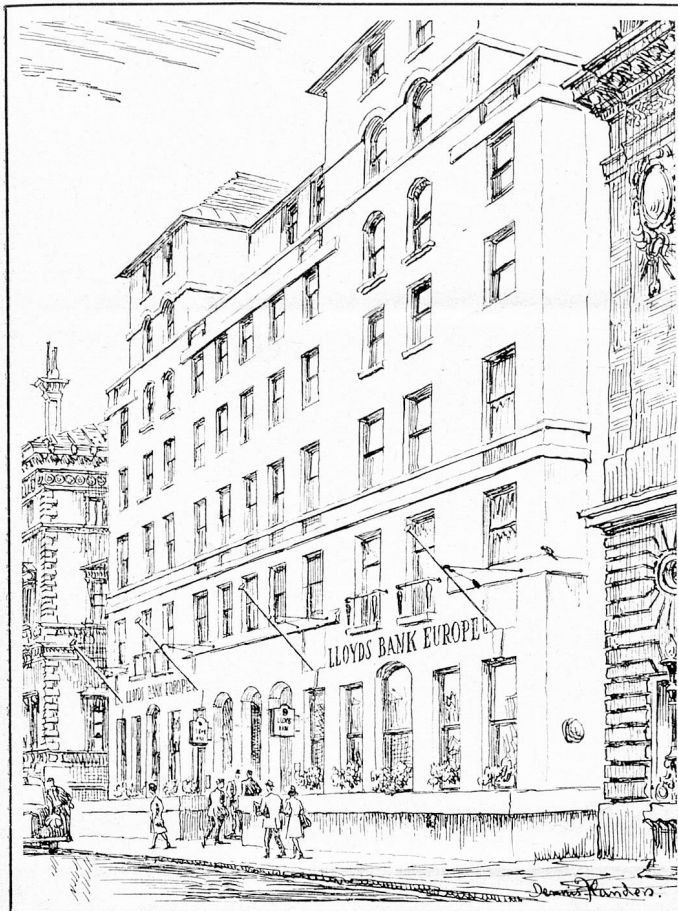
The Canton runs 25 holiday camps in various parts of Switzerland, and 2,254 children used them in the summer; in addition, there are some special camps, viz. for French, for football and model aeroplane construction.

New newspapers have appeared: The "Züri Leu", especially for Zurich and neighbouring Communes; "Zürcher Rundschau", and "Podium 051" which will be distributed to all T.V. viewers in the 051 district. In spring, all the editors of the "Zürcher Woche", for reasons of incompatibility with the publishers' views, resigned, and a new staff has been taken on.

ZURICH TOWN

The largest Swiss town counted 1,593 millionaires in 1966, and 1953 individuals declared property of over ½m. Over 290,000 people were in employment or self-employed. Those in municipal employment numbered 15,500, an increase of 330. The Municipality received donations and legacies of not quite ½m. francs, over half of this sum in favour of orphans.

The town of Zurich owns some 10,000 pictures and 3,000 fountains, sculptures, murals and mosaics. Apart from showing some of them at periodic exhibitions, most of these works of art are distributed in schools, homes and hospitals and other public buildings. It has been decided that pictures of living Zurich artists can be hired at about 5% of their value, the rent being deducted from a possible subsequent purchase. As the pictures will be chosen by a team of three experts and then shown at the "Kunst-kammer Strauhof", good new works will be advertised. Zurich has had a series of splendid art exhibitions this year, among them a large Chagall show, then van Gogh, Carigiet, Mucha and Kaethe Kollwitz, Lies Sandoz and



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Furuta and Werner Aerni. 34 painters and sculptors of the Enge district, which used to be a farming village, organised an exhibition in June. The Art Museum has put three rooms of its old building at the disposal of the Dr. Mayenfisch Collection of about 200 works of some 75 Swiss artists of the twentieth century. The art prize of the town of Zurich has been awarded to Varlin (Willy Guggenheim) from Lengnau/Aargau. In July, the new Le Corbusier Centre was opened which the famous architect himself had planned. The Zurich "Schauspielhaus" took Duerrenmatt's "Der Meteor" on a successful tour to Berlin where the comedy had been awarded a prize last year.

Japanese cherryblossom trees have been sent to Zurich from the town of Nara, Takamuku, Japan, as a token of admiration for Pestalozzi; they have been planted near the Pestalozzianum.

Zurich was again a favourite for congresses and conferences in 1966; 17,000 people took part in 38 such meetings, half of them from abroad. In addition, there were other shows and festivals. In March, the Zurich gardening experts staged the "Flower Paradise" at the "Hallenstadion", followed in April by the traditional "Sechse-läuten". The "Stadtzunft" Zurich celebrated its centenary. In May, there were Dutch Days, followed by Europe Day. The June Festival Weeks opened with a big ball after the première of "Madame Bovary" by Sutermeister. In spite of rain, the "Knabenschieszen" in September was a great success; the *Obmann* of the "Schützengesellschaft", Mr. B. Truninger (a subscriber to the S.O.) welcomed prominent guests, among them members of the Cantonal Government, the Consular Corps and high Army officers. In October, there were French Gastronomical Weeks.

Hans Wolfermann was elected new President of the Commune Council when the new *Amts-jahr* began in May. The budget for 1968 estimates revenue of 572m., and expenditure of 492m. francs, not counting amortisations and extraordinary expenditure for construction work. A credit of 1.7m. has been sought for participating in the increase in the share capital of Swissair. Over 4m. francs was brought in by entertainment tax (*Billetsteuer*). Net surplus of 22.8m. francs was realised by the town's electricity works. Much criticism has been voiced that the Commune Council granted 4.45m. for the purchase of 396 tram ticket machines. Talking of machines, there was great consternation when a million francs was missing in the Social Welfare Office; it was due to wrong computer feeding!

There is still a shortage of hotels in Zurich, but other building projects are going ahead. The SIA building, new home of the Swiss Engineers and Architects, has been started at Selnau, as has the multi-storey building for Radio Studio Zurich at the Brunnenhof. By rationalising, the town has saved 10% on the cost of 45m. francs for 749 flats in five settlements. The old house "Zur Glocke" (1408) has been renovated by a descendant of a former owner Johann Usenbenz, and an old farm (17th century) at the Leimbachstrasse is also to be saved. A church centre will be built at Leimbach (5.5m. francs), and the "Predigerkirche" has been successfully renovated; it is 700 years old. The "Diakonissenhaus Bethanien" has been enlarged in 8 years and can now enjoy the new buildings. The new "Globus", eleven storeys high, was opened in September, and Denners have opened two super-discount shops, revolutionary food stores.

The electorate refused a 5.6m.-franc credit for a police garage; this may be some reaction to recent complaints by motorists that the police had given them rough handling.

Zurich has a new crematorium near the Waid Hospital, extending over 12,000 square metres. Also open are the new central laundries of the Zurich hospitals.

The ninth school year has been declared compulsory for the town of Zurich. The new school at Schwamendingen has been inaugurated.

Confederation, Canton and Municipality have at last agreed on how to solve the road problem in Zurich. It will cost altogether two milliard francs.

The new Stadtchemiker, Dr. ing. chem. ETH Richard Brown, succeeds Dr. H. Forster who retires. Their office has been busy, what with an alarming drinking water pollution due to a textile factory's processing chemicals; nearly 70,000 inhabitants were affected.

The "Touring Club Suisse" of Zurich, celebrated its golden jubilee in April. It has over 88,000 members, a further increase in a year of 6,300.

A big town like Zurich quite naturally also has its share of crime; there was a big picture theft, value 1.5m. francs, early in the year, from the Elite Film Manager's office. In May, two international crooks were caught in Zurich, a German *Millionen-Schmuckdieb* and two South American cheque forgers. In addition, an extensive dope ring was seized — 17 people. In July, thieves got away with 280,000 francs from the Schlieren post office, and the police closed 12 private clubs. In September, there was a bank raid and thieves got away with 350,000 francs, but were caught soon enough.

COMMUNES

Hardly had the Commune of Baeretswil inaugurated its new school, when it organised a "Bahnfest" to demonstrate that the railway between Upper Glattal and Toesstal was still in demand, though the SBB are thinking of closing it; it is popularly known as the "Ueberbeinbahn". At Dielsdorf, the corner stone was laid mid-October for the new school and home for spastics. The electorate of Duebendorf decided against a Commune Parliament.

In spring, there was a serious fire at Elgg, in which 50 people lost their homes; four houses were gutted, and a boy lost his life. The Commune Assembly of Faellanden has just granted a credit of 1.8m. francs for a gymnasium with swimming pool and two flats. At Faegswil, a man went berserk and shot three people. The Restaurant "Alpenblick" at Gossau (1486) was gutted by fire in spring; it was caused by mice nibbling sulphur matches!

The only 600 inhabitants of Greifensee granted 4.6m. francs for a new primary school and a double kindergarden. Herrliberg inaugurated its new school centre in summer with a pageant. An Emil-Spoerri Foundation has enabled the Commune of Hittnau to have a home for old-age pensioners at the "Luppenhof". Kloten citizens voted for the introduction of a Commune Parliament. Thanks to a legacy by Mrs. A. Hitz-Gmuer (½m. francs), Langnau/Albis will be able to have a home for old people. Only 100 citizens attended the Commune Assembly at Maennedorf, but they voted 2.7m. for a new school Hasenacker II. The Meilen-Herrliberg-Uetikon waste-water plant has become operational, and Richterswil citizens have voted for a water reservoir and pumping station.

Thalwil citizens voted 2.3m. francs just for road construction work, more especially for the junction alte Landstrasse/Sonnenbergstrasse. Uster's electorate granted the credit for a special school for handicapped children (1m.), and Voelketswil citizens agreed to a 3m.-credit for a swimming pool with heating; one brave man only voted against. The Waedenswil Church celebrated its bicentenary, and an extensive new riding school and jumping ground

were opened early in October, suitable for shows and competitions and some 2,000 spectators. When the church at Wangen was renovated, traces of six former building parts were discovered underneath it, the first dating to the 8th century. The Commune Assembly of Zumikon granted over 7½ million francs for a new primary school.

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

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

The following couples have recently celebrated their diamond wedding anniversaries:

Mr. and Mrs. Francis and Augusta Veyrat, Geneva;
Mr. and Mrs. Jakob and Roesli Ferber-Bernard, St. Gall;
Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Theophil and Paulina Kraus-Lienhard, Basle;
Mr. and Mrs. Ernst and Tabitha Wirz-Kaesler, Basle;
Mr. and Mrs. Gustav and Alwine Gasser-Spiess, Diepoldsau (Rhine Valley); and Mr. and Mrs. Hans Richner-Hilfiker, Wohlen (Aargau).

[A.T.S.]

SWISS BANK CORPORATION Increase of Capital

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held in Basle on 5th of October, it was decided to increase the share-capital of the Bank from 270,000,000 to 300,000,000 Swiss francs by the issue of 60,000 new bearer shares of Frs.500.—.

The new share will be issued at the price of Frs.1,000.— in the proportion of one new for every nine old and will rank for dividend as from 1st of October, 1967.

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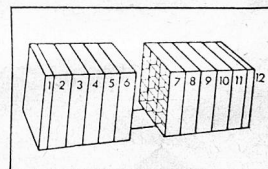
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