

Deficits in the cantonal accounts

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

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1968)**

Heft 1550

PDF erstellt am: **19.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-693983>

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ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

When Armin Schibler's Concerto for Percussion and Orchestra had its first British performance at the Festival Hall recently, the composer gave a lecture on "My work as a composer" at the Royal Academy of Music.

The Zurich organist Verena Lutz gave a recital at the Farm Street Church in Mayfair, and Claudine Perretti who lives in Paris, a piano recital at the Wigmore Hall.

The international periodical "Adam", published in London and devoted to art, drama, architecture and music, issued a special number on the Vaudois writer C. F. Ramuz. It has contributions by André Chamson, Jean Cocteau, Anne-Marie Monnet, Henri Peyre, Gustave Roud, Daniel Simond and Gilbert Guisan. Naturally, the author himself was cited, partly from a hitherto unpublished work. Amongst the British writers and critics are Fraser Mackenzie, Milton Stansbury (English translator of "La Grande Peur dans la Montagne"), Ronald T. Sussex and Clarence Parsons.

There was an exhibition in Basle of works by the English painter Ben Nicholson (born 1894) who has been living near Brissago for the last ten years.

The Power Works of North-Western Switzerland (NOK) have signed an agreement with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority regarding the recharging of spent fuel elements from the two reactors at the atomic power station at Beznau. This recharging will be done at the Windscale establishment in Northern England, and the agreement secures the use of radio-active waste for peaceful purposes for many years.

The Anglican Church looks after churches in many parts of Europe, and every few years, a conference takes place somewhere on the European Continent. This year, the Conference took place at Interlaken in May, and a number of high Anglican Church dignitaries attended, among them the Lord Bishop of London and the Lord Bishop of Fulham.

On the Gurten near Berne, there is a children's paradise. In it runs a popular miniature railway which carries hundreds of enthusiastic visitors through life-like traffic and attractive countryside. The train is pulled by an authentic model of the London-Midland-Scottish Railway.

The Sixth International electro/thermal congress took place in Brighton recently, attended by 700 experts. Switzerland was represented by a large and comprehensive delegation made up of experts from industry, electricity works and electricity users, etc. The Manager of the "Gesellschaft des Aare-und Emmenkanals", Mr. U. V. Buettikofer, Solothurn, was elected Vice-President of the international organisation.

48 men and women representing the East Suffolk Civil Defence Association visited Switzerland in June. It was headed by Wing Commander D. C. Charlier. The British visitors were looked after by the Swiss Federation for Civil Defence, and they visited civil defence establishments in several part of the country, including smaller places like Sugiez and Oberdiessbach. They also inspected the large depot of the Federal Office for Civil Defence at Wabern and some of the subterranean shelters in Berne and the new first aid post with 300 beds in Aarau and many more centres. On leaving, the British visitors commented most favourably on their visit, not only regarding the serious business of civil defence, but also as to the hospitality which the Swiss offered them.

(A.T.S. and "Pro Helvetia")

DEFICITS IN THE CANTONAL ACCOUNTS

Unexpectedly high Revenue from Taxes

One of the characteristics of the various cantonal accounts for 1967 is that they finished almost everywhere better than anticipated. Nevertheless, there are sizable deficits in many Cantons. Revenue from taxes is remarkably high; the Ticino registered an increase of 19m. francs, and in Glarus, too, the better state of finances is "mainly due to increased tax revenue". In Zurich, the 10%-rate increase which had not been budgeted, played an important part. The debts of the Cantons have doubled since 1966, which require more and more funds for interest, which again have to be found from ordinary revenue. The future is by no means rosy, especially if the Confederation is to expect increased financial support from the Cantons. It is hoped that a standard model of cantonal accounts will be worked out to make matters somewhat less chaotic; the Institute of Economy in St. Gall has taken an interest in the matter. The following is a table of comparison:

Canton	Revenue surplus (+) or Expenditure surplus (-) 1967.	Budget:	Accounts:
		Million francs	Million francs
Zurich	1* —23.1	—23.1	+43.0
	2* —98.5	—98.5	—55.0
Berne	3* —0.1	—0.1	—3.7
Lucerne	1* —6.2	—6.2	+0.5
	2* —12.6	—12.6	—15.1
Uri	1* —2.3	—2.3	—0.05
	2* —1.0	—1.0	—2.1
Schwyz	1* —0.5	—0.5	—0.5
	2* —6.0	—6.0	—5.6
Obwalden	1* —0.6	—0.6	+0.3
	2* —1.0	—1.0	+0.4
Nidwalden	1* —1.0	—1.0	—0.05
	2* —1.4	—1.4	—2.5
Glarus	—0.7	—0.7	—0.2
Zug	1* +0.1	+0.1	+3.9
	2* —6.9	—6.9	—3.0
Fribourg	—4.4	—4.4	—0.6
Solothurn	4* —20.2	—20.2	+0.7
Baselland	1* —16.3	—16.3	—7.4
	2* —15.5	—15.5	—0.8
Basel-Stadt	1* —12.2	—12.2	+4.1
	5* —74.2	—74.2	—54.0
Schaffhausen	1* —2.9	—2.9	—1.9
Appenzell A.Rh.	1* —0.5	—0.5	—0.4
Appenzell I.Rh.	1* 0.3	0.3	—0.05
St. Gall	1* —3.8	—3.8	+3.3
	2* —11.1	—11.1	—15.2
Grisons	1* —9.4	—9.4	—4.7
	2* —14.5	—14.5	—13.6
Aargau	1* —17.4	—17.4	—9.9
	2* —25.0	—25.0	—15.1
Thurgau	1* —13.4	—13.4	—3.7
	2* —3.9	—3.9	—2.7
Ticino	1* —6.7	—6.7	+15.4
	2* —31.0	—31.0	—23.9
Vaud	1* —14.4	—14.4	+9.5
Valais	3* —24.7	—24.7	—8.7
	4* —13.6	—13.6	—0.1
Neuchâtel	—1.4	—1.4	—5.1
Geneva	1* —19.7	—19.7	+18.3

1* ordinary accounts

2* extra-ordinary accounts

3* Finanzrechnung

4* Total accounts

5* Bruttohaushalt

(By courtesy of "Basler Nachrichten")