

The latest figures for Swiss wine production

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By courtesy of S.N.T.O.

THE LATEST FIGURES FOR SWISS WINE PRODUCTION

The International Wine Office published a report from which one gathers that between the years 1910 and 1966, the total wine growing area in the world has increased from 6,795,000 ha. to 9,957,000 ha. The best years ever were 1964 and 1965 when 286.6 hl. and 283.5 hl. respectively were produced. The yield, too, has been improved almost every year. Compared with her neighbours, Switzerland grows but little wine: 12,000 ha. producing something like 850,000 hl. as against 1.6 million ha. in Italy yielding over 75 million hl. On the whole, viniculture has been slightly extended in the *Suisse Romande*, but gone back considerably in Eastern Switzerland and the Ticino.

The Swiss electorate accepted the agricultural law in 1951, and its *Weinstatut* (1953) contains important decrees regarding the growing of vines and control of wine production. The Confederation keeps a check on the sites which are suitable for vine cultivation, and none may be grown elsewhere. The various kinds which have been proved most suitable are strictly limited. In Eastern Switzerland, the *Weinlesekontrolle* was made compulsory in 1935 already, and this control has been introduced all over the country. It guarantees best qualities and adequate prices. The grower is often forced to plant his vines on terraces, which costs more, and he gets a contribution from public funds. Labour saving and other studies by advisory bodies have helped considerably to improve production.

The Government proposed last summer to continue the control for another 10 years from 1970. They also decided to spend 340,000 francs to promote exports of Swiss wines and grape juice during the next two years. There is a wine trade commission which makes several hundred checks every year on wine producing and trading firms, studies relevant legislation abroad and organises courses on viniculture.

Thanks to improved economic conditions in general, wine consumption in Switzerland has gone up considerably, and it is estimated that the Swiss drink something like 2.3 million hl. a year — about 39 litres per head of population.

1968 was a much better year than had been expected. For the third time, the 100 million-litre mark has been surpassed, 1,034,215 hl. as compared with an average of 961,017 hl. during the past ten years. These figures include the grapes used for eating. 277,000 hl. red and 710,000 hl. white wines were produced. To this may be added 47,000 hl. of non-alcoholic grape juices. The *Suisse Romande*, including the Valais, produced 890,176 hl., Eastern Switzerland less than one-tenth of this, and the Ticino and Mesocco 55,301 hl. The yield per ha. is 86 hl. for the Swiss average, 96 in Western Switzerland, 58 in the Eastern part of the country and 48 hl. in the Ticino. In the Valais, there was a yield of 101 hl. per ha., and the highest was in Geneva with 124 hl. The Valais has the largest wine-growing area (well over 4,000 ha.), followed by Vaud (3,200), the Ticino (1,100), Geneva (1,000), Neuchâtel (600), Zurich and Schaffhausen (not quite 400), Aargau and Lake of Bienne district (around 250 each).

Some of the districts suffered damage from hailstorms last summer, and in some parts of the Valais from a poisonous weed killer. The authorities demand a sugar content of 70 degrees (Oechsle) with the *Fendant* and one of 85 for the *Dôle*. The result was 76.8 for the former and 90.9 degrees for the *Pinot Noir*, and it is expected that the vintage 1968 will generally count as a very good one. The Valais wine growers intend establishing a research vineyard — a surprising omission up to now.

Of the 2,000 wine growers in the Vaud, 500 have been expertly trained, and the cantonal publicity office are trying to improve this, although the hereditary method of handing the art from father to son, must not be underestimated.

There will soon be a new name on the market, the “Clos de Chillon”, grown exclusively at the side of the famous Castle. 478 voluntary helpers from the Aargau, 237 from Baselland, 119 from Berne and 95 from Zurich worked in the Vaudois vineyards with the grape harvest; the local growers appreciated the help of these “Vineyard Soldiers”, male and female.

In the Canton of Neuchâtel, only one single red wine grape variety is allowed, which guarantees excellent quality. In the Ticino, especially in the Mendrisiotto, the harvest suffered on account of early frost, and the best Merlot grapes were produced in the Giubiasco district. The wines from the Zurich vineyards cost more to produce last autumn; the prices realised are rather lower, and the result did not cover costs. In the Thurgau, the growers are generally satisfied, especially since the bad weather had not augured well. There are 20.8 ha. on which “Riesling/Sylvaner” and 83.4 ha. where “Blauburgunder” are grown. At Hoengg (Zurich), the Church Hill is to be turned into a vineyard which will improve the district, it is felt, and look better than the vegetable patches covering it now. Nearly 49,000 visitors went to the EXPOVINA, the wine exhibition in Zurich in November, 18.5% more than last time. The Oerlikon “Volksapotheke” presented its customers with a *Kraftwein* which was found to be slightly poisonous. The producers, a firm at MuttENZ (Baselland) has been cleared. There was an international Wine Salon in Geneva, and at Lucerne's first wine exhibition, the LUVINA, a German girl was elected Wine Queen, and in a competition for Europe's cork drawing championship, a barrel of wine was the first prize.

After Dr. Blaiberg's heart transplant, the Lutry wine growers sent a few dozen bottles of their local wine "Joli Coeur", much appreciated by the patient. There is Vevay, a town in Indiana, U.S.A., where the Swiss community held a Swiss Wine Festival last summer, 155 years after Vaudois citizens first settled there. Finally, a *Kellerei* at Hallau, sells Vaudois grape juice and with it some live yeast which keeps several months, and which allows people to make their own *Sausen* where and when they like. Research had been carved out at the federal *Versuchsanstalt* at Wädenswil, and the Swiss Health Office gave permission for sale after careful checking.

(News items and information by courtesy of A.T.S., "Basler Nachrichten" and "California Swiss Journal".)

PRO AQUA — CONGRESS "Water and Air in Industry"

Just as in the case of the preceding events of the kind held in 1958, 1961 and 1965, the 4th International Exhibition for Water, Waste, Air will take place from 29th May to 4th June in the halls of the Swiss Industries Fair in Basle and will be accompanied by an international congress, the general theme of which will be "Water and Air in Industry" divided into three main groups.

Leading experts from Western Germany, France, Great Britain, Belgium and Switzerland will deliver lectures on the present position in the realisation of suitable plant for waste water purification and water circulation in the industries of their countries.

The second group will be devoted to industrial measures taken to maintain purity of the air. It will consist of papers on the technical measures for air purification in Germany and the maintenance of a pure atmosphere in the cement industry, with Switzerland as an example.

The lectures handled in the third group are intended to deal with problems of water supply and the disposal of sewage in certain individual industrial groups. These subjects will also be dealt with not merely from a technical point of view, but there will be practical demonstrations from the countries to which the particular speaker refers. Hence the individual papers will be concerned with corresponding methods of realisation in the foodstuffs industry in the Netherlands, the tanning industry in Italy, the chemical industry in Germany, the paper industry in Sweden, the cellulose industry in Poland, the iron and steel industry in Czechoslovakia and the metal-working industry in Great Britain.

The congress starts on Wednesday, 28th May, that is one day prior to the opening of the exhibition, and closes on Saturday, 31st May with excursions and inspections of plant for water supply, waste water purification, refuse disposal and utilisation, and the maintenance of pure air in North-West Switzerland.

From 2nd to 5th June, and in correlation with the PRO AQUA 69, the 4th International Congress of the International Research Group on Refuse Disposal (IRGR) will take place in continuation of the PRO AQUA congress.

The PRO AQUA exhibition, the PRO AQUA congress and the IRGR congress will handle a wide variety of subjects extending far beyond the interest merely of the experts, but likely to arouse the attention of the general public to the urgent tasks connected with the purification of water and air.

Detailed explanations and documents about the congresses and the exhibition can be obtained from the Secretariat of PRO AQUA 69, P.O. Box, CH-4000 Basle 21.

75 YEARS IN THE SERVICE OF INTERNATIONAL HOTELKEEPING

The Hotelkeeping School of the Swiss Hotelkeepers Association was founded in Lausanne in 1893. This vocational training establishment is known throughout the entire world, because not only do many young foreigners go there to acquire the essential knowledge required for a career in the hotel trade: cooking, waiting at table, administration, but also because many former Swiss students now hold important positions in hotels all over the world, including some of the biggest. Today, the Lausanne Hotelkeeping School trains on an average some 500 students every year, in various courses lasting two or three years and including periods of compulsory service in hotels. After three-quarters of a century, the Hotelkeeping School of the Swiss Hotelkeepers Association, located in a town famous for its tourism and its educational establishments, holds all the trumps necessary for its continued future success.

PROMOTING CROSS-COUNTRY SKI-ING

With the co-operation of the Central Swiss Tourist Office, a special "Committee for the Promotion of Cross-Country Ski-ing in Central Switzerland" has been formed. The idea is to provide facilities which will relieve pressure on the most heavily frequented ski runs of the winter resorts. The following communities in Central Switzerland offer professionally tended cross-country runs: Eigental (near Lucerne), Einsiedeln, Engelberg, Flühli, Marbach, Melchsee-Frutt, Melchtal, Oberiberg and Stoos. All of these resorts maintain cross-country ski runs of between 4.5 and 6 miles in length, and make available the services of a special cross-country ski instructor. These instructors, usually licensed professionals, undergo special training at the start of each winter season under the expert supervision of Olympic Bronze Medal winner Sepp Haas. "Montana-Sport" of Lucerne makes available to each of these communities a quantity of cross-country skis, which are loaned free of charge to interested skiers through the local sports goods shops in each community. In this way, skiers have an opportunity of discovering whether cross-country ski-ing really appeals to them before incurring the expense of buying special equipment.

[S.N.T.O.]

"WOMEN IN LOVE" AND ZERMATT

The 73-man film unit making G. H. Lawrence's once-banned novel "Women in Love" has just moved from London to Zermatt in Switzerland for location filming.

The story of two conflicting sexual relationships told against the sombre background of a small colliery town reaches its climax when the couple escape to Switzerland.

The unit flew by Swissair to Geneva and travelled by train to Zermatt, where they are based at the Grand Hotel Zermatterhof which advanced the usual opening date by two weeks especially for this film company. The unit will travel daily to their location centre at the Hotel Riffelberg on the Gornergrat; half an hour by train from Zermatt.

"Women in Love" stars Alan Bates, Oliver Reed, Glenda Jackson and Jennie Linden. It is written for the screen and produced by Larry Kramer, co-produced by Martin Rosen and directed by Ken Russell. The Kramer-Rosen production will be a United Artists release.

[S.N.T.O.]