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Autor: [s.n.]
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Schaffhausen proposes in a report to the Budget for 1950 to reduce the deficit from Sfrs.918,000 to Sfrs.445,000. The improvement would be reached through the curtailment in expenditure and increase in receipts.

One major proposal is that the Electricity Work of Canton should, in consideration of the unfavourable financial position of the latter, pay Sfrs.100,000 more than usual.

CANTONAL PARLIAMENT OF GRAUBUNDEN

In its Session lasting 14 days, the Cantonal Parliament of Graubunden has amongst other things finalised the budget and decided on the rate of tax for 1950. Improvements amounting to over Sfrs.1,000,000. were amended to the Government Budget, in particular an amount of Sfr.400,000 which was to be a special contribution to the Superannuation scheme of the State Employees was cancelled. Sfr 90,000 increase in receipts from Cantonal undertakings, and reduction of Sfrs.46,000 in expenditure for printed matter and office utensils were other alterations.

The Special Commission of the Cantonal Parliament also wants to reduce the amount to be utilised in 1949 for paying off the War Debt from Sfrs.500,000 to 400,000 so that the Tax reserve would again be Sfrs.600,000. On the other hand certain increases in expenditure were decided upon such as hospitals etc. The Cantonal Parliament approved of these proposals and asked the Government to introduce a special savings program for the next Session of Parliament to deal with.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOR AROSA

In the old Eggerhouse in Arosa a new museum for the "Schanfigg" was opened on December 4th. Many visitors from the Valley, as well as Chur and Davos were present at the celebrations which closed with a visit to the museum under the guidance of the Curator. The museum contains : literature from Arosa, Natural Science, various domestic appliances, trade tools, armaments and as the most valuable piece the old flag of Schanfigg which dates from the time before 1600.

ZURICH

The Government of Zurich has allocated in addition to Sfrs 1.8 million subsidies a Cantonal Subsidy of 1.2 million Sfrs. for the building of 109 houses with a total of 475 flats. The total building cost will be Sfrs16,000,000. Including this amount since June, 1948, 576 buildings with a total of 6014 flats (total cost 261 million Francs) have received allocations from the State totalling Sfrs.33,000,000. The Cantonal Government decided to hold a popular vote on 28th January, 1950 on the following question.

Cantonal contributions to the building of a City Hospital in Zurich.

Inclusion of State School teachers, Pastors and members of the Cantonal Police into the insurance scheme of the Cantonal employees.

A gift of Sfr5000 which came from an anonymous donor was added to the subsidy fund for the Cantonal Hospital.

M. MAX PETITPIERRE, PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF SWISS CONFEDERATION.

The two Chambers of the Federal Parliament elected on December 15th, Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation for 1950. 213 ballot papers were distributed, 211 handed in

Of these 13 were blank and 198 valid. While the majority necessary for election was 100, M. Max Petitpierre has been elected with 195 votes.

M. Max Petitpierre is a Citizen of Neuchatel and Couvet, born in Neuchatel on February 26th, 1899. He studied Law in Neuchatel, Zurich and Munich and obtained his degree in 1924 in Neuchatel. His specialities are Swiss and International Private Rights and he has elaborated a number of works in this Domain. From 1926 to 1931 and from 1938 to 1944 M. Petitpierre lectured on International Private Rights at the University of Neuchatel. In 1942 he was elected President of the Swiss Watch Chamber of Commerce. In 1937 he was elected to the Cantonal Parliament as a representative of the Radical Party (Liberal) and in 1942 he was elected to the States Council. Two years later on 14th December 1944, he was elected Federal Councillor in succession to M. Pilet-Golaz. Since then he has been at the Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

A visitor to New Zealand will be Mr George Dunand a former delegate and Director of the International Red Cross Committee. At present he is an interpreter at the International Labour Office in which capacity he is attending a meeting in Wellington.

SWISS BADGES

We wish to inform members that specially designed Badges have been received recently. The badge, manufactured by the well-known Engravers Huguenin Freres, Le Locle, is about the size of a 3d. piece in silvered metal (Patina old silver) with the white cross on red ground prettily decorated, and with the inscription (Swiss Society N.Z. ". Everyone we have shown the badge to has remarked that it is a most attractive ornament.

The landed cost is 5/- per piece and sufficient supply is available for all members and their families. Please include your order with the subscription fee and the badge will be posted promptly.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION.

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Mr A. Peyer, 48 Moa Rd. Auckland W. 3

Mr C. Gebert, P.O. Opotiki.

Mr E. Fretz, P.O.Box 386, Wellington.

The fee, as published, is now 15/- and we would appreciate your prompt remittance, to make our task easier. We also express our best thanks in anticipation to all those members who are willing and able to make the donations towards our fund.

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