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It Happened in the Cantons of Vaud and Ticino

The Vaudois Council of State elected Councillor Edourad Debetaz as its President for 1966. The budget for the present year estimates a deficit of 6.8 million francs, revenue being estimated at nearly 441 mio. Road construction was a heavy burden last year, and in November, an additional credit of 15.3 mio was asked for. A fortnight later, the Cantonal Parliament granted another 22.8 million francs for the same purpose. The figure for road accidents in the Canton in 1965 meant that every 76 minutes there was an accident, every 2 hours 19 minutes, somebody was injured, and every 61½ hours, someone was killed.

Building projects for which the State is responsible, include renovating the laboratory for anorganic chemistry at Lausanne University, enlarging the testing station of the Technical Institute and rebuilding the prison of Vennes. The new nursing and midwifery training centre, a twelve-storey block, is now in operation.

In November, the first forty-five students were able to move into the new students' home in Bellerive, the Canton having made available the administration building of the EXPO. Alfred Corbaz is the new chief of the cantonal office for vocational training, and the new Director of the Vaudois Technical College at Yverdon is the engineer Georges Thalmann. The Church Synod has decided to create a theological seminary for future Ministers of the Church.

In December, a "Centre Dramatique Romand" was founded, aiming at stimulating drama and opera.

The Vaudois wine of 1965 is apparently about the same as that of 1963 as far as quality is concerned; the harvest of 29 million litres is above average. The official verdict is "a pleasant light wine".

In the middle of November, the elections took place in all Vaudois Communes. Voting participatin was as high as 76 per cent in one or two places.

During the last legislative period (1962-65), a total of 270 women were members of Vaudions Commune Councils, and in the new period, the figure is slightly less.

Last June, Federal Councillor Tschudi appealed to the Swiss population for funds to restore the unique remnants of Switzerland's first capital, the old Aventicum (**Avenches**). Over 11,000 men and women contributed as well as firms and Communes, and Fr.600,000— have so far been collected. Of the four million francs which will be needed to secure the old town only one-fifth will still have to be collected.

The firm of Bourgeois Freres s.a. at **Balaigues** celebrated its 175th anniversary in autumn. 1407 delegates took part in an international study conference at the **Caux** centre for Moral rearmament.

The budget for 1966 of the town of **Lausanne** estimates expenditure of well over 163 million francs and a deficit of Frs.328,000—. The President of the new Commune Council is Marcel Corbaz (Workers' Party). The Municipal President is once more Georges-Andre Chevallaz. The Workers' Party shows an increase of six seats and the Socialists' of three.

The Union Bank of Switzerland took over the oldest private bank in Lausanne, Bugnion et Cie, founded in 1803. A new evening school of grammar school standard has been started with a first batch of 119 students. The Hotel School in Lausanne is being enlarged.

The International Federation of Women Lawyers assembled for its congress in Lausanne last autumn, and barely three weeks later, the European insurance experts met for their general assembly; Federal Councillor von Moos addressed the 150 members who met for the first time in Switzerland.

At **Lucens**, the electorate accepted a proposal (Initiative to reintroduce elections on a simple majority system. On the occasion of the centenary of the International Union of Telecommunications, a conference lasting two months was held at **Montreux**. It is the oldest technical world organization and has 128 member States. The then Swiss Minister of Communications, Federal Councillor Spuehler, attended the congress.

Moudon was the venue for the centenary of the Vaudois Military Rifle Association. The Municipal President of **Nyon** is once again the Radical Alfred Michaud. The town now has a new drinking-water plant. The **Payerne** Municipal President, the Radical Achille Meyer has been re-elected.

La Tour-de-Peilz counted 8200 inhabitants on 1st December, 223 more than a year previously. Of these, only 499 are citizens of the Commune. The Municipal Band of **Vevey** reached its centenary in October. At the end of November, a new cigarette factory was added to the old concern of Rinsoz et Ormond s.a. dating back to 1838. The President of **Yverdon** has been re-elected in the person of Radical Andre Martin. After four years without representation, the Communists have managed to get six seats. On 30th January, the electorate rejected an Initiative which was against the Commune Council's decision to cede a site to the Yverdon airport authorities free of charge. Yverdon, too, has now poison-free gas.

TICINO

In 1946, a plebiscite took place in the Canton of Ticino regarding women's suffrage. The proposal was defeated by 14,000 to 4000 votes. In the federal plebiscite in 1959, the Ticino voters had refused to support the vote for women by 18,000 to well over 10,000. Now, an Initiative has been launched to make the constitutional changes.

The Cantonal Government has given a subsidy towards the restoration of the Villa of Loverciano in Castel San Pietro, one of the Ticino show pieces of Lombardy architecture of the seventeenth century.

The Monte Ceneri Road has been completed, and vast sums are being spent on the Maggia Valley road, where a bus service is to replace the railway.

October was the month during which the anniversary of the signing of the Locarno Pact was commemorated. With the exception of Poland and Czechoslovakia, all the signatories of the original pact attended the celebrations. (ATS)



A "Swiss Hall" at the British Pestalozzi Children's Village

In 1959, a "Swiss Fortnight" took place in London and a few other towns in the British Isles. It was a magnificent undertaking to put Switzerland on show, and one of the efforts made was to raise money for a "Swiss Hall" at the British Pestalozzi Children's Village at Sedlescombe in Sussex: £10,000 was collected. Many were concerned in this splendid achievement, not least the Swiss Ambassador at the time and his wife, Madame Martha Daeniker. It was befitting, therefore, that the official opening of the Hall should be performed by Monsieur Daeniker who came to England especially for the ceremony.

It was a beautiful spring day on Saturday March 5th and the Sussex countryside was at its best. The grounds of the Children's Village extend for quite a distance, and much building is going on as four new houses are planned. Apart from the old and stately Manor House, there are several other buildings, notably the International House, perhaps the least attractive of all, a friendly wooden bungalow to house the Tibetan children, and now, at the highest point of the Village grounds, the new "Swiss Hall". It is a pleasant building constructed of red cedar wood. The centre tract forms the lofty meeting hall to seat 200, and it has a large stage at the far end. It is flanked on either side by cloakrooms, a kitchen and refreshment room, a storeroom and a reception hall. The whole floor area is 4600 square feet.