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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF GLARUS, ZUG AND SCHAFFHAUSEN

GLARUS

The tram that had for 64 years served the Sernftvalley is being replaced by a bus service. This mountain valley is being touristically exploited: a teleferic has been built between Matt and the Weissenberg, from whose terrace two aerial chair-lift, and a ski-lift are projected.

The Cantonal Parliament voted increased pay for members of the Cantonal Government, who now get 16,000 francs for their part-time job. It voted a 50% cantonal participation in the financing of future protective works against floods. Proposals by the Glarus Liberal Party to consider savings booklets for dependant children to be exempt of wealth tax if they were worth less than 5000 francs were rejected by the Parliament on the grounds that this step should be comprised in a total tax reform to be undertaken in 1970. A citizen in a "Memorial" motion asked that the results of cantonal voting should be considered valid only if it had attracted a quorum of 50% of voters. This too was rejected.

The accounts of the Canton were balanced last year. Income and expenditure being thirty-six million francs (to the nearest million). But the forthcoming year will involve considerable expenses, with improvements on the Sernftal Road, connections to the N. 3. on the Linth Plain, a new cantonal school and new waste-disposal installations.

ZUG

The Canton had, in December 1968, a population of 66,000, an increase of 13,500 since the census of 1960. The accounts of the town of Zug, whose population is now twenty-three and a half thousands, are slightly unbalanced. Both income and expenses are around 22 million francs, 13 million of which are to be devoted to local investments in the next year. The Canton itself had positive accounts: 53 million income and 50 million expenditure. The town of Zug is to be replanned: Its Communal Council has allocated a considerable credit for the study of future urbanisation. This job will be undertaken jointly by a special committee of 40 headed by the Secretary of the Swiss Association for Planning and by a professional planning office.

Zuger citizens have organised a movement for the banning of traffic in the old town. The Canton is to have its own agronomical school, for which credits of 2.3 million have been voted by the people. An information centre is to be implemented in the town centre by cantonal cultural bodies. It will co-ordinate cultural

life and prevent overlapping of artistic events. The communes of Unteraegari and Oberaegeri have each planned to invest 1.5 million francs to clean the Aegerisee. This is to be undertaken in the framework of the Canton's general rivers and lakes purifying scheme. The Canton is light on drinking water. The private enterprise which supplies it with gas, water and electricity is to build a water extraction plant on the shores of the Lake of Zug. The cleansing of the natural waters of the canton will involve investments of 81 million francs. Waste-water cleaning installations will replace the Lakes of Zur and Aegeri and the Lorzenlauf, used up to now as a natural sink. In an action against the defilement of their beautiful environment 300 schoolchildren and their teachers cleared the public waterfront on the Lake of Zug of all its rubbish.

The cantonal property insurance company had to pay damages of 1.4 million francs in 1968 — a record. Rains produced almost 600.000 francs damages. They were only covered to about 20% by insurance pay-backs.

The Cantonal Government rejected a motion by the Cantonal Parliament asking for a general consultation of women concerning their wish to possess the right to vote. It felt that such a public consultation had little point, the majority of Zuger women not caring particularly about their voting rights.

The "Zuger Nachricht" is to abandon its traditional catholic orientation and to become an impartial cantonal paper.

SCHAFFHAUSEN

In order to derive more power from the Rhine, the company that supplies Schaffhausen with electricity decided to dam the Rhine to a somewhat higher level at its present hydro-electric works, so that the Rhine upstream of them would rise by 40 cm. The cantonal Association for the Protection of Nature (Heimatschutz) launched an "initiative" against this project and got the backing of over 5000 signatures, where 1000 would have been sufficient. The Cantonal Parliament discussed the issue and decided to prevent the electricity company from carrying out its original plan. The Cantonal Parliament and Government also barred another interference of man in nature: it prevented the construction of a 50 million franc dam across the Rhine at the level of Hemishofen designed to regulate its course. This dam would have prevented the flooding which occurs every 15 or 20 years when exceptionally high waters occur. Specialists had warned that this project would upset the life of animals and plants of the Rhine. A public demonstration was staged in Hemishofen against the dam.

The State's pensioners' home in Schaffhausen is to be enlarged at a cost of 6.5 million francs. A centre for the chronically ill

and handicapped near to the cantonal hospital has been inaugurated. It can house 160 patients and has involved investments of 19 million francs. Its particularity is to be heated by wood. Cantonal authorities thought this was a useful and economical way of disposing of Schaffhausen's excess wood. The Canton is the most wooded in the country. The construction of a new school designed to prepare elder people already in professional life of their "maturity", certificate has been voted by the Cantonal Parliament. A new swimming pool is to be built in Schaffhausen.

Traffic through the old part of the town is now far more fluid thanks to the riverside street which has recently been opened to traffic and crosses the city from East to West.

Public works authorities of Zurich and Schaffhausen have been deliberating at length on whether the N.4 should cross the Rhein Falls on a bridge or through a tunnel. The Schaffhausen authorities want a tunnel, so that Neuhausen can stay clear of traffic. Zurich wants a bridge, which will prevent the splitting in two of Flurlingen.

The projected complete restoration of the St. Johann Church is to be postponed a few years, pending on the state of the town's finances. A new "Treasure Chamber" has been opened in the museum "zu Allerheiligen". It contains numerous objects of refined craftsmanship. An exhibition on the "Explored Past" presented photographs, scale models of prehistoric settlements, tools and innumerable works of art from the Far East and the Mediterranean in that same museum.

The Cantonal Parliament has decided to renew the law governing school life in the Canton. It had to tackle such problems as minimum years of schooling, duration of school holidays, public assistance to children. Among other novelties, the new law makes for an obligatory ninth year of education, replaces the previous compulsory "religion and moral" lessons by optional "biblical and art of life" courses. It confirms equivalent education for boys and girls, provides for the creation of educational facilities during school holidays — these being lengthened from twelve to thirteen weeks a year — and sticks to the 5½-day week.

Schaffhausen has held remembrance of the American mistaken bombing of 11th March 1944. At 11 o'clock on that day, 400 bombs were dropped in the town in 400 seconds. Forty people died and as many major fires were started.

The Association of Schaffhausen Industries, comprising 76 firms with a total of 19,000 employees had a harsh complaint to make against the "initiative" by national councillor James Schwarzenbach aiming at reducing drastically the contingent of foreign manpower. The plan would involve a 57% diminution in imported labour in the Canton, which, for the Association, would mean economic suicide.