

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 76 (2010)  
**Heft:** [6]

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# HELVETIA

Magazine for the members of the Swiss Society of New Zealand Inc  
Helvetia is in its 76th year

July 2010

## Basel-Landschaft

The canton of Basel-Landschaft lies in the north of Switzerland, partly in the Jura. The rivers Ergolz and Birs drain the lands of the canton. Basel-Landschaft's capital is Liestal.

the canton of Basel, mainly about the rights of the rural population. This ultimately led to the separation of the canton Basel-Landschaft from the city of Basel on 26 August 1833. Since then,

Basel-Landschaft to become a full canton. In 1988 the canton of Basel-Landschaft had this aim written into its constitution. The aim remains to change the Swiss constitution to recognize the two cantons of Basel as full members.

When the canton of Jura was created in 1979, the district of Laufental became an enclave of the canton of Bern. It was allowed self-determination and in 1980 the people decided to join the canton of Basel-Landschaft. After a lengthy administrative process the Laufental eventually became part of the canton of Basel-Landschaft on 1 January 1994.

The population is predominantly German speaking. Between 1959 and 1970 the canton was Switzerland's fastest-growing; the population almost doubled from 108,000 to 205,000. Today, the canton has a population of over 270,000.

Agriculture in Baselland focuses on fruit growing, dairy farming and cattle breeding. Important industries include textiles, metals and chemicals.

*from Wikipedia*



Tafeljura near Anwil

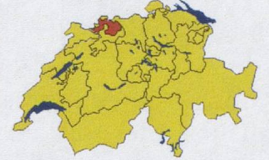
Basel-Landschaft, together with Basel-Stadt, formed the historic Canton of Basel until they separated following an uprising in 1833.

Most of the Basel Land territory belonged to the city of Basel. Only after Napoleon conquered Switzerland in 1798, the country achieved equality with the city. But the country remained economically dependent on the city, mainly because of the low level of education in the agricultural areas at the time. Castles and residences of Basel merchants dominated much of the landscape of what is now Basel Land.

After 1830 there were political quarrels and armed conflicts in

there has been a movement for reunification. This movement gained momentum after 1900 when many parts of Basel-Landschaft became industrialized. The two half cantons agreed in principle to merge, but in 1969 the people of Basel-Landschaft voted down a referendum on this proposal in favour of retaining their independence. That vote was not the end of a close relationship between the two Basels. The two half cantons have since signed a number of agreements to co-operate.

Since the decision to remain independent from Basel-Stadt in 1969 there have been a number of requests in parliament for



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