

It happened in the canton of Fribourg

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But Kennedy has left a spiritual legacy which concerns us all, and every one of us has a moral obligation to see that it is not dissipated. If anything good is to come at all of this tragedy, something must be done and not only in the world at large or in America. We are far from the New Europe President Kennedy visualised when he visited the Old Continent last July — “Dynamic, Diverse, Democratic”. Much is far from perfect in our homeland, there is considerable scope for improvement in our Colony here, much is left to be desired in our own personal environment and within ourselves.

The year ahead will not be an easy one, not for the world, not for Europe, Switzerland, the Colony, you, me. We shall all need faith and courage to carry on. Few of us can achieve great deeds, but wherever we have been put according to God's wise and eternal plan we have our part to play, and He will guide us if we let Him. Often it is in little things, in daily drudgery, in frustration and defeat that it is most difficult to remember this and to muster courage. But the example of the great man whose untimely death we mourn should spur us on. Did he not say on the threshold of his presidency well nigh three

years ago “*In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility; I welcome it. I do not believe that any of us would exchange places with any other people or any other generation. The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavour will light our country and all who serve it, and the glow from that fire can truly light the world*”?

Each of us can bring energy, faith and devotion to his or her own individual endeavour, and with God's help the glow may be strong enough to light up a corner, a patch, a place somewhere for the common good. We may, after all, spend Christmas in a happier frame of mind and truly rejoice in the birth of Christ. John Kennedy never pronounced his last speech which he had intended to make in Dallas and in which he was going to counsel the combination of strength with wisdom and restraint so that we could in our time and for all times fulfil the old vision of PEACE ON EARTH AND GOODWILL AMONG MANKIND.

That, after all, is the Christmas message of old which holds good for all times to come.

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF FRIBOURG

The thought of the Canton of Fribourg immediately conjures up picturesque costumes, bearded herdsman, the historic town of Murten, the Castle of Gruyères and the modern Roman Catholic University. Indeed, all this is part of it, but it is not all. The Canton has its financial and political problems like any other. The Cantonal Parliament had busy sessions in February, May and November. As in other Cantons, the building of the national highway makes heavy demands on the treasury. The Canton has to contribute ten per cent of the cost of purchasing land for the construction of the “Route Nationale” on Fribourg ground. Early in the year, water pollution was on the agenda, and a further grant towards the thirteen million franc project of a water purification plant was made. An interesting aspect of Fribourg is the vast number of very small Communes. Out of 284 political units, only 29 have more than one thousand inhabitants; 219 have fewer than five hundred, and of these 46 have not even one hundred. This means that many are unable to afford undertakings necessary to a flourishing community life. This is why federations of Communes have been created, which will enable better provision.

The Canton's accounts for 1962 showed a small surplus, whilst the budget for the coming year envisages a deficit of about two and a half million francs (income nearly 90m., expenditure 92½m.).

As President of the Government for 1964, the Director of Finances, Mr. Théo Ayer was elected.

In the field of communications, it may be interesting to learn that La Gruyère has now an airfield, and that the Schiffenen Bridge which was built about a hundred years ago, has been blown up by Army units. This exercise was watched by several high officers and the chief of the Military Department, Federal Councillor Chaudet. The bridge had been damaged and would in any case have disappeared in the damming up of the Sarine near Schiffenen. The new road leads across the dam, which connects the Sense Valley with the Lake District.

The new highway at Murten will bypass the quaint townlet in future to the delight of all its friends. The Fribourg trams have proved that favourably priced season

tickets could increase the number of tram and trolley bus users as well as improve the balance sheet.

The “Freiburger Nachrichten” have celebrated their centenary, and in May there was a meeting in Fribourg of representatives of Poles living in Switzerland, prior to celebrating the millennium of the Christianisation of Poland.

October was a busy month for special events in Fribourg. The second *Comptoir* of Fribourg, which had been opened by the former Federal Councillor Bourgnicht on 27th September, closed its doors on 7th October after having admitted 51,800 visitors. The *Comptoir* is a representative show of Fribourg arts, crafts and trades. A week later the “Fédération Romande des Employées” met for their annual delegates' assembly, and the following week-end Fribourg University was host to the Swiss Press Association. Finally, it was the Swiss Federation for Forestry which chose Fribourg as venue for its A.G.M.

Folklore is very much alive in that part of the country, and 650 members of the Cantonal Costume Association met at Bulle as well as 25,000 onlookers. There were striking costumes from all seven districts of the Canton, and folkdancing and singing played a prominent part in the rally. Earlier in the summer, Murten held its traditional youth festival and shooting contest, and Swiss fife-players and drummers congregated in Fribourg for their contest.

A “Pro Gruyère” foundation has been started which aims at renovating the beautiful old townlet and the Castle. The “Heimatschutz” organisation, the equivalent to the National Trust in Great Britain, is supporting the venture financially, and the whole of Switzerland contributed through the “Talerspende”, the sale of chocolate coins in aid of a particular object which is to be preserved.

The Wistenlach has been declared a protected zone. It is believed to be the continuation of the Vaudois Jura range which has become detached through the erosion of the Broye Valley. Moraine deposits give an indication of glacier movements, and in 1907 one of these erratic blocks was named “Agassiz Block” after the well-known natural scientist who grew up in the vicarage of Môtier

a hundred years previously. Traces have been found which show that the Wistenlach region was already inhabited in prehistoric times. Roman remains were the most numerous, and it was one of Caesar's mercenaries who owned the "Fundus Vistiliacus". But the Middle Ages, too, left their legacy in the form of several castle ruins, and it was at Wistenlach that the Vaudois Reformer, Wilhelm Farel, proclaimed the Reformation from 1530 onward.

Under the direction of the Fribourg cantonal archaeologist Miss Hanni Schwab, the remains of a tower are being excavated. This was erected near Sugiez by Peter of Savoy in 1263. The old bed of the Aare has been filled in and is being made arable. Special search trenches were dug in order to find possible lake-dwellings. At the depth of some two and a half metres, a well-preserved bronze sword was found dating back to 1200 B.C., a typical "Rixheim" sword.

A discovery of quite another nature: Earlier in the year, a sheat-fish was landed in the Murtensee. This is the largest European fresh-water fish, and the specimen in question weighed seventy kilos and measured eight feet.

(Mainly based on news received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Dr. Raymond Laurétan (78), Sion, former Councillor of States and President of the Valais Parliament and State Council.

Fritz Meyer (69), Muensingen, former Socialist National Councillor and Commune President.

Prof. Hans Lewald (80), formerly of Basle University, expert on law and internationally known specialist on legal history and private civil law. Dr. h.c. of Cologne University.

Prof. von Schelting (69), reader of sociology at University of Zurich.

Dr. iur. Hermann Becker (91), well-known lawyer in St. Gall, member of the Cantonal Court of Justice; honorary degree from Universities of Basle and St. Gall.

Prof. Hans Schorer (86), University of Fribourg (Law and Statistics).

Prof. Ernst Ramser (69), formerly of ETH Zurich ("Kulturtechnik und Alpwirtschaft").

Prof. Dr. Werner Kuhn (63), University of Basle (Physics), holder of many distinctions, among them the Marcel-Benoist Prize.

Prof. Dr. phil and Dipl. Ing. Donald Brinkmann, University of Zurich (Philosophy and Psychology); author of a number of books and member of many Swiss and international organisations.

Prof. Dr. Fritz Strick (81), formerly of Berne University (German language and literature); distinguished author.

Prof. Dr. ing. Erich Bickel (68), ETH Zurich (Mechanical Technology); abroad for many years; on his return to Switzerland in 1932 production engineer with Escher-Wyss and later with Brown-Boveri and Co; member of the Christian/Jewish Working Community.

Prof. Dr. Karl Kulmann (86), formerly of ETH Zurich (Theoretical Electrotechnology).

Prof. Dr. Walter Gerster (64), formerly of Basle University (Italian and French), Headmaster of the Cantonal School Aarau from 1942-1954.

Dr Hans Boller (84), former Headmaster of the Girls' Commercial School in Lucerne.

Dr. J. Barth (76), Surgeon in Chur.

Dr. Alfonso Franzoni (78), Physician in Locarno, great pioneer in the fight against tuberculosis.

Dr. Paul Brutsch (72), Geneva, chief physician of the "Association Genevoise de Notre-Dame de Lourdes".

Dr. Daniel Oltramare (70), Geneva, specialist for children's diseases.

Dr. Manfredi Del Buono (33), promising radiologist and senior doctor at the Cantonal Hospital in Zurich (died in a car crash).

Dr. K. Wiki (68), well-known dentist at Frauenfeld, for forty years head of the Schools' Dental Clinic; keen mountaineer.

Georges Thélin (72), Geneva, member of the International Labour Office and Secretary of the International Organisation for the Protection of the Child from 1939 to 1957.

Pater Konrad Bollhalder (53), from Stein/SG, Missionary in Manchuria and since 1956 in Taitung (Formosa).

Dr. theol. h.c. Heinrich Gelzer (75), former head of the College of the Basle Mission.

Prof. Dr. Ernst Frick (69), ordained minister in Zurich, President of the Cantonal Church Council and member of the Council of the Union of Swiss Protestant Churches. Honorary degree from Zurich University for his activities in "HEKS", the "Hilfswerk der Evangelischen Kirchen der Schweiz".

Dr. theol. h.c. Karl Fueter (80), Minister of the Church in Zurich, well-known writer and active in the international ecumenical movement.

August Oettiker (89), musician in Thun and great expert on Othmar Schoeck.

Dr. Fritz Keller (75), former Editor-in-Chief of "Luzerner Tagblatt".

Hans Schulthess (80), former director of the news agency "Press-Telegraph" and Editor-in-Chief of "Tagesanzeiger" (Zurich).

Charles Rayle (69), former Editor-in-Chief of "Revue Automobile".

Josef Halperin (72), journalist, publicist and translator. As correspondent of the "Neue Zuercher Zeitung" in London in the thirties he issued a collection of opinions regarding the Jewish persecutions under Hitler.

Oberstdivisionaer Franz Wey (67), Lucerne, in the service of the Swiss Army from 1926 to 1961.

Ernst Gribi (74), Station Inspector of Basle (SBB).

Eric Bois (71), Chief of the Geneva Parks and Editor of "Revue Horticole Suisse".

Georges Schneider, La Chaux-de-Fonds, former world champion in ski slalom and trainer of the Swiss ski-ing team; he was accidentally killed in a hunting accident in Nidwalden.

Werner Tobler-Bortoluzzi and his wife and four children lost their lives in the catastrophe of Longarone; the family lived at Kloten.

Ida Buchmann-Unternaehrer (99), the oldest inhabitant of Lucerne.

Germaine Rard (100), St. Maurice, the oldest inhabitant and only centenarian of the Valais.

Peter Renggli (100), oldest inhabitant of Biberist (SO).

Lina Barrelet (101), Couvet, who was enthusiastic about flying and partook in a flight when she was one hundred years old.

Marie Douillot-Imer (104), La Chaux-de-Fonds, the oldest inhabitant of the French-speaking part of Switzerland.

[A.T.S.]