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The trade and factory inspectorat of the Canton reported that too many holiday and sparetime jobs were being done by children, and the authorities appeal to parents, teachers and employers to keep juvenile work to a minimum.

The town of Solothurn had a population of 18,629 at the end of last year (1962: 18,945). Of these 2,376 were foreigners; Italians (1,379), Austrians (180), Spaniards (149) and Hungarians (69), etc.

An extraordinary meeting of the Commune Assembly in June was attended by 255 voters. They accepted the proposed higher limit to which the Commune authorities could make expenditure without the Assembly's explicit consent. They also decided to keep the closing hour of shops to 5 p.m. on Saturdays.

Every fully employed Commune functionary received a special free day to visit the EXPO, as well as a free admission card.

The venerable Town Hall of Solothurn is to have a modern lift installation, both for passengers and goods. The latter is particularly urgent, as, for example, ten tons of forms and papers have to be carried annually from the ground floor to the second floor for the tax administration alone.

The staff building with a nurses' training centre at the "Bürgerspital" will take two years to complete; it will have seven storeys. The shortage of staff compelled the management of the hospital to close some of the rooms for two months.

The station square will be renovated; the alterations will include widening the Roethibridge.

The Cantonal School in Solothurn gets bigger every year: 1,285 pupils in 61/62, and last year 1,373. 40% are girls, and the staff comprises 62 professors, 16 teachers and 70 assistant teachers.

From other Solothurn towns and Communes some news at random (alphabetically):

Balsthal: the electors rejected a proposal to reduce taxes by 10% and agreed to make a contribution to the renovation of the "Rösslisaal". The new President of the District Court was elected in the person of Fürsprech Joseph Baschung.

Biberist: The Commune Assembly accepted the annual accounts for 1963 and decided to create the position of a full-time building administrator. A new building plan has recently been worked out. The electors also decided to join the waste water group of Solothurn-Emme.

Dornach: On the last Sunday in September, the new district hospital Dorneck was inaugurated. It has taken six years to build and cost 9.2 million francs, of which the Canton of Baselland paid 4.2 million francs.

Gerlafingen: The firm of von Roll A.G. has taken over the "Gewerbliche Berufsschule" from the Commune and will in future run the college as part of their own undertaking.

Grenchen: At the end of 1963, there were 19,225 inhabitants in the town, 315 more than a year previously. For the first time, Grenchen has overtaken Solothurn.

After violent campaigning, the electorate accepted the new proposals for increased teachers' salaries. Earlier in the year the Inhabitants' Commune Council accepted plans for the erection of an old-age settlement with flats for 36, a home for 36 and a nursing home for 12-15 people.

The Grenchen airfield registered increased activity over the last year, in spite of unfavourable weather conditions.

The Third Triennial Exhibition of Original Graphic Art (based on a competition) took place at Grenchen this summer.

Guldenthal: the Federal Military Department has decided to give up the project of a shooting training centre there.

Gunzgen: The Swiss Aluminium Company (Alu-suisse) has bought a large area of land for the purpose of building new factories. There was anxiety regarding fluor damage, but the company has assured government and Communes that there would be no damage to crops or in any other way.

Lommiswil: Four graves have been discovered in which several skeletons were found, probably dating back to the seventh century.

Olten: The electorate accepted a proposal to make family allowances to municipal employees. The Commune Council and Assembly have decided to close the gas works and to join the "Gasverband Mittelland". The poison-free gas will be produced in Basle and is to be conducted by pipes as far as Berne and Neuchâtel. The Aare is so dirty that the health authorities of Olten had to prohibit bathing in the Olten area.

After 13.8 million francs had been granted for new school buildings, a project has been worked out for a multi-storeyed staff building for the cantonal hospital in Olten. Later, a credit was granted for bringing certain parts of the hospital up to date. The "Saeli-Schlössli" has been renovated, too, the favourite beauty spot dating to 1870.

A new postal motor coach service has been put into operation from Olten to Wolfwil.

The Olten branch of the Business and Professional Women's Club has celebrated its tenth anniversary.

(Compiled from news received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

SWISSAIR SOLAR HOLIDAYS

Swissair's "Solar Holidays" to the Middle East, Tunisia and Greece are a logical extension of the inclusive-tour idea, which has helped to make the British holiday-maker so air-minded.

Many of the better-off Britons want to range further afield on holiday and "Solar Holidays", which are to start on 1st November, are aimed at this ever-expanding section of the British public. No similar arrangement is in operation in any other country in Europe.

The ten holiday programmes chosen to launch Swissair's "Solar Holidays" cover Greece, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia and Iran. The jet aircraft operating on these routes are Convair 990A Coronados — the fastest airliners in the world — and Caravelles.

The scheme will provide all the money-saving advantages of inclusive tours and the convenience and freedom of choice of ordinary scheduled services. It is Swissair's response to the existing and potentially great demand for the type of holiday that has until recent years been looked on as a prerogative of the rich.

Examples of inclusive charges:—

Nine days in Tunisia from £77 18s. 0d.; 12 days in Israel for £153 10s. 0d.; 20 days in Cairo, Luxor and Aswan for £164; 17 days in the Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt: £272 for each of two people.