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ANOTHER POLLING SUNDAY IN SWITZERLAND

CONFEDERATION

The 16th May was another polling day in Switzerland, as the Agence Télégraphique put it "a model example of Swiss democracy", voting on federal, cantonal and local matters. The Confederation had to decide whether to accept the so-called Milk Bill passed by Parliament, but on which the Migros Co-operatives had taken the Referendum. The electorate voted in favour of the Bill concerning milk, dairy produce and edible fats: 348,001 for and 212,495 against. Not quite so exemplary was participation with only 35.97%. In the 210 times that the voting citizen has been called to the poll since 1848, this is the fourteenth time that participation was under 40%. From 1921 to 1951, no federal poll registered less than 40%; but since then on another half dozen occasions, interest shown was as little, though there has never been quite as much indifference as last month, not since 1919 when participation was only 32.8%. With the acceptance of the Milk-Bill, any retailers are now able to sell pasteurized milk without special permission. Thus there will be more places to buy milk, though the Agricultural Information Service in Berne still believes that home delivery of milk will remain the best guarantee of the gratifyingly high milk consumption in Switzerland.

CANTONS

In the **Grisons**, the Liberal candidate Dr. Heinrich Ludwig, was elected as fifth member of the Cantonal Government.

The **Zurich** electorate accepted the much debated credit proposals for the new building of the Cantonal School on the Raemibuehl by 77,274 to 70,383 votes, and also agreed to the alterations in the law concerning navigation of Zurich waters.

In **Berne**, the voters accepted by 61,916 to 15,711 the proposal that the granting of concessions to hydro-power works by the Grand Council should be subject to the optional Referendum. The electorate rejected a four-million-franc credit for the new building of the "Salz-faktorei".

The new tax proposals in **Uri** were accepted, as was a revision of the laws regarding education, building and valuation of property.

Three proposals were accepted in **Schwyz**, concerning state grants to hospital buildings, public assistance and civil defence.

In **Basle**, the Referendum had been taken to bring the "Hinterer Jakobsberg" planning proposals before the electorate. The citizens accepted the plan as passed by the Cantonal Parliament by a 2:1 majority. Dr. Andreas Wieser ("Landesring der Unabhängigen") was elected President of the Civil Tribunal.

In **St. Gall**, three proposals were accepted, the introduction of an Administrative Tribunal and regulations concerning administrative law. The third concerned a credit of seven million francs for a new building of the "Kantonale Heil- und Pflegeanstalt" Wil.

An Initiative "Freie Reuss" launched in the **Aargau** was accepted by 50,571 to 14,135 votes. Other proposals regarding legal and administrative changes were also accepted.

The **Thurgau** electorate granted the necessary credit for the erection of a gymnasium and renovation of the sports grounds of the Cantonal School at Frauenfeld and accepted the new road law.

Two proposals were accepted in **Neuchâtel**, one concerning a subsidy towards the cost of forestry supervisors and the other relating to family allowances for workers in agriculture and viniculture.

COMMUNES

The citizens of **Chur** accepted the new tax proposals, those of **Sarnen** a revision of the education laws and modern building laws. **Davos** also agreed to a new education law, including the eligibility of women as members of educational authorities.

Utzendorf accepted credits of over two million francs for a kindergarten, fire brigade depot and joining up with the waste water plant of the Solothurn-Emme region. **Uster** refused two credits for a primary school building with swimming basin and the correction of the Sonnenbergstrasse.

An additional credit for the inclusion of a swimming basin in the projected school at the Scheideggstrasse in **Winterthur** was rejected. **Koeniz** agreed to a purchase of land for blocks of flats for the less well-to-do. With a participation of 77%, the **Neuhausen** electorate accepted the necessary credits for renovating the Rosenberg school. Water purification, housing and road correction proposals were accepted by the **Thun** citizens. One road correction proposal was accepted, the other rejected by the electorate of **Wald** (Zch.).

Romanshorn granted funds for the purchase of an estate left by the last will of a citizen for social housing projects, as well as money for a new garbage disposal van and garage. **Romanshorn** also accepted an additional credit of 3.2 million francs for the renovation of the Municipal Hospital. The **Zug** citizens approved of an exchange of land for a new school and sports grounds on the Herti Allmend. **Moutier** voted in favour of further funds being made available for water purification, but rejected proposals regarding mortgages on two building schemes. **Court** voters refused a further grant for pavement construction and street lighting. **St. Imier** rejected for a second time a credit to help the co-operative "Patinoire d'Erguel".

Large majorities accepted the three proposals put to the **Lucerne** electorate: a credit of Fr.4.847 million francs for the purchase of trolley buses and other transport projects, over a million francs for the shifting of the Kreuzbuchstrasse Wuerzenbach and 1.6 million francs for projects of the Municipal Electricity Works. Finally, 536 citizens at **Windisch** (Ag) rejected (to 513 ayes) the Initiative to introduce an Inhabitants' Council.

[A.T.S.]

DEARER PETROL

By a federal decree, the customs levy on petrol was to be increased from 7 to 12 cts. The period during which the Referendum can be taken ends on 23rd June. But in order to prevent a repetition of the happenings of 1962 when some twenty million francs were lost to national road construction by manipulations, the Federal Council has brought the law into force prematurely early in May, when petrol became dearer by the equivalent of about 4½d. a gallon (which brings the price to between 4/1d. and 4/6d. a gallon). Thus, road construction will benefit earlier than expected though the Referendum period runs its usual course. The nett customs revenue on fuel for 1964 amounted to Fr.461,735,179.— of which 60% were used for road construction.

(Mainly A.T.S.)