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# IT HAPPENED IN THURGAU AND ST. GALL

## THURGAU

The new Cantonal Parliament as elected at the end of March, consists of 126 Councillors (125 hitherto). There has been very little change in the Party representation which is as follows: Liberals 26, Farmers 32, Roman Catholics 21, Christian Socialists 11, Social Democrats 27, Evangelicals 8 and Democrats 1. The new President is Otto Helg (Socialist) from Romanshorn. The ordinary accounts for 1964 ended with a surplus of 7.5 million francs (revenue 87.5 mio.). The extraordinary accounts (road construction) showed a deficit of 6 mio. The Cantonal Electricity Works had a surplus of 1½ million francs. The budget for 1965 estimates a loss of nearly 2 mio., and 3 mio. in the extraordinary accounts. Salaries of state employees have been increased by 5%. The Bodensee-Toggenburg railway will receive a subsidy of 1.2 mio. and road construction will be extended. A grant has been given for new nets to the Bodensee fishermen, and the cost of erecting two new gymnasiums for the Cantonal School at Frauenfeld will amount to 2.9 mio. Half a million francs will be given for the reconstruction of the Klosterkirche at Kreuzlingen, which was gutted by fire two years ago.

The Police Corps will be increased to 110 men. There has been a considerable increase in the number of traffic accidents, 101 more than in 1963, 13 more people killed and 26 more seriously injured, the respective figures being: 1,060 accidents, 62 killed, 196 badly injured. The Cantonal Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Hans Gimmel, Frauenfeld, has retired. As successor to the late Otto Raggenbass, "Gemeindeammann" Robert Senn (Scherzingen) has been elected as new "Statthalter" for the Kreuzlingen district.

The first part of the complete modernisation and renewal of the Thurgau water and waste water system will cost some 300 million francs, to be accomplished within 22 years; a further 200 mio. will be needed after that. The Lake of Constance was so dirty that one thousand soldiers of the Air Defence Regiment 14 were used to clean up the shore in March. There has been a considerable decrease of accidents on the Lake of Constance and the Rhine in 1964. On the other hand bathing accidents have nearly trebled, and 34 people were drowned. In May, a new boat "Thurgau" (600 passengers) was launched.

On 28th December 1964, there were 25,991 foreigners in the Thurgau, not including the 4,500 seasonal workers who had gone home over Christmas. The total number of inhabitants in the Canton is about 181,170. The Education Department is worried about the shortage of teachers. At late as March, there were still twenty positions vacant. An appeal was made to retired teachers, married women and students. Two primary school teachers retired after unusually long years of service: Miss Anna Nater, 53 years at Waengi, and Miss Clara Reimer 55½ years at Eggetsbuehl. Talking of long service, we should like to mention Jakob Guyer, aged 78, who recently left his firm Gyr and Co. at Frauenfeld, after 62 years in the same company.

The Commune of **Amriswil** suffered the biggest fire for decades when the clothing factory ESCO, H. Hess and Co. AG, was completely gutted in February. Eleven families and a large number of unmarried foreign women

workers lost their homes. The damage was estimated at over ten million francs.

Another fire caused damage in the **Arbon** primary school building. At the last week-end in May, Arbon was host to the village of Langenargen from across the lake. 2,500 visitors took part in the popular festival. The well-known textile manufacturer Max Stoffel presented a chocolate box to the Arbon authorities on the occasion of his seventieth birthday. Contents: two hundred notes of Fr.1,000.— each! Dr. Walter Munz from Arbon has taken up his new post as head of the Dr. Albert Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene.

The Commune Assembly of **Berlingen** decided to resign from the North-Eastern Federation for the Navigation of Rhine-Lake of Constance. The "Groppenfasnacht" of **Ermatingen** reached the venerable age of 550 years when it was held at the end of March. The Village Assembly of **Huettwilen** has accepted new regulations to protect the shores of the Huettwilersee. No camping will be allowed in future.

**Kreuzlingen** has now 15,000 inhabitants. There is an association in favour of a second middle school at Kreuzlingen. The parish church community has decided to make a present of Fr.7,000.— towards the renovation of the Evangelical church of Samaden (Gr.). For the first time in fifteen years, a wild boar was killed near Kreuzlingen early in March. The citizens of **Romanshorn** have agreed to large expenditure, 1,225 million francs for sewerage and the extension of the Arbonerstrasse, nearly half a million for a underpass near the railway line and a new bridge over the Aach. On 21st June, a new school was inaugurated. Half a million francs have been left to **Steckborn** and the Canton by Mrs. Elisabeth Schellenberg-Gimpert. **Weinfelden**'s citizens have agreed to the new school project in the Sangenfeld at a cost of 5¾ million francs.

## ST. GALL

The ordinary accounts for 1964 of the Canton of St. Gall showed a surplus of 0.33 million francs (revenue 195.07 mio.). The extraordinary account ended with a deficit of 16.9 mio., mainly due to road construction. The budget for 1965 estimates a deficit in both accounts.

The new President of the Cantonal Grand Council is Dr. J. Bossart, lawyer from Gossau. Nursing and medical taxes have been increased for St. Gall hospitals. The new film law has put the minimum age for cinema visits at 18. The St. Gall University of Economics depends on a considerable federal subsidy, specially in view of the extension of the various institutes. Ten million francs is the total amount needed for the new buildings, the students' home is not even included in this sum. Almost every nationality is represented amongst the 1,200 students. These considered the relationship with the inhabitants of the town was not sufficiently close, and the students organised "Journées d'entr'aide" during which they did practical work in every field, catering, building, babysitting, car washing, etc. The pay received was put in a fund towards a students' home.

The Canton is to make a grant of 7.8 million francs (60%) towards the cost of a hospital at Wil. A grant will also be made towards the improvement of the Linthebene. Nearly 5 mio. will be St. Gall's share of the cost of improvement of the Bodensee-Toggenburgbahn.

The St. Gall-Appenzell Kraftwerke A.G. celebrated their Golden Jubilee earlier in the year. The St. Gall Government is in favour of a thermal power works and refinery in the St. Gall Rhine Valley.

The new President of the Commune Council of the **town of St. Gall** is the Liberal Dr. Georg Gerig. The 1964 accounts showed a deficit of 1.14 mio. (Revenue 63.4 mio.). The total debt now stands at 33.6 mio. The authorities are worried about the town's finances, and the tax-rate has been increased from 150 to 160%. In spite of this a deficit of 4.2 million francs is estimated for 1965. A pay increase to municipal employees has also been granted.

Over 3 million francs have been voted for fourteen land purchases in the area of the Wall- and Gallusstrasse. A garbage incinerating plant for St. Gall and surroundings will cost a quarter of a million francs. A further 1.5 million francs is required for more road construction projects.

The new Municipal Engineer is Dipl. Ing. ETH Ernst Knecht. St. Gall now has not only the flower exchange (annual turnover of 1.2 million francs), but also a new purchasing centre for gardeners and florists.

In May, an international fair for the rational flow of goods in the textile industry was held in St. Gall, and in June, 5,000 singers took part in the nineteenth Swiss Workers' Singing Festival. The late dentist Dr. Rudolf Perrola left the sum of Fr.320,000.— for poor orphans.

At **Altstetten**, a new district school was inaugurated on 21st June. The Commune of **Balgach** received a gift of 1.5 million francs from Dr. h.c. Max Schmidheiny, from the estate of his mother. A competition for a new technical college at Buchs is being held. The two Communes of **Ebnat** and **Kappel** are now fused, and the Canton of St. Gall only counts ninety Communes.

**Rapperswil** is the home of the Swiss National Circus Knie, a branch of which is the famous Children's Zoo open again for the summer. The town has also a beautiful rose garden now, laid out along the stairs from the Kapuzinerkloster to the Castle. Rapperswil has two roses in its crest and is known as the "town of roses". 120 different kinds of roses have now been planted at the foot of the Schlossberg. On 20th June, there was a commemoration service which brought together the members and descendants of the Polish Division interned in Switzerland twenty-five years ago.

The **Rorschach** Commune Council agreed to an additional credit of 3.2 million francs for the further extension and renovation of the hospital. The fruit deep freeze installation at **St. Margrethen** has been enlarged and now offers accommodation for 363 railway train loads of 10 metric tons each.

The airfield of the Alpine Gliding School at **Schaenix** was opened in May. The stable of a large farming estate at **Sennwald** was completely gutted by fire late in June; fortunately, the living quarters could be saved. Another fire broke out in the R.C. Kindergarten of the Lindenplatz at **Uzwil**. A new nylon factory was opened at the end of last year at **Widnau** (Viscose-Suisse). The buildings cost 6 million francs, and 19 mio. were invested in new machinery.

[A.T.S.]

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