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# IT HAPPENED IN THE GRISONS AND APPENZELL

## GRISONS

The twenty-third volume dealing with the census of 1st December 1960 was published early this year; it deals with the Grisons. The population of the 221 Communes increased by 7.6% in the ten years from 1950, i.e. from 137,100 to 147,458 inhabitants. Nevertheless, 131 Communes registered a loss which amounts to between 10 and 20% in as many as fifty-five Communes, and even over 20% in twenty Communes. There are three villages in Oberhalbstein where the decrease is quite disturbing: Marmorera (80%), Mulegns (47.7%) and Sur (31.7%).

Ninety Communes showed an increase in the population, the two Ferraras (Schams) by 326.9% and 180.8% to 286 and 219 inhabitants respectively. The number of St. Moritz's inhabitants has risen by 46.6% to 3,751, and that of Chur by 28.1% to 24,825. Since the census, the population of Chur has increased further and counted 28,385 on 1st January last.

There are thirty-seven Communes with fewer than 100 inhabitants. Marmorera is the smallest with only 28 inhabitants, followed by Santa Domenica and Landarenca in the Calanca district with 29 each.

From 1850 to 1960, the population increased from 89,895 to the above-mentioned figure of 147,458. In 1950, 91.9% were of Swiss nationality, ten years later 88.4%. Of the 17,165 foreigners, well over two-thirds were Italians and one-sixth Germans.

In 1860, the R.C. population made up 42.7% which increased to 51.1% during the following ten years. Numerically, the Protestant population increased, but percentage-wise it dropped from 50.7 to 48%.

German is still the main language with 56.6%, much the same as in 1950. Raeto-Romansh went down in the ten years from 29.2 to 26.1%, but Italian has gone up from 13.2 to 16.1%.

The Grisons is the only Canton which, in its Constitution, limits the time of office for its "Regierungsräte" (members of the Government) to three times three years.

The elections took place early in April, and the new legislative period began on 17th May. The new President of the Grand Council (Cantonal Parliament) was elected in the person of Gion Videl Coray (Conservative/Christian-Socialist). His Party has 39 seats (hitherto 38), the Democrats have also 39 (36), Liberals 28 (31), Socialists 7 (7), No Party 0 (1).

The accounts for 1964 for the Canton of Grisons were balanced at nearly 150 million francs. The extraordinary accounts showed a loss of nearly 4.3 mio.

Last autumn, the Cantonal Parliament voted a credit of 7.15 mio. for technical amelioration of the Rhaetian Railway; the Confederation contributes 12.84 mio. towards the plan which will bring various improvements, including the renovation of the Samedan station, the purchase of forty carriages, etc. There is a plan that the Confederation will take over the Rhaetian Railways. The action committee "Pro Toedi-Greina Bahn" is pleased that a definite project for that railway has been worked out and hopes that there will be no more delays.

20.7 million francs will be required for the extension of the Cantonal School buildings, 6.6 mio. for the improvement of Flond/Surcuolm and 2.3 mio. for a new school at Vals. A contribution of nearly one million will be made to the Communes concerned with the building up of the Tomilsertobel. An annual amount of 10 mio. will be

needed for road construction. After 38 months of work, the last rocks of the San Bernardino Tunnel were cut early in April; there had been a fair amount of delay which has resulted in additional cost. The National Road N.13 will go through a tunnel by-passing the Via Mala. In an article in the "Tages Anzeiger" Siffredo Spadini reckons that when this project is completed, the bad reputation of the Via Mala, which has lasted for two thousand years, will finally be lost and the name can then be changed to Via Bona.

There was a small decrease of accidents on the Grisons roads in 1964, but the number of people killed was still 34, and damage amounted to 4 million francs, not counting small incidents with damage under Fr.200.—. This sum is well over 1½ million francs higher than last year. Apart from Chur, most of the accidents took place on the road Silvaplana-Zernez-Martina.

For the first time, annual accounts for the Power works Hinterrhein A.G. could be compiled, the station having been operational for a full year: 4.2 million francs profit. The Vorderrhein will be corrected near Disentis/Muster at a cost of 3½ million francs.

In February, the Protestant citizens of the Grisons accepted a change in their Constitution, following which women Ministers of the Church can now hold full office in the Canton. In 1932, the electorate rejected the proposal.

There has been bad news about fish poisoning in the Rhine below Reichenau, and early in June, foot-and-mouth disease broke out in several parts of the Canton, specially affecting the Domleschg and the Heinzenberg. Avalanches caused a number of accidents, notably one in the Praetigau, which killed three people.

After the German Rolf Ristau had been sent to prison for nine years for killing a Danish woman in a sleeping car, another trial in the Grisons hit the headlines, that of Willi Bogner, German film producer, who was re-tried on a charge of accidental homicide. During the taking of a film for which well-known ski-ing experts had been engaged, an avalanche killed the two champions Barbi Heneberger (Germany) and Bud Werner (U.S.A.) in April 1964 in Val Selin, Commune of Celerina. Bogner had disregarded all warnings regarding the expected avalanche, and the "Kantonsgerichtsausschuss" has now sent him to prison for two months, after he had been acquitted by the Oberengadine Tribunal.

In the Swiss National Park, the summer total of deer last year was 1,300 stags, 1,200 chamois and 330 ibexes. The stags have been reduced since then, mainly on account of hunting on the outskirts of the Park. The Grisons hunters have protested against this.

A TV Transmitter has been erected on the Weisshorn, Arosa, enabling the Schanfigg to view the German-Swiss programme. At the end of March, 120 medical experts met at Arosa for an instruction course on rheumatism. The valuable Santa Domenica Church in the Calancatal dating back to the seventeenth century has been renovated. The first steps have been taken for the realisation of a waste water project at Celerina (Staz), which is also to serve St. Moritz and Pontresina.

The Chur Commune Council is under the Presidency of the Liberal T. Riedi. The new Council, known as Town Council up to the end of last year, has 21 members. At the end of last year, the new Evangelical Male Nursing School started to function, and a few weeks later, an indoor pool.

the eighth in Switzerland, was opened in the Hotel Duc de Rohan. In April, the Swiss Youth Parliament met in Chur — 100 representatives of 23 Youth Parliaments. In May, the HIGA, the exhibition of commerce, industry and trade, was held in the Grisons capital. In June, the town celebrated its quingentenary. Special services, pageants, theatre performances, a children's festival, etc, marked the anniversary of the foundation of the town on the ruins of the old town gutted by fire in 1464.

The Landammann Dr. Ch. Jost (Liberal) of the Landschaft **Davos** was re-elected to his office at the end of May. His Party has 7 seats in the "Kleine Landrat", the Democrats 4, Socialists 2, No Party 1. The new Cantonal Bank building was opened at Davos at the end of the year, and on 28th June, the new swimming baths were opened to the public. An avalanche rescue course and an international symposium on avalanches were held at Davos in January and March respectively. The dentists' congress was organised there in June.

The tenth "Tambourenfest" of Eastern Switzerland was held at **Donat/Ems** on 13th June. The Swiss Society for Social Medicine met at **Grono** on 1st July, and the German federation of sports doctors, some 150 of them, held a course on the **Lenzerheide**. **Maloja** has become a winter sports place; the first ski-lift has been built to the Piz Aela. A new Party has been founded in **Poschiavo** called "Alleanza Progressista", and valuable articles from Roman times have been found in a quarry at **Roveredo**, coins, glass and pottery. The Swiss Federation of Mixed Choirs met at **Samedan** on 21st June.

**St. Moritz**, like Davos, is celebrating its centenary. The Grand Hotel Kurhaus St. Moritz-Bad is also one hundred years old. In the first fifteen months of the railway being run to the top of the Corvatsch, well over one million passengers have already been transported. "The Times" carried pictures on 21st January of the preparations for the burning of the "L'hom Strom" which ceremony was held at **Scuol** on 1st February: Scraps of straw and hay are plaited and bound to the 30 to 40 feet larch tree trunk which is set up in the village square and then burnt. The citizens of Scuol have voted credits of over one million francs for the first time: for swimming baths and an artificial ice rink, a town planning project and social housing. The Sebastian Chapel at **Zuoz** was used as a store house and the valuable frescoes of the fifteenth century were rapidly deteriorating. Friends "Pro San Bastiaan" have taken charge of the renovation.

(News received from A.T.S.  
and "Tages Anzeiger".)

## APPENZELL—AUSSERRHODEN

Revenue in the Half-Canton amounted to nearly 20 million francs in 1964, and there was a deficit of almost Fr.91,000.—. This is only about a seventh, however, of the estimated loss, as income from taxes had risen. Road construction cost is responsible for the increase on the debit side in the extraordinary accounts of nearly 1¼ million francs. The budget for the present year estimates another small deficit. The Cantonal Council, at its first meeting of the new parliamentary year on 15th June, elected Gemeindehauptmann Walter Ehrbar (Trogen) as its new Chairman. At the same meeting, credits were granted for new prisoners' cells in the Rathaus Trogen and for the inside renovation of the hospital at Teufen. The previous Council had approved a very generous scholarship law, providing for scholarships to 50% and to loans for the remaining cost, not only to Appenzell citizens living in or out of the Canton, but also to foreigners with over five years' residence.

The Kursaal at **Heiden** has been re-opened. The electors of **Herisau** accepted the annual accounts which showed a small deficit, but they rejected the budget for 1965, as well as the proposed partial revision of the communal constitution, obviously in opposition to proposed pay increases and allowances and higher financial competence of the authorities. A Herisau woman, Frau Ida Walser, was awarded the "Feldmeisterschaftsmedaille" at the "Eidgenössische Feldschieszen" at Walzenhausen in June. This means that this able markswoman has reached the total number of points for the eighth time.

## APPENZELL—INNERRHODEN

Innerrhoden, too, has to face expenditure for roads. The construction of a pavement at the Western entrance of Appenzell alone will cost a quarter of a million francs. The road from Weissbad to Bruelisau will cost nearly a million, of which the Canton will pay 40%. The District Commune Assembly voted a credit for building land suitable for new industries. A steel firm will be the first to open up in 1966.

The restoration of the Kreuzkapelle at Appenzell which was started on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of Appenzell's entry into the Confederation is the autumn of 1963, has caused some controversy. The well-known expert on national monuments, Prof. Linus Birchler, is appalled, especially as regards the inside of the chapel and five new stained glass windows, Prof. Birchler has lodged a protest.

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