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middle of the 1970's, including 60 kilometres of tunnels. Detailed plans have also been prepared for a 15-kilometre-long double lane road tunnel through the Gotthard and a double-track railway tunnel through the base of the Gotthard massif with a length of 45 kilometres. All this represents a huge financial effort for our small country and especially for the Swiss civil engineering industry. Certain important sections of these roads have already been opened to traffic. A notable work is the Weinland Bridge spanning the River Thur between Winterthur and Schaffhausen — technically and aesthetically a perfect example of prestressed concrete construction.

The intercontinental airports of Zurich-Kloten and Geneva-Cointrin provide two further examples of work for the improvement of communications carried out during the last decade; they are still in process of expansion. Further important fields of Swiss civil engineering activity are hydraulic engineering (especially at Basle Docks, and the Jura groundwater correction scheme), pile-driving and sheet piling works. Innumerable excavations for buildings, cofferdams, pile foundations and pile rows in Switzerland and abroad bear witness to the great skill of Swiss firms in this speciality.

At the turn of the century Swiss contractors began to carry out work abroad. This considerable foreign activity was badly hit by the two world wars and by the general economic depression of the thirties. In addition, the continuing prosperity at home during recent years has unfortunately induced many firms to reduce their export business. But this is a temporary condition. The majority of the hydro-electric schemes will have been completed in ten or twelve years from now. By that time about four-fifths of the network of national roads and main roads will be finished. A great mass of technical know-how, ability and experience will then be available for other work, together with a large amount of building plant and machinery. Some of this industrial potential will be applied to the construction of roads, railways, airports, power stations and factories, etc., in the developing countries. To make this possible, the efficiency of the Swiss civil engineering industry and its technical staff must become known all over the world. Finally, in this time of abundance of work in Switzerland, our contracting firms must obtain increasing numbers of orders from foreign clients.

### SWISS ELECTORATE AGREES TO GOVERNMENT'S POLICY

As was announced in a previous issue, the Swiss electorate went to the poll in a nationwide Referendum on Sunday, 28th February. The Government's measures to curb inflation, which were taken a year ago, had to be submitted to the popular vote, before they could be continued for another year. By their acceptance, the citizens have given support to the Government — "The Times" calls it a vote of confidence. The measures concerning credit, investment, foreign capital and building construction were grouped in two categories for the purpose of polling. The first, credits, was accepted by 526,616 to 385,750, with the Valais, Ticino, the Grisons and Baselstadt rejecting the proposed continuation.

The same Cantons rejected the second group, restriction on construction, and they were joined by Nidwalden, Baselland, Appenzell and Zug. This group was accepted by 507,728 to 406,299 voters.

Details of the voting in the different Cantons and a report on the pre-Referendum campaign will be given in a future issue of the "Swiss Observer". [A.T.S.]

### RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland recently:

- Dr. Karl Sartorius (74), Basle, lawyer, Secretary of the Basle Education Department from 1915-18, from 1923 to 1958 Director of the "Basler Nachrichten" and the printing works "Zum Basler Berichtshaus", active in Swiss and international newspaper publishing associations, member of the board of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse, great champion of freedom for the press.
- Ella Bürgin (82), Basle, well-known artist who lived in Paris.
- Bernhard Nigg (78), Davos, former administrator of the Grison Cantonal Bank, well-known personality in ski-ing circles and pioneer in route marking.
- Albert Murith (48), Fribourg, lawyer, former President of the District Court of Greyerz, since 1956 Fribourg solicitor general.
- Dr. A. Starobinski (70), Geneva, originally Polish, but studied in Geneva where he became laboratory chief of the Cantonal Hospital and the Institute of Hygiene; influential personality in the Geneva Jewish community.
- Ernst Enderlin (75), Buehler (AR), former President of the Appenzell Ausserrhoden High Court of Justice and member of the Cantonal Council.
- Dipl. Ing. François de Lorient (54), Berne, since 1937 in the service of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation (Radio Schweiz), chief of technical service and, since 1st January 1964, Vice-Chairman.
- Paul E. Métraux (86), Lausanne, since 1904 pastor of the following communities: Villarzel, Montreux, Chailly-Lausanne and Bursins (Rolle). For ten years Editor of the "Semeur Vaudois".
- Ernst Bollinger (63), Buerglen (TG), over thirty years with the "Kammgarnspinnerei" which he managed since last November; for many years Chairman of the "Sekundarschulvorsteherchaft".
- Dr. Alfred Schmid (75), St. Gall, keeper of the Municipal Archives, teacher and historian.
- Franz Brozincevic (66), Wetzikon (Zch), head of a firm of lorry constructors founded by his father in 1904, manufacturer of the well-known make of "FBW".
- Jeanne Clouzot, Geneva, for over forty years film critic of the Journal de Genève.
- Dr. Werner Kunz (70), s-Chanf (Upper Engadine), former teacher at the Lyceum Alpinum at Zuoz, one of the founders of the Oberengadin S.K.V. which he presided for decades; member of the Grisons Parliament.

[A.T.S.]

### MEDICAL SUPPLY FAIR

The Fifth International Trade Fair for Medical and Hospital Supply (IFAS) will take place from 18th-22nd March 1965 at Zurich's Congress House. Trade quarters greatly appreciate this Exhibition and again expect a representative cross section through the most important branches of Medical and Hospital supply. Modern equipment and instruments will be on show as well as long tested devices created for the well-being of the sick.

[S.N.T.O.]