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IT HAPPENED IN EASTERN SWITZERLAND

APPENZELL AUSSER-RHODEN

On 24th April, this year's "Landsgemeinde" took place at Trogen. In spring-like weather, nearly 9,000 men carrying swords gathered from the twenty Communes of Ausser-Rhoden. Amongst the guests were Federal Councillor Gnaegi, the Indian Ambassador and representatives of the Army. *Landammann* Jakob Langenauer expressed disappointment to the head of the Federal Department of Communications that the Berne-Loetschberg-Simplon line is to be nationalised, but the Canton of Appenzell has still to make great sacrifices to run its railways. The annual accounts which finished with a small surplus (revenue Fr.22,248,242.—) were accepted. As sixth and seventh members of the Government, *Alt Ratsschreiber* Dr. iur. et rer.pol. Rudolf Reutlinger, Herisau (Young Liberal) and Cantonal Councillor and *Gemeindehauptmann* Ernst Vitzthum, Walzenhausen (no Party) were elected. With great majority, the law to further housing was accepted.

The Cantonal Council elected Ernst Zuest, Heiden, as new *Gerichtsweibel*. As first Canton in Switzerland, Appenzell AR has installed an oil brigade capable of cleansing waters which have become polluted with oil or chemicals through an accident. A special alarm system goes with it.

A month before the "Landsgemeinde", the seven Communes of the Appenzell hinterland accepted a credit for planning a new hospital in **Herisau**. Also in the local capital, a home and a settlement for old people is to be built. At Buehler, a new R.C. church is to be built with a meeting hall in the basement. The **Trogen** citizens granted a credit of 1.4 million francs for a school and gymnasium. A huge cowbell has been given to the Kennedy children as a memento of their Swiss holiday; it was made by one of the last *Treichelmacher* "Hampi"-Faessler.

APPENZELL INNER-RHODEN

Nearly 2,000 citizens gathered for the "Landsgemeinde" in Appenzell on 24th April. Federal Councillor Schaffner and the President of the Council of States were present, as well as a representative of the Armed Forces. Leo Mittelholzer was re-elected as governing *Landammann*. National Councillor and *Landesfähnrich* Dr. Raimond Broger was elected as *Stillstehender Landammann* in place of the retiring Councillor of States Karl Dobler. Franz Breitenmoser is the new *Säckelmeister*. One of the proposals accepted by the citizens is that the Cantonal Parliament shall fix the *Kurtaxe*.

The Canton is interested in the project to have an Army horse centre and Cavalry training centre on Appenzell territory, and negotiations are being held with the Federal Military Department.

ST. GALL

The Social Democrat Municipal Councillor Robert Pugneth is the new President of the St. Gall Cantonal Parliament. The two Councillors of States are Dr. W. Rohner, Liberal (hitherto) and Dr. iur. P. Hofmann, Conservative (new, in place of Dr. R. Maeder who retired for reasons of health). *Regierungsrat* Dr. S. Frick was elected *Landammann* for the new period.

Nearly 5m. francs more revenue than expenditure appeared in the cantonal accounts for 1965, income being 216.3m. The electorate agreed to half of 2.3m. francs for the proposed melioration Dietschwil/Kirchberg, the other half to be paid by the Confederation. The proposed nurses' home at the Cantonal Hospital in St. Gall (2.6m.) was also accepted. The Chief Physician Dr. M. E. Mueller has resigned on taking up his new task at Berne University. The St. Gall "Feuerbestattungsverein" looks back on 75 years.

A special society for cleaning the shores of Lake Constance was founded in St. Gall in February. A film was shown of last year's military cleaning up of the shores, which resulted in taking out of the lake 3,600 tons of sludge and rubbish.

A new Technical College is planned at Buchs and a Cantonal School at Wattwil. A competition has been announced for a Technical College at Rapperswil. There is still a shortage of teachers, and re-training courses have been organised. Young teachers now have to teach for three years in the Canton before they can move away. Although the number of people engaged in agriculture has gone down, the Agricultural Colleges of Custerhof/Rheineck, Flawil and Flums are no longer large enough, and the Cantonal Government has decided to extend them.

There was some trouble between the catering employees of the Canton and the Union Helvetia. After long and difficult negotiations, satisfactory agreements have now been concluded as to working conditions.

The accounts of the town of **St. Gall** were practically balanced at 66.5m. francs. 17.8m. francs will be spent on the town's communications. The electorate agreed to 5.5m. francs being spent on improving the water-supplies at Riet (Lake of Constance). The School Dental Clinic is to be enlarged and moved to the Schreinerstrasse. A permanent Building Fair has been opened in St. Gall. In March, the seventh meeting of European Fashion Schools was held in the town. Six of the winning models in a competition came from Kingston-on-Thames.

Abtwil is to have two new schools — no other Commune in the Canton has developed so fast recently. The new hospital of **Altstaetten** was opened at the end of March. Bank Manager F. Studach and the industrialist A. Locher each donated Fr.100,000.— towards it.

The Kur- und Golfhotel Quellenhof at **Bad Ragaz** was opened for the tenth season on 23rd April. The electorate voted Fr.1,677,000.— for the extension of the source water lines Pardaetsch-Bad Ragaz. The first woman land registrar in St. Gall passed the examination successfully at **Balgach**. The Commune is planning an administration building. The youth of **Gossau** collected over Fr.8,100.— for fighting hunger in India.

Pfarr-Resignat Karl Schlumpf at **Hemberg** has been a priest for 60 years. As no President could be found for the R.C. parish of **Oberuzwil**, the Minister has to look after business matters. The citizens of **Rapperswil** rejected the project for a fountain commemorating 600 years of the bridge across the lake and 500 years since the entry into the Confederation (1958). A new ferry boat "Rorschach" has been put into operation between Romanshorn and Friedrichshafen. The **Rorschach** Municipal Band surprised the maiden voyage party with a concert. There is a new ice cream factory at Rorschach. Lic. iur. Martin

Litscher of **St. Margrethen** was elected "Bezirksammann" in succession to Ernst Saxer who retired after 17 years in office. In the **Sargans** district, the new "Bezirksammann" is Otto Babst, Vilters, in succession to Dr. Felix Erb who retired after 15 years. From Sargans comes the news that the ironore mines of Gonzen will definitely be closed. About 120 men are affected.

Uzwil, i.e. Niederuzwil, is to house the new central waste water plant. **Wattwil** is to have a Roman Catholic Church Centre. For over 100 years, the parish shared the Church with the Protestant community. 6.7m. francs will be spent on a large waste water plant. With a 67% participation, the citizens of **Wil** agreed to a 5½m.-franc project for a hospital.

GRISONS

Valentin Regi of Zernez is the new President of the Grisons Parliament. The annual accounts for 1965 ended in a deficit of Fr.120,626.— (Revenue: Fr.281,588,708.—). The electorate rejected once again the proposed cantonal commune law.

The Grisons holiday places enjoy mounting popularity. Arosa had 100% of its hotel beds occupied, and Davos showed the highest number of nights spent there by holidaymakers amongst whom the Germans are at the top of the list. The new Chief Engineer of the Rhaetian Railways is Ulrich Schlumpf in succession to P. J. Bener who has been in the service of the organisation for 38 years. 17 million francs are to be spent on enlarging the Rhaetian Cantonal and Regional Hospital in Chur. The sixteenth century Castle Haldenstein will again become a Grisons cultural centre.

The electorate of **Chur** accepted a project of 16m. francs for the building of a Trade College and a month later 5.5m. for the Otto Barblan School. The "Sennhof" has been renovated and is now in use by the Public Prosecutor's officials. The profit of Fr.21,000.— made at the quingentenary of the Chur Guilds has been put in a special fund to be used for cultural purposes. Chur now has its own radio and TV studio. The "Co-Op" celebrates its centenary. The Zurich Chamber Orchestra gave a concert for the Chur schools at the initiative of the educational authorities of the town. The "Meierboden" is to become a training ground for civil defence.

The Parsenn Rescue Service at **Davos** has celebrated its Silver Jubilee. *Verkehrsdirektor* Fritz Duerst has retired after 25 years. A serious avalanche disaster happened on the Lukmanier road, and we learn from **Disentis** that three people were killed. The new *Kurdirektor* at **Klosters** is Fred Renfer.

Pontresina is still without a Commune President; several new members have been elected into the Commune Council, but none is willing to take the job which was done in an honorary capacity by the retiring President. The electorate of **St. Moritz** agreed to work out a building line plan for the centre of the village. The famous spa is to have an indoor swimming pool (4.5m. francs), a restaurant on the Corviglia (2.5m.), and there is now the first "Eurotel", an organisation which sells completely furnished holiday flats which the owner can let when not in residence. At **Tiefencastel** a commission is to examine the question of a *Progymnasium*. The Commune of **Zernez** is giving the ground free of charge for a National Park House to be run by the Foundation "Pro Nationalpark".

THURGAU

The electorate of the Thurgau accepted a new law which changes the principle of public assistance from one of citizenship to that of residence. The cantonal accounts for 1965 showed a surplus of 4.3m. francs, revenue at 97.5m. francs. The Cantonal Parliament at Weinfelden elected *Gemeindeammann* Otto Mueller, Krillberg, as its President. Building construction between 1965 and 1974 will cost 200 million francs.

The Cantonal Old-Age and Nursing Home St. Katharinental near Diessenhofen is to be renovated. Another renovation is that of the head office of the Thurgau Cantonal Bank at Weinfelden, which dates back to 1906 and is no longer adequate. The Protestant electorate agreed to having women Ministers in the Thurgau.

The "Eidgenössische Schwing- und Aelplerfest" will take place in **Frauenfeld** on 13th and 14th August. As the organisers will be short of accommodation for the participants, between six and ten sleeping cars will be hired from the "Deutsche Schlafwagengesellschaft". The fishing village of **Berlingen** with 1,000 inhabitants wanted the church renovated. Experts have now discovered that the church deserves a more extensive renovation as it was originally built in New-Gothic style in 1840. It is hoped that the Church will be put under protection. G. Anderegg of **Egnach** has donated Fr.100,000.— for welfare and educational purposes. At the end of March, there was a big fire at **Kreuzlingen** when several buildings, including the inn "Zum Hirschen" were gutted.

When the sanatorium at **Mammern** celebrated its centenary in April, the whole population of the village was invited to the party. **Romanshorn** is to have a swimming bath (2.32m. francs); this is necessary as bathing in the lake is hardly possible any more due to pollution. The new *Gemeindeammann* is K. Hausammann. At the end of February, the traditional spring festival took place at **Taegerwilen**. This goes back to the early nineteenth century. This year, the pageant was devoted to fairy stories, and there were thirty-seven pictures. The interesting aspect of the festival is that all the costumes were made by the villagers and all the trucks decorated in months of community work. Visitors from many parts of the Canton attended the historic gathering.

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