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ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW YEAR

What are we going to take with us from the old year? What had better be forgotten, and what shall we try to improve in the new year? So much may change during the next twelve months, in our personal lives, in our homeland, in our country of adoption, in the world.

Will it be for better or for worse? What can we do — minute figures in the multitudes of the universe? Where are our responsibilities? The thought is frightening. Or it would be, were it not for the knowledge that there is an Almighty Power to guide us and protect us.

Gonzague de Reynold wrote his "Grandeur de la Suisse", published in 1940 by the Editions de la Baconnière in Neuchâtel. In it appears the "Prière des 22 louables Cantons". On 23rd April 1966, the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad celebrated its Golden Jubilee in the presence of Monsieur de Reynold, Architect of the movement. The festive commemoration in the venerable Chamber of the Basle Cantonal Parliament included the reading of the Prayer in its original.

For the Swiss outside Switzerland a new chapter has started, and new tasks and responsibilities lie ahead, now that the special Article for the Swiss Abroad has been firmly anchored in the Federal Constitution. Gonzague de Reynold has expressed the needs of the twenty-two Cantons that make up the Swiss Nation. It is a prayer of trust and hope, one for protection, wisdom and clarity of mind. We need all of this as individual human beings, too. So let us remember it as we hail the unknown new year.

THE PRAYER OF THE 22 COMMENDABLE CANTONS

Lord, God of our forefathers and God of ourselves, God of our children and of all the generations to the end of Thy Eternity:

Lord, hear the prayer of thy sons, the 22 commendable Cantons.

If we are the confederates, it is because we have sworn in front of Thy cross, on faith and honour, that our alliance may last, if it pleases Thee, forever.

Thou art, Lord, witness to that alliance, seal to our pacts and bond in our union.

That is why we have placed ourselves under Thy protection.

We beg Thee for peace, not of the kind promised in vain by men, but Thy own which is the peace of mind once our hearts accept Thy will.

We beg Thee for freedom, again not that which is proclaimed in the laws made by men, but that which Thou hast put in front of us like a golden ladder leading us to Thee.

Make our narrow minds and our small hearts understand, Lord, that peace and liberty dwell within us like an inner grace and not without like written treaties or political claims.

Accord us the strength to master ourselves: then we shall be free and shall have peace; liberty which will follow us into slavery and peace into war. And we shall learn to be happy, without having good fortune.

Lord, avert from us the scourge of war; but should it come to us, let it meet with stone and iron.

Lord, teach the Swiss not to be enemies of Switzerland, not to let the dead suffer in their graves.

Teach them not to prefer appearances to reality, lies to the truth, not to create idols with high-sounding words, not to admire themselves and never to believe themselves better than others.

Dispel the confusion in our minds by the clarity of Thy Spirit. May Thy Word inspire our speech. Thy Wisdom our actions and Thy Commandments our laws.

On the summits of our mountains, the tops of our hills, the crests of our forests, the steeples of our cities, the roofs of our houses, lavish Thy blessing with the softness and abundance of snow which, after the North wind begins slowly to fall.

And when it has fallen for a long time and covered everything, may the sky clear up and the sun shine.

Shed thus Thy Light on our peaks so that they will teach us to ascend each day higher towards God. Amen.

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF TICINO AND VAUD

TICINO

In 110 years, the population of the Ticino increased by 65%, that of the whole of Switzerland by 126%. Demographically speaking, the Southern Canton is one of the oldest. For every 1,000 Swiss under 19, there are 313 in Switzerland, 268 in the Ticino. The next age group, 20-39, is much the same both nationally and cantonally. Between 40 and 59, for every 245 per thousand Swiss there are 273 Ticinesi, and over the age of 60, the picture is even sadder: 152 in Switzerland and 175 in the Ticino. Its birth rate is one of the lowest, its mortality rate only second to that of Appenzell AR.

The cantonal budget for 1967 estimates revenue of 13m. francs and expenditure of 45 million francs. 362 students at universities and technical colleges received scholarships amounting to 2 million francs. The 16,000 Protestants of the Canton now have their own Church Synod constituted in Bellinzona in October.

The first waterpower generator in the world (built by Brown Boveri) has become operational at the Bavona

station of the Maggia power works. At the end of October, the new double-track line across the old wooden bridge from Melide to Bissone was opened, and with it, some of the delays which sometimes affected the whole European network can now be eliminated.

At the old church of **Besazio** (thirteenth century), valuable frescoes of the Giotto School have been discovered. **Castagnola** together with Viganello have built the first lake water filter plant in the Ticino to ease the drinking water position. The town of **Lugano** owns the new Verzasca power works which was opened in October. Its construction cost 164 million francs. A new hospital is to be built above Lugano at a cost of 57m. francs; it will have eleven floors and house 3-400 patients.

VAUD

10.8m. francs was the estimated deficit in the accounts for 1965. They were released to the Vaud Parliament in August and showed a surplus of 13.6m. francs. The budget for the current year estimates a shortage of 14m. and that for 1967 a very small surplus.

The Institute for Experimental Physics of the University of Lausanne is to have a library and additional work rooms, and an anonymous benefactor has again given a large sum to the Medical Faculty (Fr.100,000.—). On 13th October, the new buildings of the "Gazette de Lausanne" were opened and the new modern printing machinery put into operation.

The Vaudois wines of 1966 vintage will be of "good and even quality" — 21m. litres white wines, 3m. red and 5m. grape juice. The publicity office for wines in Lausanne has been awarded the international prize for wine advertising for its publicity campaign "Dorin 1966". About 600 boys and girls from the German-speaking part of Switzerland again helped with the grape harvest in the Vaud.

The 46th Vaudois shooting contest and festival was held in the summer with a participation of 9,000 from all parts of Switzerland. 23,623 signatures have been added to an Initiative against the removal of the airfield of Montreux-Rennaz to les Grangettes.

Lausanne is to have a family planning centre, and a new parking plan has been worked out which foresees only a few 15-minute car parks, the doubling of "blue-zone" disk parking and quadrupling of parking meters and a new "red zone" in which cars may be left for 15 hours for a fee.

Since the end of last year, Lausanne has been the headquarters of a new international institution, the "Centre international d'alcoologie", engaged in scientific studies and research into alcohol and alcoholism, which publishes a twice-yearly periodical "Etudes et informations d'alcoologie". An interesting point to note is that this centre runs a scientific documentation service possessing an analytical card-index of some 12,500 cards, which has been in operation since the end of August 1966. This index, known as CAAAL (Classified Abstract Archive of Alcohol Literature) is the work of some thirty doctors and scientists attached to the Alcoholic Study Centre of Rutgers University in the United States. These research workers regularly analyse 2,800 periodicals from all over the world, this placing the whole of present knowledge in this field at the disposal of those who need it. The archive grows by about 500 cards a year.

The old post office has been closed down, and a new building to the East of the station has been opened (19 counters and 1,080 post boxes). The "Centre Hôtelier" of the EXPO 1964 has been transformed into a pleasure centre "Voile d'Or" with restaurant, snack bars, gardens, dance hall and beach. A motorboat plies between it and Ouchy.

The composer Gustave Doret was born at **Aigle** on 20th September 1866. To celebrate the centenary, special festivities took place during the summer. The finest ever bronze statue of Bacchus was found at the foot of the **Avenches** town hall. The new USEGO was opened at **Bussigny**. It is fully rationalised and has its own garbage disposal plant. It supplies 500 retail shops in Western Switzerland.

The French writer Jacques Chardonne has been granted honorary citizenship of **Chardonne**. 324 citizens of **Cully** had signed an Initiative to go back to voting by the direct majority system. The electorate rejected it, and thus the proportional system will continue to be used. Federal Councillor Bonvin attended a meeting on 21st November when the *Romand* Youth Federation discussed "What are they doing in Berne?" at **Jongny-sur-Vecvey**.

HAVE YOU FLOWN DC-9 YET?

(The latest from Douglas, a Swissair 75 seater that is tailormade for European service: the most modern design in ultra-comfortable seating with more leg and elbow space — 2 or 3 abreast, more windows, and quietness with speed. Basle can now be reached in less than 1½ hours.)

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WORLD WIDE

Early in November, the chalet manufacturer André Guignard was killed and his wife badly injured when his plane crashed on **Le Mollendruz**. A new reception centre for tourists was opened at **Montreux**. The founder and artistic director of "Septembre Musical", Manuel Roth, is retiring after 21 years.

The agricultural domestic science college "Marcelin" was opened at **Morges** on 24th November.

The monastery church of **Payerne**, in the Broye Valley, has been undergoing careful restoration for more than 40 years. At a recent press conference it was reported that the laborious work was not yet completed. Latest research and scientific developments have even made necessary some corrections on earlier phases of the restoration. But even in its present form the high, long building radiates the serene and solemn warmth typical of all structures belonging to the austere Cistercian Order. A chapel to Maria was built on this spot as early as the sixth century, on the ruins of a Roman villa. Later a larger house of worship took its place, and during the high Middle Ages this in turn was supplanted by a large romanesque building. Since the Reformation it served as a granary, which explains its excellent state of preservation, making it a prime example of the very rare churches of the eleventh century. The Restoration Campaign has now over 1,500 followers.

Villars-Tiercelin is due to become the location of a privately-sponsored sports centre modelled on the previously unique centre at Magglingen. Among the planned facilities is a football field with four-lane running track, facilities for all kinds of athletic activities (with emphasis on throwing and jumping), plus a 60-room hotel or dormitory complex, including dining facilities, massage rooms, and a kitchen to handle 1,000 people. An artificial ice rink will extend the centre's usefulness during the winter months.

The Villa Olga at **Villeneuve** is for sale; it is the house in which Romain Rolland lived from 1922 to 1939. Minister Carl Burckhardt and his wife have been elected honorary citizens of **Vinzel**.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse, O.S.E.C. and S.N.T.O.)

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland recently:

George A. Fischer (76), Zollikon, dipl. ing. ETH, President of the Board of Maag-Zahnräder A.G., Zurich; educated in Schaffhausen, Oxford, Zurich and Geneva; for one year at Embassy in Washington; member of many important engineering firms; since 1951 member of the Council of the Swiss National Bank; died of a heart attack in Jerusalem.

William Argenton (55), Montreux, since 1934 with the "Journal de Montreux" and other periodicals of Western Switzerland; successful writer and poet.

René Didisheim (78), La Chaux-de-Fonds, industrialist, former member and President of the watch company of Marvin; played an important part in several watch organisations.

Franz Koller (66), Weissbad (Appenzell), *Bezirks- and Kantonsrichter* and member of the Appenzell Government for twenty years; *Landeshauptmann* and later

Statthalter; member of many agricultural organisations; keen beekeeper.

Jules Pillet (84), Martigny, master printer and founder of a printing works and of the paper "Le Rhône".

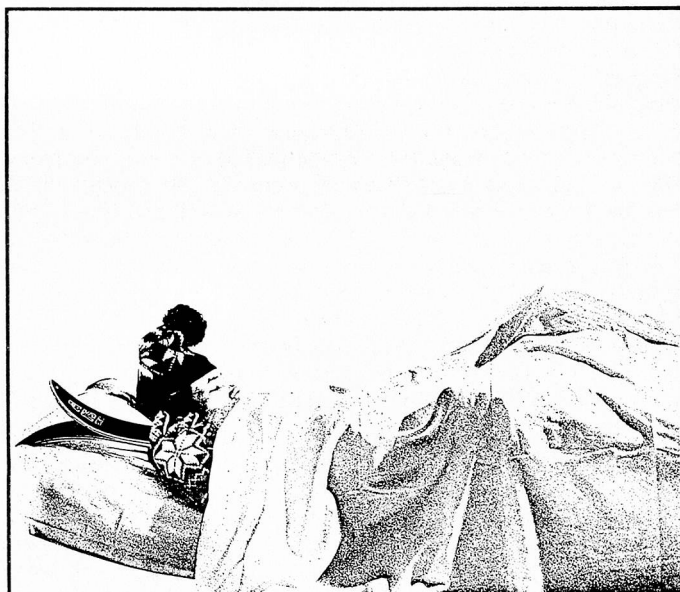
Pierre Devrient (57), Lausanne, born in Russia, but brought up in Switzerland; great pioneer of market research; founder member of the "Groupement Romand pour l'Etude du Marché" (1944) and of "Isopublic S.A." in 1966; only Swiss representative in the Gallup Institute Chain; twice President of the "European Society of Public Opinion" and Council member of the "World Association for Public Opinion and Market Research".

Albert Verly (61), Orbe, well-known writer and dramatist, Manager of "Mois Théâtral".

Jacques Guignard (35), Le Landeron, Manager of the Swiss Federation of Watch Case Manufacturers.

[A.T.S.]

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