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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF VAUD AND GENEVA

VAUD

The annual accounts of the Canton of Vaud showed a surplus of 2 million francs as compared with one of 10m. in the previous year. Revenue amounted to 462.8m. francs. Large sums have been granted by the Vaudois Parliament, for the fight against tuberculosis, for new roads (24m. francs) and for new buildings for the Polytechnical Institute (Photogrammetric Section and Laboratory for Stone Materials), for a pamphlet to further the interest in the teaching profession and for prefabricated pavilions for the Teachers' Training College at Yverdon, also for a Film Introduction Centre for the Vaudois schools and for a further building to extend the cantonal police barracks. A new school for the Western Swiss College of Typography is being built.

Some interesting statistics have been published regarding private schools in Vaud. There are 90 private institutions which represent a total of 5,340 beds. 4,900 students are being educated, of whom 70% are foreigners, also 830 teachers and 885 permanent employees. Salaries amount to 15.8m. francs annually, and the private schools invest something like 96m. Altogether, they represent one-fifth of the Vaudois cantonal tourism.

A new gas station was opened at Aigle, with a capacity for producing 100,000 cubic metres per day, but with a possibility of doubling the output if needed. Early in August, the last connecting tunnel for the water power works Hongrin-Léman was completed 1,200 metres long and with a diameter of 2.9m.

The Chief of Vaudois Security Police, Louis Rosset, retired after 40 years with the Service. His successor is Commissioner Werner Saeuberlin, with the Service since 1955 and in charge of delicate criminal police investigations in the Congo and Northern Rhodesia in 1963. The Cantonal Police has recruiting problems; out of 200 applicants, only 15 were suitable. The first training course (2 years) for recruits began in spring; 50 recruits from 16 Vaudois Communes are taking part.

A *Maison du Paysan* was opened in Lausanne in June. The Canton of Vaud now also has the service "Proffered Hand", started by medical/social groups, a telephone service where, day and night, help may be had anonymously. The team of helpers consists of a medical man, an educationalist, a psychologist, a psychiatrist and a church man. The success of this service has been remarkable in many parts of Switzerland.

A study group has worked out an overall plan regarding Vaudois hospital needs. The whole project is to cost 570 million francs and will cover the next four years. It includes the extension of the Lausanne University Hospital to take 2,000 beds. The Vaudois doctors object to this and want a limit of 1,750 beds, and another hospital for 800 patients. The whole project is the first of its kind in Switzerland. For the time being, the Cantonal Parliament has been asked for a credit of 12.5m. francs to complete the present work, mainly that of extending the surgical wards. Earlier in the year, a pavilion for premature births was added to the Women's Hospital.

Several explosions have taken place in Vaud during the past few months; the criminal attempts are directed against administrative buildings. Early in July, a large storage depot in Lausanne was gutted by fire caused by self-ignition of cleaning materials; it caused damage of over one million francs.

Avenches has a new modern telephone exchange, and at Chexbres, a woman, Suzanne Bonnet, was elected Commune President.

Lausanne and ten Communes of the region have signed an agreement after years of negotiations to build a water purification plant at Vidy. The cost will amount to 25 million and the connecting pipes to 10 million francs. The "Caisse d'Epargnes et de Crédit de Lausanne" celebrates its centenary this year. Dr. Gustave Roud, Carroge, has been awarded the Literary Prize of the Town of Lausanne (Fr.20.000.—). In June, a new Museum of Decorative Arts was opened in the Vaudois Capital.

Leysin, less and less a resort of sanatoria and increasingly an educational centre, now also has a Protestant High-Altitude School, founded by the Social Protestant Centre in Geneva.

Montreux, the second-largest Commune in the Vaud, now has over 20,000 inhabitants. Early in July, a Eurotel with 320 beds and flatlets was opened, the third of this kind in Switzerland (others at Interlaken and St. Moritz). The "Journal de Montreux" celebrates its centenary this year. The airfield of Montreux-Rennaz, run by a private company, has been more and more in use, and it is feared that the construction of the Simplon motorway will impede its expansion. Plans are being studied for a possible transfer to Noville, where the citizens, however, have raised strong opposition.

The Castle of Oron has been partly renovated, a new hall for meetings and receptions having been added. Some of the rarest books of the Castle's library (16,000) are now housed there and available to the public.

The Commune of Pully, too, has a woman President in the person of Elisabeth Ramel. The Commune is constructing a waste-water plant as a cost of 7 million francs.

Vevey's population is decreasing and now only under 18,000. The question is being discussed whether the next *Fête des Vignerons* should already take place in 8 or 10, rather than in only 13 years.

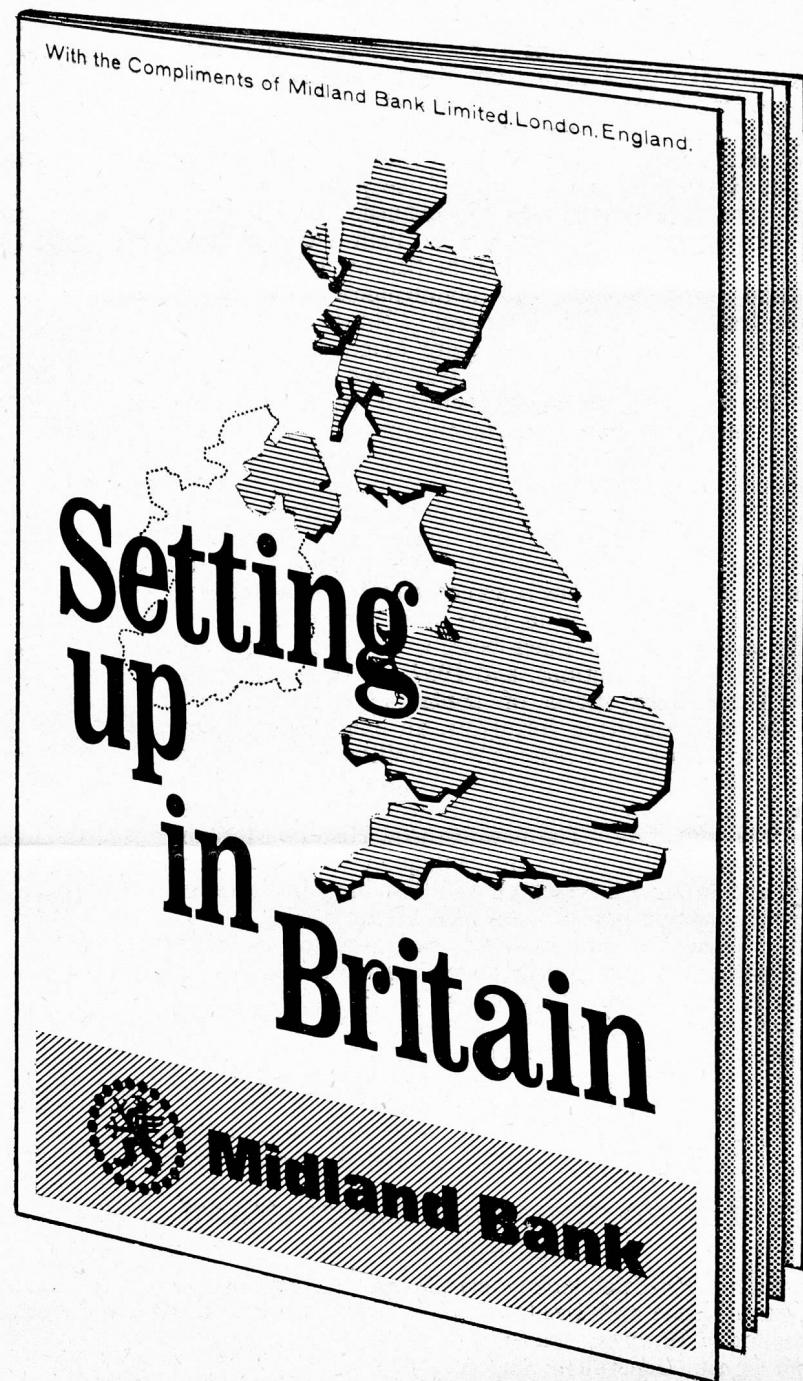
GENEVA

The 45 Communes of the Canton of Geneva elected their representatives to the Executive, the Administrative Council. The large Communes used the proportional system, the smaller ones made use of the simple majority. Not all the seats were filled in the first poll, and a second voting day was fixed for 18th June. With a participation of only 17%, men and women citizens elected the representatives for the remaining seats. On 27th June, the 137 Commune Councillors (Legislative) were officially installed. The first to give the oath of office was the Geneva Mayor J. P. Buensod, followed by the Vice-President of the Administrative Council, Miss Lise Girardin, in charge of cultural affairs.

The Canton of Geneva counts 310,000 inhabitants, not including nearly 50,000 foreign workers, of whom over 8,000 are commuters and a similar number seasonal workers.

The annual accounts for 1966 show a surplus of 8.58m. francs, revenue amounting to nearly 422 million francs. The budget for 1967 estimates a small loss with revenue expected to be some 50m. francs higher than last year. The State Council has once again pointed out the serious loss of taxation in view of the fact that employees of international organisations do not pay taxes. This is

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particularly bad when it concerns Swiss nationals. The Federal Council is studying the problem.

The Cantonal Parliament has empowered the State Council to take up a loan from the Confederation (7m. francs) to lend funds in turn to UNO and WHO in Geneva. A higher ceiling has been fixed for assistance to unemployed persons who are in difficulty (7.5m.). 900m. have been put aside for the construction of cheap housing. 80m. francs have been granted for the extension of the Cantonal Hospital and two schools at Petit-Saconnex and Aire. 21m. will be required for the Science Institute.

Road improvements and maintenance will cost 6 million francs in the present year. Road construction within the next 8 years will require 61m., of which the town of Geneva will have to bear well over half. In July, the "Touring Club Suisse" opened a travel office in Geneva, and a generously conceived shopping centre has been planned for Balaxert. In June, the Bergues Bridge was closed to traffic, as it is no longer considered safe.

In 1966, the seven steamships and thirteen motorboats on the Lake of Geneva covered nearly 327,000km. and transported over 1.6m. passengers. The "Savoie", one of the finest Léman boats, has been completely renovated and was put back into service in June after five years.

Geneva has at all times been a favourite venue for conferences and exhibitions, and 1967 has been no exception. There were shows of contemporary Greek art, Brazilian and American fortnights, an exhibition "From Cézanne to Picasso", a centenary exhibition of Grisons art by the "Rhaetia" Society. The "Fêtes de Genève" in August, unfortunately were spoilt by bad rain, the first time for many years. The new Natural History Museum in the park on the Route de Malagnou was opened in spring, and in June a Research and Teaching Institute for Electronics.

The Geneva Literature Prize was awarded to Denis de Rougemont, the Music Prize to Roger Vuataz, that of Science to Prof. Pierre Duchosal and the Prize for Spiritual Sciences was received by Prof. Antony Babel.

The *Consistoire* of the Protestant Church has given the green light for women Ministers of the Church, who hitherto were only able to act as deputies.

(By courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

RECENT APPOINTMENTS IN SWITZERLAND

Diplomatic

Ambassador Friedrich Schnyder, Ghana, additionally to Sierra Leone and Togo;
Counsellor of Embassy Jean-Pierre Weber (New Zealand) as Consul-General in Saigon.

International

Ambassador Paul Jolles, in charge of the Commercial Section of the Federal Department of Public Economy, as President of the UNO Trade and Development Council in Geneva;
Joseph Dittert as Secretary of the Central Opium Bureau of ECOSOC;
Pierre Zumbach as Secretary-General of the International Union for the Protection of the Child;
Dr. Ernst Fritsch, Berne, as one of the three Vice-Presidents of the International Veterinary Society;
Dr. Paul Kuenzle (Gossau) as Director of the Vatican Library in Rome.

National

Vice-President Adolf Ehrsam (member of the Commission)

of the Swiss Abroad) as President of the Swiss *Bundesfeierspende*, successor to Dr. C. Mugglin; National Councillor and *Regierungsrat* Hans Tschumi (Berne) as new President of the Swiss Working Party for Mountain Farmers, in succession to National Councillor Andreas Zeller; Dir. Ernst Ryden (Berne), as President of the Swiss Pool for the Insurance of Atomic Risks; Publisher Heinz Helbing (Basle), as new President of the Swiss National Library in Berne (appointed by the Federal Council). [A.T.S.]

DIAMOND AND IRON WEDDINGS

Mr. and Mrs. Hermann and Marie Dubach-Baertschi at Remetschwil (Baden) and Mr. and Mrs. Hermann and Marie Stoerchli-Bosshart at St. Margarethen near Muenchwilen (Thurgau), celebrated their Diamond Weddings in mid-August.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil and Elise Sahli-Steck at Bienee celebrated their Iron Wedding on 25th August.

[A.T.S.]

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