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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

CANTON

400 years ago, in 1566, the first map of the Canton of Zurich was published, probably printed by the well-known works of Froschauer in Zurich. The map was drawn by Jos Murer, and its printing forms were cut by Ludwig Fryg. The wooden forms were used again in 1670, in 1759 and another hundred years later. Now, a further edition is being produced with 500 copies off the original wooden forms. 500 copies of the map of the town of Zurich, drawn by the same man in 1576, were published recently. The prints are handmade in the "Graphische Kunstwerkstätte" E. Matthieu in Zurich.

On 1st January, the Canton of Zurich counted 1,051,000 inhabitants, 11,800 (1.1%) more than a year ago. The figure is made up of 9,100 births more than deaths and of an influx of inhabitants of 2,700. In 1965, there had been a decrease in the number of new inhabitants. In the "agglomeration" Zurich (town and surrounding 39 Communes), the increase was 0.7% to 657,000 though the capital itself showed a further decrease in numbers. In 1950, over half the Canton's population lived in Zurich, but in 1966, it was only 41.2%.

The ordinary accounts for 1966 showed a deficit of 16m. francs, with revenue standing at 897.5m. In the extraordinary accounts, the loss was 41.4m. francs. The uncovered state debt increased by nearly 40m. to 204 million francs.

For 1967, revenue and expenditure are expected to surpass 1,000m. francs, and a deficit of 23.1m. is forecast. The deficit in the extraordinary accounts, covering building and road construction, is expected to amount to 98.5m. francs. This gloomy picture exists inspite of increased rates of taxes. The Government proposed 110%, and the Cantonal Parliament accepted.

The electorate agreed to the draft revision of the law concerning direct taxation, which visualises new allowances to taxpayers. At the same time, 5.86m. francs were voted for additional buildings for the Cantonal Hospital Waid. The Civil Service of the Canton is to get higher children's allowances for its married members. An increase in cost of living grants is also to be given. Handsome sums are to be paid to various cultural and social institutions, partly to cover their losses, partly to acknowledge their valuable activities.

A former Nobel Prize winner, the eminent chemist Prof. Alfred Werner, is to be commemorated by a plaque on the house Freistrasse 111, in which he lived from 1898 to his death in 1919.

The new building for Radio Zurich will cost nearly 13m. francs, though the first part will consist of one block (seven storeys) only, part of which will be put at the disposal of the "Gewerbeschule". In November, the Institute of Applied Psychology moved into new premises, and early in January, the new rooms of the Institute of Sociology and the Slav College of Zurich University were inaugurated. There are 6,855 students at the University this term, 9.5% more than last year. The number includes 822 foreigners. During the same period, the increase in lecturers was 59 to 572.

There are 3,974 teaching jobs in the Canton, and 134 new ones have been granted. The training period of secondary teachers is to be extended from two to three years. The Cantonal School of the Zurich Oberland is to finish with matriculation.

The Church Synod of the Canton of Zurich has been meeting for some months, working out a new constitution. For the first time since Zwingli's days a woman member (the only one), Frau Prof. Elisabeth Rich-Schneider, took part in the debate asking for *Gemeindehelferinnen* to be given a place in Church Commissions. Every aspect of church life is being considered, and such questions as *Betttagmandate*, the Church and mass media and the "Kirchenbote des Kantons Zürich" have been discussed.

In the Cantonal Parliament, the new criminal trial procedure was debated, and after long deliberations, the number of jurors was fixed at nine.

In 1966, 10,101 flats and houses were completed in the Canton, 15% more than in the previous years. Of these 2,361 were in Zurich, 1,178 in Winterthur and the rest in other Communes. 80% of all housing was undertaken by private contractors, 15% by building societies and the rest by public bodies. At the beginning of 1967, over 10,000 flats and houses were being constructed, in Zurich and Winterthur fewer than last year. The Commune of Illnau has the remarkable number of 727 flats being under construction.

The Canton is short of hospital beds, and a new women's hospital will be built provided the electorate agrees to the 148m. francs needed for it and additional buildings for the Cantonal Hospital.

Road construction in 1967 will cover 130 projects, of which 114 have already been started or will be begun shortly. 122m. francs will be required for roads this year. 100m. will be needed per annum until the national road network on cantonal territory is completed.

The already much improved train services on the right shore of the lake are to be made better still. Much work is still to be done at Kuesnacht (underpass), and new station buildings are to be completed in various places.

Another question which has occupied the Cantonal Parliament is the new *Wasserbaugesetz* concerning maintenance and the use of waterways and lakes, waste-water plants and refuse disposal. For decades, the machine tool manufacturers Buehrle at Oerlikon, have dumped waste ammunition, etc., in the lake of Zurich with permission of the *Regierungsrat*. This has now been stopped. In some parts of the lake, more finds dating back to the lake-dwellers have been brought to the surface by divers.

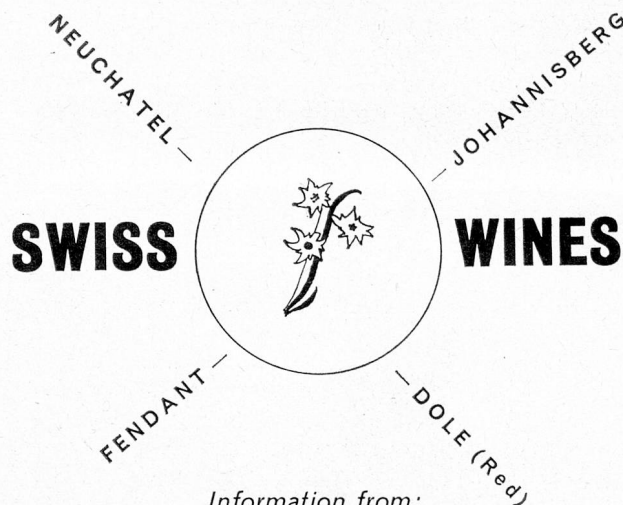
Civil defence in the Canton of Zurich has been improved during the past ten years: 17,877 shelters have been constructed, i.e. for half the population already. Of the 171 Zurich Communes, 106 are obliged by law to organise their own civil defence, the others (under 1,000 inhabitants) have to organise their own wartime fire fighting services.

The new index for consumer prices has been fixed on the basis of 100 in September 1966. Of 100 points, 31 fall on food, 5 on drinks and tobacco, 13 on clothing, 17 on rent, 6 on heating and lighting, 7 on equipment and maintenance of the home, 9 communications and travel, 7 sports and health, 5 education and entertainment. The new index will be worked out monthly and should be more accurate than the national one.

The wine harvest in 1966 showed a higher result than in the previous year, viz. 21,565 hl. Two-thirds of this was "Blauburgunder".

The *Handelsgericht* celebrated its centenary in January. The new President of the Cantonal *Gewerbeverband* is Cantonal Councillor Albert Siegrist (Rafz) in succession to Dr. E. Bodmer who retired after 28 years.

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Dr. iur. Arthur Bachmann, Winterthur, has been appointed ordinary *Staatsanwalt*. Prof. Rolf Meyer is the new head of the Office for Regional Planning of the Canton of Zurich. The new *Staatsschreiber* is Dr. Edwin Epprecht, Schlieren.

A million francs has been left to various Zurich charitable institutions by the late Miss Emma Glattfelder.

ZURICH

Some extremely serious statistics prove that Zurich, the largest town in Switzerland, is also one of the largest agricultural communes in the country, judged from the number of haystacks it contains. In fact, the fire prevention officials of the town each year inspect some 300 haystacks on urban territory with a view to the prevention of fires that might break out through the fermentation of the hay. These facts are surprising, seeing that the latest figure for the population of the town is 433,234.

With 522m. francs, the ordinary accounts of the town for 1966 are balanced. The extraordinary accounts show a loss of 109.5 m. Road construction is the main burden; 118m. are needed for the planned "City Ring" alone. For the next three years, 3 milliards will be needed, not counting the underground rail project which is being studied. Amongst building projects, the Bergell power works and the second Municipal Hospital Triemli are the biggest. School buildings will require 11m. francs.

A new "Quartierzentrum" is planned for Zurich-Affoltern with various halls, hotel, flats, shops offices, restaurants, etc. Social housing is supported by the authorities in several districts; the Neumuehl *Alterssiedlung* was opened in November. Special flats are being built for forest workers. The building and library of the "Museumsgesellschaft" have been renovated.

The new headmaster of the "Freie Evangelische Schule" is Pfr. Peter Zutter, Kaltbrunn, and that of the "Realgymnasium" Zürichberg Prof. Dr. E. Bosshardt. The new principal of the "Schule für Soziale Arbeit" is Dr. Dieter Hanhart.

Three years ago, matriculation classes for adults were started on a trial basis. Of the 52 students, 14 have passed the exam, and the municipal authorities have now decided to keep the classes permanently. The Zurich Commune Council decided on a ninth school year for boys and girls.

In the 32 Protestant parishes of the town of Zurich, there are 72 women on Church Councils.

Three women were honoured recently: the sculptress Hildi Hess was awarded an *Ehrengabe* of 5,000 francs, and a similar sum was given to the actress and producer Maria von Ostfelden. The former favourite of the Schauspielhaus Traute Carlsen was honoured on the occasion of her 80th birthday. Prof. Dr. Emil Steiger received the Zurich Literature Prize.

The Russian State Circus gave performances in Zurich, and a Russian art treasure exhibition was open until the end of February.

The controversial Eureka monument by Tinguely, which was shown at the EXPO in Lausanne, is to be placed between the Casino Zürichhorn and the Fischerstube; its final resting place on the new premises of the ETH will not be ready before about 1971.

The "Collegium Musicum" celebrated its silver jubilee, and its leader, Dr. Paul Sacher, received the H. G. Naegeli Medal. The "Gewerbeverband" of the town is 125 years old.

Frau Anna Schaerer-Roth celebrated her 102nd birthday, whilst the oldest Zurich inhabitant was 105 early in January (Mr. Johannes Senn).

On Thursday, 10th November, a serious tram accident occurred in Zurich-Wipkingen, when a tramcar got out of control. One man was killed and 156 were injured.

The building firm of W. Fuchs & Co. went bankrupt with debts over 30m. francs. The sum involved in 409 pickpocket cases in Zurich in 1966, is 332,000 francs. Well over half of these happened on trains and trams, 110 in stores and 34 in the streets.

Cases of drug taking also occupy the Zurich police, and 15 people were arrested in connection with a *Rauschgiftaffäre* at the end of January. On 18th February, valuable pictures worth 1½m. francs were stolen from a firm in the fourth district of Zurich. A murder at Regensdorf rounds off the picture.

COMMUNES

The "Neue Buelacher Tagblatt" celebrated its centenary, and also at **Buelach**, the historic inn "Zum Goldenen Kopf", newly erected, was opened; it had been destroyed by fire in 1962. The new district hospital at **Dielsdorf** was inaugurated in early January, and the waste and garbage disposal plant at **Dietikon** is in need of another 8 million francs. **Eglisau**, too, is to have a wastewater plant. The Commune of Fehraltorf has a new school, the first since 1881. The Commune Assembly of **Hirzel** granted 3¼m. francs for a new upper school.

Horgen's Commune Council has asked for a speed limit in the Sihltal, and in November, the electorate rejected all projects concerning social housing, accommodation for teachers and a fourth vicarage. A third vicarage was allowed by the **Kloten** citizens. **Kuesnacht** has received a legacy from the late Dr. Carlo Fleischmann, in aid of young talented people, and the day nursery at **Maennedorf** is to be enlarged by a gift of the firm of Cerberus who celebrated their silver jubilee. An industrial undertaking, Escher Wyss, has donated a school bus for **Oetwil an der Limmat** and three other Communes.

The "Arbeitserziehungsheim für Frauen" at **Ottensbach**, the Ulmenhof, has been renovated and reopened. **Regensdorf** has a new building for its upper school, and the power works of **Rheinau** have been in operation for ten years. The district hospital of **Rueti** needs a staff home, and the Commune of **Stadel** has been able to inaugurate its own school for the first time in 130 years. Several million francs have been granted by the electorate of **Stäfa** (now 10,000 inhabitants) for waste-water plants and other water schemes. **Thalwil** citizens rejected the project of enlarging the Dorfstrasse (80% participation). Their "Anzeiger" celebrated its centenary.

The mountain home at **Uetikon am See** is 25 years old; during that time, 731 patients have been looked after. With double the number of signatures required against a decision by the Commune Council of **Uster** regarding allowances to authorities, forced the Council to drop it in order not to have a plebiscite. A new upper school building was inaugurated at **Waedenswil** and the enlarged premises of the Cantonal School at **Wetzikon**. The new *Kreisspital* was opened in November.

Winterthur now has 89,676 inhabitants, 1,732 more than in the previous year. Ordinary accounts for 1966 were nearly balanced with a small surplus. But extraordinary accounts showed a deficit of nearly 14m. francs, mainly due to building and road construction. The budget for 1967 is balanced at 70m. francs.

The highest "sky-scraper" in Switzerland was recently inaugurated in Winterthur. This new building, begun in 1962, houses the administrative premises of Sulzer Bros. Engineering Works Co. Ltd. Just over 300 feet high, this impressive 29-storey reinforced concrete building has been designed to house the 1,300 members of the management, and administrative and technical offices of the big firm.

The bus route from Winterthur to Kloten has now been definitely established and is to be continued. There was a grave accident in October when the bridge over the Toess, near Wuelflingen, *Bauwerk Nr. 13* of national road construction collapsed, and nearly 3,000 tons of concrete crashed. Fortunately, there were no serious injuries, though 16 men had to be taken to hospital. Damage over 3m. francs.

The electorate of **Zollikon** rejected a project for a swimming pool in the Rueterwies for which costs had been estimated at 4.2m. francs. A new kindergarden at Hinterhof has been sanctioned.

(Compiled from information received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

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