

The Swiss electorate at work

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sciousness of the high dignity of man. History from that moment onwards continues in that perspective. The beginning of the nineteenth century saw a Society for peace founded by a Genevese. At the exhortation of another Genevese, Henry Dunant, the Red Cross Society became a reality in 1864; a few years later, the first international arbitration tribunal settled the Alabama question between the United States of America and Great Britain. The first world war saw the setting up of the Prisoners of War Agency, and in 1920 it was the League of Nations and the International Labour Office which sanctified the international vocation of Geneva which recent events have still further accentuated, and which show her entirely given up to the world. (By courtesy of "Genève Magazine".)

THE SWISS ELECTORATE AT WORK

In Central Switzerland, the citizens of Altdorf confirmed their Commune authorities in office and granted over half a million francs for a civil defence station, a grant for a snow clearing machine, the renovation of the R.C. Church and a canalisation scheme. The Schwyz voters agreed overwhelmingly to the purchase of land for a holiday and sports centre at Oberiberg. The Lucerne electors were less kind and rejected a grant for a private multi-storey car park. On the other hand, they accepted eight other proposals including a new administrative building for the electricity, gas and water works, as well as five road improvement schemes.

The cantonal electorate of Zurich rejected an initiative by the Christian Socialist Party regarding children's allowances for employees and accepted a counter proposal by the Cantonal Parliament. The former proposed an increase from 20 francs to 30 and 40 francs, whilst the latter limited the allowances to 30 francs also for third and subsequent children. Stepchildren and illegitimate children are to be treated like ordinary offsprings. The town people of Zurich agreed to a 15.85-million franc project for a new work hall for the electricity works, and one of 2.53m. for flats for the workers at the water purification plant at Werdehoelzli. Voting participation was 35.5%. With a participation of 64.3% (small for Winterthur), a new Municipal President was elected in the person of the Independent National Councillor K. Ketterer to replace the retiring Socialist H. Naef. Over 2,000 voters polled a blank form. Thus, the Winterthur Executive has undergone a chance — the Socialists have lost one of their seats and for the first time, the "Landesring" has joined it. Of the 60 seats, 19 are held by Socialists. The voters also agreed to a renovation of the *Oekonomiegebäude* in the Lindenhofpark and to contributions to social welfare institutions, whilst they rejected a 1.3-million project for a road "in der Au" near Toess. Amongst various communal polls, there was a decision by the Zollikon voters to accept the credit of nearly $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million as compensation for the green-belt zone in the Rueterwies.

With a low participation of only 31%, the electorate of the Canton of Berne accepted the new finance law and the proposed reduction of subsidies to Communes (by 28m.). The Jura Communes rejected both. The Berne citizens granted their women the vote in communal affairs, and several other Communes introduced women's suffrage. Of the 492 Communes in the Canton, 133 have now accepted it. Five have so far refused. In the town of Berne, 60,000 women will be added to the electorate of 45,000 men. What a chance! In Berne, school, kindergarten and social housing projects were accepted. In Thun, the voters granted 14.14m. francs for an extension

of the trade and commercial training schools. A 17-storey hotel will be built at Interlaken, the station renovated at Burgdorf, and swimming baths will be constructed at Tramelan. In Bienne, the first time with the women, the electorate accepted the new noise abatement law, and at Muri, the citizens created a full-time office for a guardianship and welfare secretary.

The Solothurn voters accepted five proposals, to rescind a law of 1944 for procuring work in the wartime slump, to add to the water rights regulations, to revise the publication of Solothurn decrees, to further housing for the aged, invalids and large families, as well as to create an *Oelwehr* (service to deal with leaks in oil pipes, accidents with oil tank lorries and other similar accidents).

Men and women of Baselland refused the proposed revision of the tax law. At the same time, the 70,000 Protestant voters had to elect 300 Church wardens and 87 delegates to the Synod, and in some Communes also the Parish Council Presidents.

Half of the 80 M.P.s of the Canton of Schaffhausen, are put up by the Capital. 320 candidates competed, and on 29th October, the elections produced the following picture: Social Democrats 27 (so far 27), Liberals 19 (20), Catholics 7 (8), Farmers and Citizens 19 (18), "Landesring" 5 (3), Evangelicals 1 (2), Liberal Socialists 1 (1), Young Liberals 1 (1). Three weeks previously, the Cantonal Government had been elected in which the Socialists gained a second seat: H. Wanner (Lib.), F. Fischer (BGB), R. Schaerrer (Lib.), E. Hofer and E. Neukomm (both Socialists).

In St. Gall, elections took place to the Commune Councils for the next four years. In the cantonal capital, the "Landesring" gained five and the Socialists one seat, thus giving the Liberal Democrats 19 (22), the Conservatives 18 (20) the Socialists 15 and the "Landesring" 11 seats. No very great changes in other Communes, though in some the absolute majority was not reached, and a second poll will be necessary. The Municipal Councillors of St. Gall were all confirmed in office, including Dr. A. Hummler as *Stadtammann*. Four Communes had to vote on a proposed fusion of the school parishes Nesslau-Krummenau. Though three accepted, Ennetbuehl refused, and thus the fusion won't take place.

The voters of the Grisons denied suffrage at Cantonal level to their women by 13,522 to 8,616. In Chur men and women agreed to a credit for a school and a permanent mother and baby welfare clinic.

The Aargau electorate accepted the new law on *Verwaltungsrechtspflege* and the proposed plan to create middle schools also at Zofingen, in the Freiamt and the Fricktal (in addition to Aarau and Baden). Obersiggenthal with 6,400 inhabitants is to spend 3.2m. francs on swimming baths according to a decision of its electorate. Aarau is to have an *Einwohnerrat*, a Commune Parliament of 50 members to replace the ever increasing Commune Assembly which every citizen is entitled to attend.

In a first cantonal poll, the Thurgau voters agreed to an extension of the Cantonal School at Frauenfeld and additional schools at Romanshorn and Kreuzlingen, granted 3.72m. for an enlargement of the Agricultural College Arenenberg and to an increased grant to the Eastern Switzerland Baby and Children's Hospital in St. Gall. At the end of October, the electorate had to vote again, this time for a new law on road taxes. Though it had been approved by all the Parties, the voters rejected it by 11,487 to 10,821. It would have meant an average increase of 15%. Frauenfeld voters agreed to the purchase of an electronic computer and of two buildings in the centre of the

town. Weinfeldten agreed to a small bypass.

With a voting participation of 67%, the Payerne electorate refused the project for a large hall and accepted one for a swimming pool.

The Commune Assemblies of Bramois and Sion (VS) agreed to fuse. But a week later, the electorate of Sion rejected the proposal.

(By courtesy of Agence
Télégraphique Suisse.)

RECENT EVENTS IN SWITZERLAND

When a German parliamentary delegation visited Switzerland, they visited the Federal Sports School at Magglingen. They played a football eleven consisting of Swiss parliamentarians and won 5:1. The average age of the Germans was 40 and that of the Swiss 48.

Federal Councillor Schaffner addressed the Golden Jubilee Meeting of the Swiss Federation of Employees (VSA), the second-largest organisation of *Arbeitnehmer* after the Swiss Trade Union Federation — in Berne. The most important of the VSA is the Swiss Mercantile Society with 65,350 members, over half of the total membership of the umbrella organisation.

In Solothurn, the Swiss lawyers met for their annual get-together. Federal Councillor von Moos addressed them on the state of various federal legislation. "Where freedom has to retreat and force takes over, legal power becomes a farce", he said and stated the aim of those concerned, i.e. to strengthen right and to protect the individual in order to safeguard the freedom and future of the country. Various legal subjects were discussed, such as the structure of company law, foundation law, radio and TV programmes. The meeting also decided to join the Swiss Society for Intellectual Sciences.

At Glis, a fountain in front of the pilgrimage chapel was dedicated to the memory of the late Federal Councillor Dr. Joseph Etter who was the first Valais *Bundesrat* and died in 1954.

The Biennial Meeting of the Friends of the Arts at La Chaux-de-Fonds celebrated its Golden Jubilee with a special show.

The fifth ecumenical assembly of university graduates took place at Einsiedeln and had as its discussion theme "The modern human image and the Gospel". Europe's Protestant Politicians met in Zurich for a symposium on "*Raumordnung und Landesplanung*". The problem of space, planning, water resources, etc., is one of growing concern. Similar subjects were discussed at the Golden Jubilee Meeting of the Swiss Federation for International Colonisation and Industrial Agriculture.

The 40th General Meeting of the Swiss Army Padres took place in Solothurn, at which practical problems of Army churchmen were discussed, specially concerning the individual freedom of the soldier.

"Hurrikan", Bienne, won this year's Rover Sword of the Swiss scouts. The competition was held at Prato in the Leventina and its theme was the fight against alcoholism.

The first cogwheel railway of the world celebrated its 70th anniversary: Stansstad-Engelberg.

For the first time, a graduation ceremony of Swiss women Red Cross company leaders took place at the Knights' Hall of Castle Colombier.

Mgr. Pierre Mamie was consecrated as Bishop of Lausanne at Fribourg Cathedral. The highest officiating priest was Cardinal Journet.

(A.T.S.)

Once upon a time Swissair used to fly to

Abidjan	Athens	Amsterdam
Calcutta	Manila	Copenhagen
Hamburg	Santiago	Dusseldorf
Cologne	Warsaw	Karachi
Rome	Beirut	Innsbruck
São Paulo	Casablanca	Zagreb
Teheran	Geneva	London
Lisbon	Frankfurt	Monrovia
Khartoum	Algiers	Rio de Janeiro
Barcelona	Lagos	Baghdad
New York	Berne	Helsinki
Palma (Majorca)	Ankara	Bangkok
Brussels	Chicago	Stockholm
Cairo	Moscow	Tokyo
Milan	Budapest	Basel
Istanbul	Accra	Bombay
Dakar	Munich	Stuttgart
Vienna	Tunis	Bucharest
Prague	Nice	Rotterdam
Madrid	Buenos Aires	Malaga
Zurich	Bonn	Belgrade
Tripoli	Hong Kong	Manchester
Montreal	Tel Aviv	Paris...

We still do—but now we
also take in Nairobi Dar-es-Salaam and
Johannesburg.

SWISSAIR