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who, it was recalled, "grossly misinterpreted the Commune's intentions" and published slanting and incomplete information. The Communal Council decided to allow the Press to look into the whole planning dossier of the Crans-Montana area and thus "prove to the public that the intentions of some of the members of the newly-created Committee were not as honourable as their official declarations would imply".

### Planning conservation: the first steps

The Federal Council has recently appointed a "Federal Delegate to Land Planning". He is Professor Martin Rotach, from the E.T.H. in Zurich. Assisted by two specialists—both appointed by the Federal Council, his task will be to co-ordinate the cantonal implementation of the Federal Decree passed by Parliament in March, asking cantons to work out and submit by February of next year the main lines of their land planning. This Decree was passed following the addition of a fourth paragraph to the 22nd Article of the Constitution as a result of a referendum in 1969 on the Confederation's role on land-planning, i.e., the detailed apportionment of land for industry, residence, tourism and natural reservations. The law based on this article is currently being worked out. The March Decree was intended to speed up the whole procedure.

Professor Rotach will supervise the land-planning of cantons and see that they abide to the principles laid down at Federal level. A consultative committee of 15 to 20 members representing the various regions and interests concerned has also been appointed. To help and harmonise this considerable preparatory work, the Federal Council has defined some key terms such as "sites", "protected monuments", "localities", etc.

### Nature protection in the Binn and Eifisch Valleys

Vissoie—The Eifisch Valley in the Canton of Valais (in French it is called Val d'Anniviers), although opened up to tourism, is among the most untouched and original scenic spots of Switzerland. Even though the population of the villages of St. Luc, Vissoie, St. Jean, Grimentz, Ayer, Chandolin and Niouc partly works in the valley's industries, it has remained true to itself and still, for instance, cultivates the community's vineyards on a communal basis.

The valley's communities, jointly with Alp Zinal, which has also been opened up to tourism, have organised a small tourist information office. Already some decades ago talk had started about the community of Grimentz because of the exemplary way in which it had preserved the village's

nucleus. It is now a pleasure to be able to state that all mayors of the valley had met to tackle the problem of nature protection. They want to go ahead and solve problems on their own which are dealt with in an urgent federal resolution. This is true to the spirit of the valley's population.

Nearly 80 years ago, during an acute water shortage the same people refused a federal collection in favour of those who had suffered damages and declared that they would first try to help themselves. The recreation zones, as a result of the debate, are to be called in French "zones d'attrait" (zones of attraction). According to a voluntary resolution of the village of Binn, the Binn Valley has put the entire widespread community area under nature and scenery protection. This is one more pleasant thing to report from touristic area.

### The Ruthi Power Station

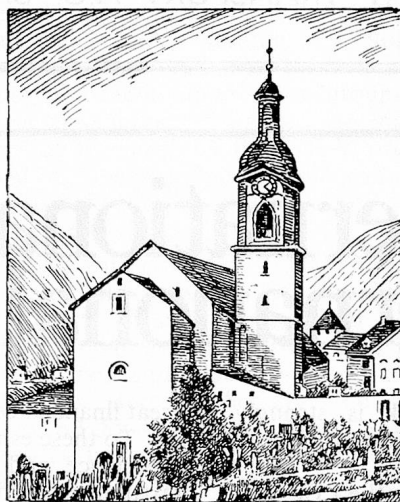
There is mounting criticism in the Austrian province of Vorarlberg, which shares common borders with St. Gall

along the Rhine Valley, against the proposed erection of a nuclear power station at Rüthi. Like the similar project at Kaiseraugst, these installations will be cooled atmospherically. The power generating plant will spew out some 40,000 tons of steam daily in the atmosphere through a 150 metre high cooling tower, 85 metres wide at the base.

Although the Swiss population of the Rhine Valley is more or less resigned to the prospect of seeing this concrete monster rise from their countryside, opposition has been mounting in the neighbouring Vorarlberg. It is not yet expressed officially because deadlines and construction schedules for Rüthi's power station have yet to be finalised, but the Austrians are highly concerned that its cooling towers should upset the area's meteorological balance. They are afraid that the Rhine Valley will be covered by a perpetual mist.

Unless some serious expertise is carried out to dissipate their fears, there will be concrete demonstrations on the Austrian side in the not too distant future.

## SWISS CATHEDRALS



### CHUR: NOTRE-DAME CATHEDRAL

The "Bishop's Court" situated on the ground of the ancient Roman city, comprises the cathedral, the bishop's castle, the friary and the Catholic school. Nearby we find the seminary of St. Lucy with a beautiful church, and the cantonal school for boys and girls of both denominations. The principal part of the bishop's castle, in 18th Century style, is the construction of diverse periods. It is supported by the Marsoel Tower, which contains the bishop's private chapel, the library and the archives.

The old town, formerly encircled by walls and trenches, has, like all ancient towns, very narrow streets. Within that place are the two Protes-

tant churches of St. Martin and of St. Regula.

The most remarkable edifice is the Cathedral of Notre-Dame, whose foundation is attributed to Bishop Tels, about the year 700.

From the 11th Century to the 13th, religious architecture takes up first place and the basilica remains in all respects the actual form of other churches, but distinguishes itself by the adjunction of a more or less salient transept, with a chancel and high altar. The construction of the chancel very often had to give way to suit certain religious orders or local traditions. It is thus that we find rectangular chancels in Notre-Dame.

The actual church, erected in the 12th and 13th Centuries, offers a mixture of Roman and Gothic styles. The exterior has been repaired in the 17th Century after a fire in 1811. Today's church was consecrated in 1282. The tower is terminated with a bulb belfry. The porch is adorned with painted arch-stones.

The cathedral contains diverse art treasures, characteristic paintings of the German school by Stumm and Angela Kauffmann, native of Chur, and the tombstone of Jürg Jenatsch, the Grisons national hero; a magnificent high altar of carved wood by J. Reuss of Ravensburg, and embellished with paintings.

A splendid Gothic triptych of the 15th Century, consecrated to Notre-Dame, is the greatest triptych in Switzerland.

*Pierre Savoie*