

Federal news

Objektyp: **Group**

Zeitschrift: **The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK**

Band (Jahr): - **(1964)**

Heft 1468

PDF erstellt am: **20.09.2024**

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News from various individual Communes includes the acceptance by the electors of **Arosa** of a project to join the new power works Arosa-Lueen which will provide electricity for Chur, Arosa and the other villages of the Schanfigg. **Chur** has now not only a full-time Municipal President, but three full-time members. The old patrician building "Planaterra" has been renovated and now houses a Migros Club School for adult education. In October, an interdenominational week was held in Chur, and the cantonal governments of Eastern Switzerland met in the capital of the Grisons early in November.

Nearly 65 years ago, the foundation stone for a German sanatorium was laid at **Davos**. Early in October, the completely renovated west wing was opened with a new department for asthma and allergies. The small Commune of **La Punt-Chamues-ch** has not seen much building during the past few years. But recently permission for the construction of over twenty holiday houses has been applied for which necessitates planning. The first project for the construction of a sewerage system was rejected by the Commune Assembly. But after talks by experts, the Assembly granted the credit of Fr.33,000.—. This is remarkable as the Commune's income from taxes is only about Fr.40,000.— annually.

The small village of **Lue** has to be protected from avalanches at a cost of 2½ million francs. This includes extensive afforestation.

The cantonal justice court, sitting at **Samedan**, acquitted the German Olympic skier, Herr Willy Bogner, who was charged with the manslaughter through negligence of his fiancée Fräulein Barbara-Maria Henneberger and Mr. Wallace Werner — both of whom were also Olympic skiers. The two victims were buried under an avalanche and killed on 12th April near Samedan while working on a sports documentary film. ("The Times.")

Samedan is to have a new school, and the church of **Fex** is to be restored. King Gustav Adolf and Queen Louise of Sweden spent a holiday at **Schuls** this summer. The electors of **Thuisis** rejected the service agreement of the oil pipe line. This does not mean that the citizens of Thuisis are against the proposed pipe line, but they want to ensure absolute safety which the present proposals do not seem to guarantee.

TICINO

All the local news of the Canton of Ticino is published in the "Notiziario" in every issue of the "Swiss Observer". We shall, therefore, confine ourselves to a few items of news of general interest.

The organisation "Pro Lugano" celebrated its 75th anniversary in June. When it was started it was called "La Società della Buona Gente". Since then there has been much change in the tourist traffic in the Canton. Last year, there was a decline in the numbers of visitors probably due to the bad weather, and in 1964 a further decline was due to the EXPO which attracted many visitors who would otherwise have gone to the Ticino. Two reasons were given for consideration, a marked increase in the "Hôtel Garni" type of inn managed by inexperienced staff, and the exorbitant charges made by many restaurants.

For the wine growers in the Ticino, last year was a particularly good one, specially for the Merlot. In the Verzasca Valley, a new experiment was made: a helicopter service was used to transport material to and cheese from the alpine pastures. It is planned to extend the service to include radio communication and transport of veterinary

surgeons. Eagles are counted in Switzerland at present in order to register whether the bird is on the decline or not. The first counting was done in the Ticino — a hazardous action as the eagle nests are not easily accessible and the young birds have to be fitted with rings to make the control effective.

Lugano has 21,315 inhabitants. Of these only 3,583 are Luganese citizens, 3,713 Swiss from other Cantons and 7,517 Ticinese from other Communes. Of the 6,502 foreigners, 5,000 are Italians. The chief architect of the EXPO, Alberto Camenzind, was awarded honorary citizenship of the town. In August, there was an UNESCO information meeting for Ticinese women in Lugano.

Bellinzona now has a museum for art and folklore in the Castello del Sasso Corbaro, and at Montagnola, a Hermann Hesse Foundation was started (seat in Berne). All buildings and land are being rated in the Canton. In Locarno, the value of private houses has gone up from 242 to 668 million francs. The increase amounts to 38% for the buildings and 601% for the land.

The Blenio power works became operational early in November, the two main ones at Olivone and Biasca, the minor ones at Luzzone and Sommascona.

The flag of the Council of Europe — a wreath of stars — was handed to the famous Italian mountaineer Walter Bonatti in Locarno on 18th November. His task will be to plant the flag on one of the summits of the Mont Blanc.

(Based on news received by courtesy of the Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

FEDERAL NEWS

Switzerland has been asked to look after the interests of Venezuela in Cuba. This brings the total of foreign States which Switzerland represents there to eight. It began in January 1961 when U.S.A. requested the Confederation to act on her behalf. The grand total of countries represented by Switzerland abroad is now thirteen.

An agreement has been arrived at with the United Arab Republic concerning compensation for Swiss citizens who were hit by nationalisation in Egypt. A so-called consolidation agreement was reached between Switzerland and Brazil which provides for financial help to the South American State. A new double taxation agreement with Sweden was worked out in Stockholm recently.

The Federal Council has recognised Malta and Sambia and was represented at the independence celebrations by the respective Swiss Ambassadors. This was also the case at the wedding of the King of the Hellenes.

At the end of August, the American Consulate in Basle was closed, which caused much disappointment in Basle. Steps were taken to have the Consulate re-opened, and a special delegation from commerce and industry went to Washington. It seemed at the time that their mission had not been successful, and at the carnival they were made fun of "Mit Bärt sin alli haimzue gschliche — Amerika het d'Flagge gstriche". Nevertheless, their and other efforts bore fruit, and at the end of October, the Consulate was re-opened with ceremony and festivities.

The French Consulate in Berne has been closed, and the Consular Section of the French Embassy will deal with the business. The Consular Section of the Italian Embassy in Berne, on the other hand, has been closed and the Italian Consulate has been re-opened.

(A.T.S. and "Basler Nachrichten".)