

1966 the year of "Fifth Switzerland"

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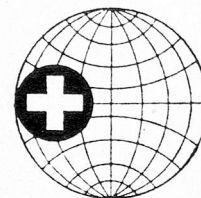
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1966 THE YEAR OF "FIFTH SWITZERLAND"

FIRST OF AUGUST IN SWITZERLAND



The Swiss National Day Celebration was organised with a difference in many parts of Switzerland. In the year of "Fifth Switzerland", Federal President Schaffner spoke over radio and television from St. Moritz and Federal Councillor Bonvin from Crans. The former Federal Councillor Wahlen and Federal Councillor Chaudet spoke to Swiss colonies abroad. The Swiss Club of Freiburg i/Br. celebrated on the Ruetli, and a number of prominent Swiss resident abroad addressed their countrymen at celebrations at home, amongst them Mr. Th. Nagel from Sweden who spoke in Zurich (member of the Commission of the Swiss Abroad).

At Burgdorf, it was not a prominent citizen, but a *Jungbürger* who gave the patriotic address. In Berne, a picturesque procession was organised before the celebration on the Münsterplatz. At Romoos (Lucerne), three television sets were put up for the citizens to watch the Federal President prior to the usual *Bundesfeier*. The young people of Kerns (Obwalden) decided to celebrate the day by a cleansing effort of streams and woods. In the Ticino, the celebrations were troubled because of the disappointment the population felt with regard to the proposed introduction of a fee for passing through the new Gotthard road tunnel.

The highest bonfire of the evening was set on the Dom (4545m. above sea level). The two guides C. Zurbriggen and B. Lochmatter and two mountaineers, Miss G. Sciarini and T. Baccaglia, reached the top after great difficulties climbing the rarely tackled Dom-Ostwand.

An American boy scout presented a message of congratulations from President Johnson to the Swiss people.

The new Swiss National Anthem "Trittst im Morgenrot daher" was transmitted by Studio Basle on 1st August, and this time it had a new ending which will be much easier to sing.

Finally, a novel experiment was made by the "Gesellschaft für das Schweizerische Volkstheater" at Thalwil. Early in July, they arranged a course with the motto "Ist die Art und Weise wie wir unsern Nationalfeiertag begehen, noch zeitgemäss?". At the specimen celebration, a Commune Councillor and a woman school councillor hoisted the communal flag, two young citizens, a boy and a girl, the cantonal emblem, two non-commissioned officers the Swiss flag and an *Auslandschweizer* and a foreign worker the Europe-flag. A pageant, "The Conscience of Switzerland" was presented at two levels. The organisation is publishing a brochure in which a new form of National Day Celebration will be advocated. [A.T.S.]

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF BERNE

CANTON

The annual accounts for 1965 ended with a deficit of Fr.54.4m., the estimated loss having been put at 29.9m. Contributions to hospitals, school buildings, communal roads, water protection, civil defence, private railways, etc., amounted to 430.4m. francs, 35.5m. more than in the previous year.

In April, the elections took place. There were 849 candidates for the 200 seats in the Cantonal Parliament. The BGB and Evangelical People's Party have 81 seats (3 gains), the Social Democrats 66 (2 losses), the Liberals 33 seats (6 losses), the Christian/Socialists 11 (one gain), "Landesring" 3 (2 gains) and "Junges Bern" 4 (2 gains). Elections take place every four years.

In the Franches Montagnes, voting participation was 90.5%, at Les Pommerats even 100%. In the rest of the Canton, it was 61.5%. The highest number of votes for the Government fell to the new *Regierungsrat* Simon Kohler (Liberal) who collected 80,717 out of the 266,800 available votes. Another new *Regierungsrat* is Dr. Ernst Jaberg (BGB).

On 6th June, the Cantonal Parliament assembled for the constituent meeting. Werner Hadorn (Spiez) was elected President, a member of the BGB.

Every year, new civil defence installations are put up in the Canton, and by now, 12,880 posts would give cover to about 285,000 people.

Grossrat Walter Hirt (Utzenstorf) has been elected President of the "Berlinerischer Handels- und Industrieverein" in succession to Hans Giger (Berne). The net

profit of the "Bernische Kraftwerke A.G." amounted to Fr.3,638 million which is a little more than in the previous year.

The Lauterbrunnen-Muerren Railway celebrated its 75th anniversary in May, and the last steam engine of the Bruenig-Bahn has been installed as a monument to the "good old days" on the Bahnhofplatz at Meiringen. The steamer "Bluemlisalp" on the Lake of Thun, dating back to 1906, has been renovated and brought up to date. The artificial lake of Niederried and part of the region where Aare and Saane join have been declared a protected area.

In June, the new buildings for the Veterinary Hospital in Berne (Hintere Laenggasse) was opened. The "Akademische Turnerschaft Rhenania" celebrated its 150th anniversary.

The Bernese Cantonal Gymnastic Festival took place in Bienne in July with a participation of 200 groups and 1,500 individual gymnasts.

A herd of wild boars caused a great deal of damage in the Franches Montagnes at the end of July; an immediately organised hunt was without success.

BERNE TOWN

At the end of June, the town of Berne counted 168,422 inhabitants. Hans Aregger has been appointed delegate for planning. 11% of the jurors in Berne-Stadt are women (12 out of 109). The finance plan for the Commune of Berne estimates investments of 425.3m. francs over the next five years, about 85m. *per annum*.

4.6 million francs will be spent on modernising and