

It happened in Eastern Switzerland

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is to spend large sums on a new school building, whilst **Jona** with its increase in population of 53% over the last few years also has the first part of a new school centre. Its water supply has recently been improved.

Kriessern's old village church has been renovated. The famous Dutch carillon player Prof. Leen't Hart inaugurated the largest Swiss carillon at the village of **Libingen** in the Toggenburg. **Luechingen** has a new Catholic church as well as a cultural centre. **Moerswil** has a new fountain to commemorate its 1,150th anniversary four years ago. As **Mosnang**, there is a Commune Hall, and **Murg** on the Walensee has a modern administration house which contains offices, six flats, record office, meeting rooms and the technical office of the electricity works. Improved water-supplies, also in case of fire, have been secured at the Laad district of **Nesslau**.

Oberbueren is yet another village to have a generously conceived school centre, and at **Rapperswil**, the Polish millenium was celebrated in June. For the fourth time, an art exhibition was held at the small village of **Rebstein**. **Rheineck** has a new church assembly hall, whilst **Rorschach**, too, has worries with its water supplies. Its citizens rejected the plan for a correction of the Scheidweg junction. The old wooden bridge near **Ruethi**, destroyed by storm in 1965, has been replaced by a steel and concrete construction.

There is a new "Heimatismuseum" at **Sargans**, and the new Rhine bridge of **Sennwald** was opened on 29th October. The second water purification plant was opened at **Unterwasser** at the end of September. Fire brigade, civil defence, building department, military *Einquartierung* and police are now housed in an expensive and modern building at **Wattwil**.

There is a new President of the District Court at Wattwil, Dr. iur. Peter Boller, Editor of "Der Toggenburger" since 1951. The textile training centre is to be enlarged. **Lisighaus** has a gymnasium with additional classrooms, and the farming village of **Zuckenriet** has a new cultural centre on the site of the 122 year-old school.

APPENZELL

Nobody believes nowadays that one hundred years ago the Canton of Appenzell had a density of population larger than that of the Canton of Zurich. Yet records show that in 1860, Ausserrhoden counted 48,400 inhabitants, whilst Zurich, seven times larger, had only 266,000. Per square kilometre, there were 200 inhabitants in the former, and only 154 in the latter. But especially in the years between 1910 and 1920, the loss of population was considerable, in one year as many as 8,100. In 1960, of the 77,000 Appenzell citizens, only 23,000 lived in their Canton of origin, and of the 34,000 *Innerrhodern* only 10,000 in their Half-Canton. Since the end of the second world war, Innerrhoden has had the highest mortality rate in Switzerland.

AUSSERRHODEN

The Government of the Canton has made a contribution towards a scientific enquiry and analysis of the economic and touristic life. Various organisations share in the cost, and the work will be carried out by scientists of the St. Gall University. The decrease in the number of foreign workers is 6% over the previous year; the biggest drop occurred in the cotton and embroidery industries and in domestic service, whilst higher figures were registered (on 31st August) in the building trade. 741,000 francs have been left to the Canton by a *Auslandappenzeller*, a

man called Walter Edison Kruesi, U.S.A. The money has been put in a foundation fund and is to be used for social welfare purposes.

The *Heilmittelkommission* of the Canton has prohibited all dispensing of stimulating drugs. According to the health law, all medical practitioners had to register. 111 producers of *Heilmittel*, 87 free medical practitioners, 46 *Drogisten* and 98 dentists applied. The Cantonal Parliament decided that State contributions towards hospital construction should also in future not surpass 20%. On the other hand, the subsidy per day spent in hospital is to be increased from 1.50 to 3.50 francs. Various increased benefits are to be given especially to old people, and unemployment benefits have been increased.

Of the 250 registered trades and occupations (federal level) for which an apprenticeship has to be made, only 83 can be learnt in Ausserrhoden. Thus, young people have to go to other Cantons for their apprenticeships. An annual contribution of 6,000 francs has been granted to the Technical Evening College in St. Gall.

Appenzell vineyards have been improved, and the total wine-growing area enlarged. The fire and element damage insurance in Ausserrhoden celebrated its 125th anniversary in summer.

The Synod of the Protestant Church of Appenzell Ausserrhoden passed two resolutions advocating voting and electing rights for women in church matters and equal rights for women Ministers of the Church.

The electorate of **Herisau** rejected a credit of 7.4m. francs for a communal water purification plant on the grounds that the proposed system was wrong and that the estimated cost was based on 1965 figures and therefore misleading. They also defeated an additional credit for the "Muehle" school. The new regulations regarding sanitary installations were accepted.

The village of **Lutzenberg** now has a new school with a gymnasium, and at **Rehetobel** the first central wastewater plant in Ausserrhoden was opened in August. An anonymous benefactor sent 50,000 francs to the Commune, most of it for a home for old people, and one-fifth for the purchase of a car for the district nurse.

There was a fire at **Schwellbrunn** probably caused by two escaped chinchillas playing with matches. Whilst the damage to the house was negligible, the whole breeding stock of valuable animals perished. A similar amount as in Rehetobel was sent to **Stein** to be used for various Commune projects, and another sum to the church parish of the same village. The "Gemeinnützige Gesellschaft" of both Appenzells has taken over the patronage of a home for backward children at **Teufen**; it will be installed in the former orphanage no longer used by the Commune.

The traditional meetings of the *Sennen* take place at the old inn of Rossfall on the road from **Urnaesch** to Schwaegalp. Men and women gather in their picturesque costumes and dance to the sounds of the famous folklore bands of the Appenzell, always at the beginning of the summer at the *Alpauffahrt*, then again on Monday after "Jakobi". Their last meeting is at the end of the season, this year it was on 10th September.

INNERRHODEN

For the first time in its history, the Cantonal Parliament of Innerrhoden went on an outing at the end of their first summer session; the St. Gall water purification plant was visited. At its meeting, the *Grosse Rat* voted an increase in the salary of the *Regierungsräte* from Fr.3,000.— to 4,000.—. The daily expense allowance of the members was increased from Fr.15.— to 20.—.

A beautiful collection of furniture, costumes, coins and tools is now housed in the historic *Rathaus* in the Hauptgasse of the Innerrhoden capital; the new *Heimatmuseum* is well worth a visit.

The "Kirchhoeri" of Appenzell has elected a new Chaplain in the person of Pfr. Ivo Koch from the Thurgau. For the first time a non-Innerrhoder has thus become *Standespfarrer*.

The traditional "Stoss-Schiessen" took place at the end of August to commemorate the battle of the Stoss on 17th June 1405.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse and S.N.T.O.)

NEW ALUSUISSE PLANT IN ICELAND

Alusuisse S.A. recently announced that after several years of negotiation, the agreement relating to the project of constructing an aluminium plant in Iceland has been signed by the Icelandic Minister of Industry and the representatives of the Swiss company. This agreement has still to be ratified by the Icelandic Parliament. The government of that country has agreed to build a power station on the Thjersa river in South West Iceland, and to ensure the supply of electric power to the electrolysis plant that ISAL (Icelandic Aluminium Company Ltd.), the new affiliated company of Alusuisse, will construct near Reykjavik. The aluminium plant will probably start operating in 1969, and its production will be progressively increased to 60,000 tons.

[O.S.E.C.]

THE ITALIAN BUSINESS "OSCAR" AWARDED TO TWO SWISS FIRMS

Among the winners of the Italian National Golden Mercury Award, known as the Italian business "Oscar", which was awarded this year in Rome, are two Swiss firms, the watch manufacturer OMEGA, Louis Brandt & Brother Ltd., of Bienne, and the Associated Tobacco Manufacturers S.A., of Serrières (Neuchâtel). This honour is bestowed on enterprises which have contributed in a particularly effective way to production growth and to economic collaboration, mainly by improving their distribution service. The jury also takes into consideration the presentation of articles and innovations made in the field of production.

[O.S.E.C.]

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