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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF VAUD AND GENEVA

VAUD

The Vaud annual accounts for 1964, with total revenue at Fr.369,400,000.—, closed with a surplus of nearly eleven million francs. The Vaud Parliament elected Auguste Codrey (Liberal), Commune President of Lutry, as President. 12¾ million francs have been earmarked for land purchases in various Communes with a view to regional planning needs of the future. 34½ million francs have been granted for the construction of two inter-communal waste-water plants for Vevey, La Tour-de-Peilz and Montreux. The Canton has been granted subsidies for water purification to several Communes.

The mesoscaphe " Auguste Piccard " has been making successful diving excursions in the Lake of Geneva, often carrying experts from all over the world. The first stage of the construction of a new airfield at Etagnières will cost 30 million francs, and the Canton, Lausanne Municipality and other Communes will take over 45% of the shares. The Montreux-Bernese Oberland railway reached the highest deficit ever in 1964 of over 1¼ million francs. Over three million francs have been voted for the first part of the road from Villars to Les Diablerets via the Col de la Croix.

The Faculty of Philosophy at Lausanne University is to have a research centre for literature of the Suisse Romande. The University is to co-operate further with those of Geneva and Neuchâtel. The " Ecole Polytechnique " of Lausanne University now has an electronic centre. The new Institute of Physiology has now been in use for some months. The newly renovated " Foyer Universitaire " which was used by the EXPO administration, is now being completed as a home for students; it will house 150 people. The students' organisation " Valdésia " celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

On 1st July, **Lausanne's** population numbered 135,590. This is a small increase, and the figure includes 25,577 foreigners.

Nearly ten million francs will be needed to satisfy future demand of electricity in the Canton. The new Nestlé Hospital was inaugurated on 1st September. The Commune Council of Lausanne has granted a credit of over one million francs for the purchase of the EXPO Theatre at Vidy. Other installations of the National Exhibition have also been taken over by the Municipality. The harbour of Ouchy is to be reconstructed. The " Place la Joie de Vivre " on the EXPO site has been re-named " Place Emile Jaques-Dalcroze ".

Avenches will have its church renovated. The Roman Museum was opened in June. There is danger of historic ground being built over, and the Foundation " Pro Aventico " has made an appeal for more money in order to keep up the ancient Helvetian-Roman capital of Switzerland. Following an Initiative, the Commune of Avenches has re-introduced the system of simple majority in voting.

The late farmer Henri Echaud of **Cugy** has left Fr.600,000.— to the State to be used for social welfare. **Gland** is to have a new church for which the Cantonal Parliament voted a quarter of a million francs.

The Commune of **Montreux** has purchased the Hotel Continental (2.9 million francs) in order to keep it for tourism. The town and its surroundings are the setting of a new film " Lady L " under the direction of Mr. Peter Ustinov. In May, representatives from eighteen European UNICEF committees met at Montreux. The " Golden Rose " TV Festival was successfully held there in April and May.

Nyon was host to the Third International Amateur Festival in June.

An Englishman living at **Savuit** was arrested for putting forged hundred-dollar notes into circulation in various towns.

Vevey is to have two skyscrapers with seventy flats. A band of eleven thieves (7 men, 4 women) were convicted for theft. They had also been responsible for blowing up Necker's grave in the park of Coppet.

The Commune of **Villeneuve** voted against a project of buildings to provide 44 flats. 440 men and 312 women took part in the voting.

The Commune Council of **Yverdon** now has four women members. The new hospital buildings of the town were opened early this year, and there are facilities now for 26 maternity cases and 25 children.

GENEVA

The Canton of Geneva has 305,000 inhabitants, 5,400 more than at the same time last year. The town's population is nearly 180,000; with the surrounding Communes of Carouge, Chêne-Bougeries, Lancy, Onex and Vernier, the figure is 238,900.

The annual accounts for last year showed a surplus of 14½ million francs with an income of Fr.341,740,015.—. The Cantonal Parliament decided to increase taxes by 6cts. to finance public work. The PdA (Communists) took the Referendum against this, and the voters supported it. A similar proposal was rejected by the municipal electorate. The town's accounts also finished with a sizable surplus.

The schools of the Canton of Geneva are not adequate with the population increasing every year, and several Communes have to enlarge their schools and ask the State for financial support, so for instance Vernier, Lancy and Corsier. The " Mouvement de la Jeunesse Suisse-Romande " has also been given a subsidy.

Swissair has been granted a six-million credit for the extension of Cointrin airport. In 1964, the Geneva metal industry exported to the value of 195 million francs, 8% more than in the previous year.

Edmond Ganter (Indep. Christian Socialist) is the new Municipal President. There is now an Austrian Consulate-General in Geneva. Earlier this year, there was voting on a Referendum to decide whether Geneva was to increase its stature as an international centre. The voters approved the Government-backed project for the building of a new international conference centre. The Municipal Theatre again receives a handsome subsidy — nearly 3½ million francs. U.S.A. have bought a site near Geneva at the cost of 3.4 million francs. This will be used for a building to house the permanent American mission to UNO and any special delegations coming to Geneva.

The Rotary International, i.e. the 74 Clubs of the Suisse Romande, met in Geneva in May. At the same time, the firm of Ed. Laurens, the famous cigarette manufacturers, celebrated their Golden Jubilee, and the Geneva Chamber of Industry and Commerce their Centenary. In June, the " Fêtes du Rhone " were celebrated, and in August, a Christian/Jewish conference was held in Geneva.

Over 300 specialists on the Old Testament met for their Fifth International Congress for the Study of the O.T. At the end of the month, the Tenth European Congress of " B'nai B'rith ", the Jewish Lodge, took place in Geneva.

(By courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

SWISS EXPORTS IN 1964

According to the latest statistics, Swiss exports grew less fast on a *per capita* basis in 1964 than in most other industrial countries. Switzerland took fourth place after Belgium/Luxemburg, Holland and Sweden, whereas her former place was second behind Belgium. This shows that Switzerland's favourable position in export statistics due to her escaping the second world war, is gradually being reduced. At the same time, it proves that the economic boom centred particularly strongly on the home market last year.

Not included are the invisible exports (tourism, banking and insurances and revenue from licences, etc.) which have also increased considerably during the past few years.

The importance of the European Market is clearly shown, for 67% is the share of European countries in Swiss exports. This is considerably higher than immediately after the war (1946: 50%, 1955: 59%), but still below the pre-war values (1929: 70%, 1934 80% and 1939: 71%).

The effects of European integration were felt for the first time and are shown in the different rates of growth of exports to EFTA countries = +18.1% and to Common Market countries = +2.8%.

According to continents, North America is the second largest customer of Switzerland, followed by Asia, Japan being the most prominent trade partner. Next come Latin America, Africa and Australia. Invisible exports are highest in the countries to which exports are largest and in which branches of the most important Swiss industrial undertakings are situated.

Since 1939, the value of Swiss exports has been mounting steadily and has increased ninefold since then. Increases have been registered for developed as well as for developing countries.

[A.T.S.]

GLACIER AVALANCHE DISASTER

Since May 1961, a stone and earth dam has been built as a basis for the Mattmark Dam, a large-scale power project 6,500 feet up in the mountains above Saas Fee. On 30th August, a huge mass of stone and ice suddenly broke away from the Allalin Glacier and crashed down a thousand feet onto the construction camp at the foot of the dam. Over ninety men were killed, buried under the jagged masses of ice and rock, Excavators and bulldozers were hardly strong enough to get at the avalanche, and all hope had soon to be given up of finding survivors. Rescue operations were suspended on the second day so that helicopters could drop bombs on the glacier in order to dislodge a further section of the glacier which threatened the site.

SWITZERLAND AND EUROPEAN SPACE RESEARCH

One of the biggest European Associations, the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation (ITT), invited Contraves Co. Ltd. in Zurich to take part, together with foreign firms affiliated to ITT, in the competition organized by the European Space Research Organisation (ESRO) for the creation of the satellite Esro I. Meanwhile, in co-operation with other firms belonging to ITT, Contraves has drafted plans for the development and construction of this satellite intended for the study of the polar ionosphere. The Swiss firm of Contraves Co. Ltd., which has not only acquired a great reputation for itself in the field of electronic calculation but has 20 years' experience in the field of rocket construction behind it, today possesses the necessary knowhow and equipment to make a valuable contribution in the field of space technique. Co-operation between ITT and Contraves, in the execution of the Esro I project, opens up interesting possibilities to Swiss industry for its future activity in the sphere of European space research.

[O.S.E.C.]

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Guglielmo Canevascini (79), Lugano, politician and former Councillor of State.

François Chevalley (69), Sion, Canon of the Abbey of Saint-Maurice.

Luc Pont (90), Sion, Canon, formerly of Saint-Luc and Sierre.

Dr. h.c. Erwin Poeschel (80), Zurich, historian, writer and concerned with research in historic monuments.

Ami Lavanchy (83), Pully, transport expert in federal service; politician; Lt.-Colonel of Infantry.

René Alblas (69), Montreux, former Commune President of Veytaux; active in national and international tourism.

John Torcapel (84), Geneva, architect.

Albert Pulmann (72), Zurich, well-known actor and producer.

Iwan Bally (89), Schoenenwerd, former Councillor of States; grandson of the founder of the Bally Shoe Company of which he was a Director for many years.

Madame Hélène Brunet-Lecomte, *née* Jaques-Dalcroze (94), Geneva, sister and close collaborator of the famous Emile.

Albert Schaer (77), Basle, engaged in Rhine transport and founder of the " Speditions A.G."; Honorary Consul of Brazil.

Louis Mayor (80), Morges, former Protestant Minister of Vaulion, Bussigny and Le Mont; Secretary of the Vaudois Synod Council and Army Padre (1. Army Corps and 1st Division); founder of one of the first boy scout groups in Switzerland — Vaulion 1911.

Dr. Robert Jucker (56), Basle, lawyer, secretary for many years of the " Autogewerbeverband ".

Samuel Perret (72), Geneva, for many years Parliamentary Recording Secretary of the Geneva Council of State.

Willy Arndt (65), Zurich, well-known mycologist.

[A.T.S.]