

Swiss Winston Churchill fund

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slovenly, dissolute and immoral people; to increase the price of salt; to alter the tax law in favour of the tax payer.

The medical profession in the Canton has asked for an extension of the Cantonal Hospital and of the nursing staff homes, and a speedy realisation of the children's hospital project, as well as of a third hospital as the second one planned for Wolhusen would not be sufficient.

An initiative was launched, asking the Confederation not only for financial help in the construction of the national roads, but also for their maintenance and running costs.

The number of traffic accidents in the Canton in 1964 has gone down from 2,408 to 2,383. Nearly ninety people were killed and 556 badly injured.

The last postal service on the Lake of Lucerne (between Hergiswil and Stansstaad) came to an end on 18th December in view of the opening of the railway line Lucerne-Stans-Engelberg. Before the Axen route was built in the 'sixties of the last century, the whole passenger and goods traffic between Schwyz and Uri/Gotthard went by boat across the Urnersee.

The council of the cultural trust of Central Switzerland decided to award its prize to Michael Speck from Oberwil (Zug) for his work in the field of early historic research in Central Switzerland. The Lucerne Festival Strings have successfully toured foreign towns. A co-operative "Reiterzentrum Luzern" was founded in February.

A famous (infamous?) international pick-pocket, "Max of Paris" was tried at the Lucerne Criminal Court. Since 1925, he has spent no fewer than 288 months behind bars.

The organisation Moral Re-armament has moved its headquarters from Caux (Vaud) to Lucerne. This follows the decision by the Vaudois Council of State not to consider M.R. as a charity organisation any more. This meant that tax would have to be paid on legacies (which during the past ten years had amounted to 25.3 million francs, 14% of it from Vaud). There was an appeal by 34,980 signatories, but the Council of State did not reconsider its decision, and Lucerne has now granted M.R. the status of a charitable organisation.

News from the town of Lucerne includes various decisions by the municipal authorities. Police, teachers and civil servants are to have increases as well as higher pensions. Considerable sums have been granted towards new schools and road construction. Schiltwald is to have a waste paper plant which Lucerne wants to join. A communal refuse incinerating plant is also to be built. There is a shortage of school rooms, and Wuerzenbach, and the art and craft college are amongst the schools to be enlarged. The new Tribschen school was already inaugurated in September. The same district is to have the new beach near the Richard Wagner Museum.

The beautiful Rhyn-Haus, a Renaissance palace in the old town of Lucerne has been renovated and will henceforth serve as reception rooms on special occasions. The creation of a municipal museum is being studied.

There will be escalators from the Hirschenplatz to the Loewengraben, and the Adligenswilerstrasse, and the Dorfstrasse Geissenstein will be enlarged. Following a citizens' Initiative, the area between Paulusplatz and Luzernerhof will have to be improved, and parking facility schemes could cost as much as seventy million francs.

The Lucerne arts prize was awarded to Dr. h.c. Kuno Mueller for his literary work, especially his essays on Central Switzerland.

In October, the Brockenhaus-Gesellschaft celebrated its Golden Jubilee, and a month later, the Municipal Theatre was 125 years old. There were the usual art exhibitions around Christmas, and the renovated Sentiskirche was reconsecrated. Carnival time arrived early in January, and the new "Fritschivater" is Walter Ruckli.

The Lucerne Branch of the "Schweizerische Volksbank" has started a special children's counter which is open on school-free afternoons. Suitably decorated and accessible by a small platform with steps, the counter is to encourage youthful savers.

A rare achievement was made known at the end of December, when Xaver Hochstrasser retired after 45½ years of *outside* work at the Lucerne main railway station. By way of recreation, he and his wife went for a twenty-kilometre march *every Sunday*.

News from other Lucerne Communes (in alphabetical order): the 19 year old Commune Clerk Erwin Galliker from **Beromuenster** was declared of age by the government. Beromuenster may soon have a civil aerodrome. The **Eigentai** (Pilatus) has been declared a protected zone. The von Moos'schen Eisenwerke Lucerne have donated a site to the R.C. parish of **Emmen** for the building of a church. There was an enteritis epidemic at **Horw** last October, due to infected meat and milk. The home of A. J. Cronin at **Kastanienbaum** was broken into in December — the burglar behaved like a vandal. **Kriens** voters granted a credit of well over 5½ million francs for the Feldmühle school building which will also house an emergency hospital for civil defence. **Pfaffnau** has been the scene of promising oil prospecting. For certain reasons it was not possible for the **Root** theatre company to celebrate its centenary in 1963; this has now been done with a special pageant under the direction of Dr. med. Franz Annen, the village G.P. The theatre company of **Reiden**, too, looks back on one hundred years. **Sempach** has been chosen for the new pig breeding research station — Lucerne is responsible for 12% of the total pig breeding in Switzerland. In December, the steamer "Winkelried" ran aground between **Vitznau** and Gersau. The boat, the latest on Lake Lucerne, was hardly damaged, however. From **Wolhusen** came the news that the mountain village of Romoos was able to inaugurate its new school building in November, the old one having been destroyed by fire in 1962.

(Mainly by courtesy of A.T.S.)

SWISS WINSTON CHURCHILL FUND

Under the patronage of former Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre, a committee has been set up in memory of Sir Winston Churchill, the defender of the free world. The idea came from members of the Swiss-British Society in Switzerland and aims at creating some memorial to Sir Winston. It is also hoped to make a central collection of all publications by and on the great Englishman, with a view to further works which are concerned with the spiritual basis of the unification of Europe and the general understanding among nations. The committee consists of a dozen well-known personalities from all parts of the country.

The British Ambassador in Berne thanked the Swiss people for their messages of condolence on the death of Sir Winston, for the many letters, calls and visits. He also thanked those who attended memorial services.

On 21st February, Swiss Television repeated the film on Churchill's life, which had already been shown on the day of his death.

[A.T.S.]