

Voting in Zurich and Schaffhausen

Autor(en): **[s.n.]**

Objekttyp: **Article**

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

Band (Jahr): **- (1967)**

Heft 1526

PDF erstellt am: **02.05.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694530>

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BASELLEND

The annual accounts of Baselland showed a deficit of 9.7 million francs. Revenue stood at 157.6m. After some cuts, the budget for 1967 estimates a similar deficit, but with revenue expected to bring in 194.8m. A special commission has since studied the requirements for building and road construction and has cut a figure of 1,323m. to 500 million francs. The electorate had refused the proposed increases in taxes in the poll of 27th November, which would have brought additional revenue. On 4th June, the voters accepted a plan for gradual introduction of women's suffrage. Also accepted were the water supply law and the *Grundwassergesetz*. The Commune Council of Liestal has agreed to a one-third increase in the price of water. A 20% rise in the price of electricity was accepted by the Elektra Birseck. The Cantonal Parliament, the *Landrat*, approved an increase of 2 to 32% in the cost of living grant to civil servants and teachers.

On 17th April, the first part of the T2 road in the Ergolz Valley was opened to traffic which enables, at long last, elimination of two very dangerous level crossings near Sissach and Lausen. Towards the cost of 22m., the Confederation contributes just under one-third. During the construction of the road tunnel near Sissach, an accident cost two lives at the end of February. Also, near Sissach, a new water purification plant became operational at the end of April.

At the end of May, the two small Communes Biel and Benken inaugurated their new school building which they had built jointly at the cost of 3m. At the Fraumatt school in Liestal, day classes for mentally deficient children were opened. The educational authorities have introduced compulsory film education in the upper schools.

The ashes of the late sculptor Jakob Probst, world-famous creator of the *Wehrmännerdenkmal*, were interred near the monument at a small ceremony at the end of March.

There are nearly 60% Protestants and 36½% Catholics in Baselland. The R.C. community approved votes for women in Church matters. Other news of women is of a third woman in a public office, this time at Ramlingburg, where Miss Hedwig Heid has been elected Commune Treasurer.

In mid-March, the newly renovated Bad Maisprach was gutted by fire; the damage amounted to at least half a million francs.

(News received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse and "Basler Nachrichten".)

ANGLO-SWISS NEWS ITEMS

The author of the successful play "Sister George", Frank Marcus, congratulated the actors on their excellent performance after the 25th showing of his play in German ("Schwester George muss sterben") at the Zurich *Schauspielhaus*.

As sole representative of a third country, Mr. Hans Rudolf Neururer, Zurich, has been appointed member of the Joint Mission for Malta, which is to replan the island's economy.

Two Chief Detectives of the Metropolitan Police went to Geneva in connection with the robbery of 140 gold bars valued at nearly 11m. francs. Several of these bars have been found by the Geneva Police, others at Chiasso, where the gold foundry "Argor" was offered several ingots. ("Argor" handles a quarter of the world's gold).

The British Minister of State at the Foreign Office, Mr. Frederick Mulley, attended the 47th Annual Meeting of the British-Swiss Chamber of Commerce in Berne. Mr. C. A. Staehelin, Basle, was elected President, the first time a Swiss national has been in this position.

[A.T.S.]

VOTING IN ZURICH AND SCHAFFHAUSEN

The Zurich electorate, Canton and Communes, went to the poll on Sunday, 28th May. Two cantonal proposals were accepted with a voting participation of 47.6%. The first (66,449 to 57,779) concerned a credit of 148 million francs for a new *Frauenklinik* in Zurich with new central service installations at the Cantonal Hospital. The Winterthur district rejected it. The second matter was the new law regarding the Zurich Cantonal Bank (81,708 to 35,119). In future, the managers will be elected by the Bank Council and no longer by the Cantonal Parliament; this should ensure political independence.

The Zurich municipal electorate accepted all four proposals: compulsory ninth school year; definite introduction of the *Maturitätsschule für Berufstätige* at the Trade College; 1.45m. francs for the construction of flats for the forestry workers of the *Stadtforstamt*; an annual contribution to the welfare centre for alcoholics.

Nineteen Communes of the Zurich Oberland have already agreed to a garbage incineration plant; Uster has joined by accepting the proposal, but Wetzikon voters rejected it.

The Winterthur electorate agreed to all four projects: a large hall for Toess, various road construction schemes and the purchase of the Geiselweid swimming baths. Voting participation was 63.4%.

1.6m. francs was granted for the construction of a road and an underpass at Meilen, 5.3m. for the Sonnenberg school centre and 1.9m. for a first aid post at Adliswil. The Kloten voters agreed to an electricity sub-station and a rainwater purification plant (total 2.6m. francs). Dietikon voters rejected the so-called general traffic scheme.

The men of the Canton of Schaffhausen have followed the example set them by Zurich earlier and rejected a proposal to give women the vote in cantonal matters — voting participation 85%. Again like in Zurich, the town itself accepted, but the 32 rural Communes opposed it. The President of the Schaffhausen section of the Swiss Federation for Women's Suffrage, Mrs. Judith Widmer, said that the result was progress as compared with the vote of 1959 and "There are defeats which are not only the beginning of coming victories, but in which the victims feel happier than the victors". The credit of 6.7 million francs for the extension of the Cantonal Psychiatric Clinic was accepted by the cantonal electorate.

[A.T.S.]

IRON AND DIAMOND WEDDINGS

Two couples recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding: Mr. and Mrs. Alessandro and Anita Martinaglia-Laveni (Riehen/Basle) and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fleury-Farine (Courroux/Berne). Mr. and Mrs. Alfred and Marie Wachs-Kohler celebrated their Iron Wedding at the "Asyl Gottesgnad" at Mett near Bienne.