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# IT HAPPENED IN SOUTHERN AND SOUTH-WESTERN SWITZERLAND

## TICINO

Rather surprisingly, the Ticino voters rejected the proposal to give women the right to vote in cantonal matters when the electorate went to the poll on 24th April (nearly 16,000 yes and just over 17,100 no).

Ticinesi students went to Berne with a petition demanding the start of a Gotthard road tunnel and rejecting the idea of a road toll as discriminatory towards the Ticino. At Campione, an Italian-Swiss study centre has been opened under the leadership of Prof. A. Soldini, Lugano.

Since the end of last year, a new Leftish paper "Politica Nuova" is published in the Ticino, and a "Kennedy Club" was founded for young people between 15 and 25, whose members will arrange concerts, etc., for charitable purposes. In January, the first copy of "Vita Evangelica" appeared, a fortnightly paper for the Reformed Church.

The town of **Lugano** had 340 more inhabitants at the end of 1965 than a year previously; the population numbered 21,460 on 31st December. **Locarno** counted 13,444 inhabitants at the end of the year, 7 fewer than at the close of 1964. The figure included 2,425 foreigners. The Federal Council has accepted the plans for an airfield at Locarno. The town's gymnastic society has celebrated its centenary. The **Maggia Valley** is to have a postal motor coach service; the cost of Fr.1,400,000.— will be the charge of the Canton. Soon after it was known that a museum was to be opened in the valley, it was also announced that the **Leventina Valley** would have one. The grounds of the Church San Maria del Sasso at **Morcote** is to be protected. There has been a lot of opposition against a thermo-electric powerplant in the **Mendrisiotto**. A waste-water plant will be constructed in the valley. The tobacco harvest in the district was 181.1 tons and was valued at 1,546 million francs — the bad weather had an adverse influence on the crop. The building of the Carazzetti Foundation at Loco has been put at the disposal of a museum for the **Onsernone Valley**. The vicarage of **Rancate** is to be renovated to house the legacy of Dr. Giovanni Zuest, a collection of 134 pictures and 330 drawings by Ticino artists from the year 600 to the present.

## VAUD

The annual accounts of the Canton of Vaud showed a surplus of 13.6m. francs, with revenue standing at Fr.422,830,000.—. In March, the electorate, men and women, voted for seven members of the Cantonal Government and 197 members of the Cantonal Parliament. The elections showed a move to the Left with Socialists and Communists gaining nine seats. The Radicals still have the largest number of seats (74, a loss of 3). As hitherto, the Grand Council has 15 women members. The two new members of the Vaud Government are J. P. Pradervand (Radical) and C. Bonnard, (Liberal). On 14th April, the anniversary of the Canton's independence, the members of both Councils were solemnly installed at a service and ceremony at Lausanne Cathedral. The new President of the Vaud Parliament is the Radical Pierre Jaquier. The Municipal President of Yverdon, André Martin, has been elected National Councillor in place of J. P. Pradervand who has become *Conseiller d'Etat*. In February, it was seven years since the women of the Vaud were given the vote, an anniversary which was duly celebrated. The

Cantonal Hospital in Lausanne has opened additional buildings of the pre-fabricated type. The Canton has increased its holding in the "Société énergie nucléaire"; Vaud's interest stands now at 2.2m. francs. The electorate rejected the proposed participation of the Canton in the airfield project of Etagnières. The Cantonal Parliament agreed to a sixth contribution of 15m. for national road construction; the Canton's share so far amounts to 109.7m. francs. The line between Blonay and Chamby of the "Chemins de Fer Veveysans" was closed on 22nd May, after having been in use for 64 years. The Vaud Section of the "Touring Club Suisse" intends to open a road traffic centre where driving on all kinds of road surfaces and conditions can be tested.

In March, the new Synod of the Evangelical Church of the Canton held its constituting meeting with 140 members present. A collection in the *Suisse Romande* organised by boy scouts and Christian youth organisations resulted in goods to the value of Fr.30,000.—. This is to benefit missions mainly in Africa.

The financial position of the town of **Lausanne** improved considerably in 1965. Expenditure per head of the population went down from Fr.1,140.— to Fr.1,070.—. The budget had predicted a deficit of 10m., but there was a surplus of well over 6m. francs. The town is to spend annually 3m. francs on social welfare, half a million more than before.

The new President of the Lausanne District Court of the Vaud Cantonal Tribunal is Jacques Reymond. The Institute of Electro-Technology of the "Ecole Polytechnique" was opened in March. Gaston Maendly is the new Headmaster of the "Ecole Supérieure", in place of J. P. Pradervand. The 11th International Festival of Music took place early in June. What contrast to the news received at about the same time of six cases of arson in the town!

At **Ecublens**, a home for old blind people is being constructed. **Montreux** was again host to the international radio and television competition "The Golden Rose of Montreux". One of the Swiss performances "Bernard Show" received the "Bronze Rose", the golden award going to France and the silver trophy to U.S.A. The Referendum was used at **Morges** to put a project of waste water plant and refuse incineration plant to the electorate who supported the opponents. A farm house at **Renens** has been adapted as a home for foreign workers. From **Vevey** comes the news that the foundation stone was laid for the "Cité des Enfants" for 150 difficult children of the Foundation "Eben-Hezer" — the home in Lausanne opened by Sister Julie Hofmann in 1899 is no longer adequate.

## VALAIS

On account of the Mattmark catastrophe, last year's celebrations to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Canton of Valais's entry into the Confederation were postponed. They are taking place this summer and opened with a first performance of the pageant "Valais — Terre d'Helvétie" by Maurice Zermatten and Jean Daetwyler.

The agricultural population of the Canton has gone back from 41.9% to 25.7% in ten years, whilst industrial occupations have increased.

The action committees are busy in the Valais, one "Pro Breithorn Tunnel", the other "Pro Rawyl Tunnel",