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IT HAPPENED IN EASTERN SWITZERLAND

LAKE OF CONSTANCE REGION

At a recent meeting of the North-Western Federation for Rhine-Bodensee Navigation, it was stated that too many new road and alpine tunnel projects were being realised at the expense of Rhine navigation. Germany and Austria, both interested parties, were present, and in the Federation's Annual Report, it was stated that new records had been reached in the Basle Rhine Ports, and that plans for an international Bodensee *Schutzkommission* were being worked out. The question of navigation on the Upper Rhine is still under observation.

More and more boats have been registered on the Lake of Constance (Thurgau area); in one year, there has been an increase from 1,685 to 1,922 units. The old steamer "Rhein", for sixty years operating on the Lake, has become redundant, the last of the SBB Fleet. The "Schiffahrtsgesellschaft Untersee und Rhein" has celebrated its centenary. Fishing in the Lake of Constance reached a record of 375,000 kg. in 1962. Since then there was a rapid decline by a full third, and only in 1965, the catches began to improve again, both in quantity and quality. The number of professional fishermen is also going down gradually.

Fifteen Communes agreed to a cleansing operation of the shore, but the floods in early summer have prevented full realisation of the plans. The main effort concerns cutting out of lake grass.

Dr. Arnold Bechtold (Stein am Rhein) was elected new President of the "Verkehrsverein Untersee und Rhein" in succession to Dr. W. Ruedi (Kreuzlingen).

The Thurgau Hairdressers' Federation celebrated its 75th anniversary on a boat on the lake.

The Bodensee-Toggenburg-Bahn is a private undertaking, but the authorities concerned, especially the Canton of St. Gall, would welcome it if the Confederation were to take it over.

A special plant for disposing of animal carcasses was planned for Bazenhaid, to serve the Cantons St. Gall, Appenzell and Thurgau. The Federal Planning Commission then held that one such plant was enough, and that one should be ready near Zurich in a few years. The question is still being studied, and in the meantime, a small plant has become operational at Egnach.

THURGAU

The Thurgau electorate agreed to an extension of the term of office of authorities and functionaries from three to four years in order to ease the burden of the voters. Similar proposals had been defeated in 1937 and 1953. The citizens accepted the proposed additional old-age insurance benefits which will mean an extra cost of 8.8 million francs for the Canton.

In 1961, Thurgau had revenue of 57m. and expenditure of 53m. francs. In 1965, the former amounted to 97 and the latter to 93m., whilst the budget for 1967 estimates 107m. in revenue and 115m. francs in expenditure.

In 1965, the Canton counted 76,449 taxpayers with a total taxable income of 887m. francs, an increase of nearly 100m. more; taxable property, however, showed only a very small increase.

In the largest Thurgau Communes, Arbon, Frauenfeld and Kreuzlingen, the construction of houses has decreased on average by 35%, with only Frauenfeld showing an increase.

10m. francs is the amount of revenue which accrued to the Canton from tourism in 1965; the basis for a tourist policy is to be created by an enquiry into this industry.

Hefenhofen is to be the place for a communal garbage disposal plant, and a second one is to be erected at Muellheim. The Canton will spend 6.74m. francs on land planning and improvement in 1967, double the amount spent on melioration projects in 1965. Already 38 out of the 199 Communes have a definite planning project, and 37 at *Bauordnung*, whilst a further 43 Communes have decided to create a planning schedule. The Cantonal Government regrets that the N7, the National Highway from Kefikon to Kreuzlingen, is to be postponed to the late 'seventies.

In 1965, Thurgau spent 1.27m. francs on vocational training, half a million of which was contributed by the Confederation. In 1967, the sum is to be increased to 1.55 million francs, and for the first time, scholarships are to be paid for, which brings the total contributions by the State up to 1.9m., half a million more than in the previous year. There is still a shortage of teachers in the Thurgau — twelve main posts are vacant. The argument as to the home of the second Thurgau *Mittelschule* is still going on; Romanshorn may be the winner, but a third school may be built later at Kreuzlingen. Thurgau cantonal school teachers sabotaged the end-of-term dinner because no further efforts for pay increases had been made by the authorities; the meal was then cancelled.

The *Armendepartment* of the Canton has been renamed Welfare Department. Fewer and fewer people have been applying for assistance, which is mainly due to the increased old-age pensions.

97 doctors, 43 dentists, 17 dispensing chemists, 30 veterinary surgeons and 28 midwives are working in the Thurgau. Over 90% of the inhabitants are in some kind of sickness insurance.

Woodland has increased in the Thurgau, so has the quantity of fish caught in the three rivers Thur, Sitter and Murg. Also gone up has milk production (204.73m. litres in the year 1965/66). The vineyards have been "rejuvenated", and old fruit trees have been cut down to make room for better young trees. Out of the 226,700 trees, 216,000 are apple trees. Tobacco cultivation has reached a new low level; the number of growers has gone down from 163 five years ago to 45, and their production has decreased accordingly.

The first cheese maturing centre in Switzerland has been opened at Weinfeld; in a few months, it will be in a position to accept the production of sixty *Dorfkäsereien*. Up to 40,000 kg. will be the increase in the daily processing which means a saving to the Confederation of some 2m. francs.

Aadorf has a new swimming basin, whilst at **Amriswil**, a new art gallery has been opened in the old *Volkshaus*. Half a million will be spent on a by-pass of **Bischofszell**, and a new Protestant church will cost 2.2m. francs. The scales manufacturing firm of Ammann at **Ermatingen** has just been celebrating its centenary.

The first Thurgau old-age settlement has been built in **Frauenfeld**; it has sixty flats and a specially constructed apartment for invalids. The Murg has become so polluted that a special organisation has been founded whose aim is to have the river clean once more. Cultural life in the Thurgau capital has a high standard this winter: visiting artists include groups of the Zurich Schauspielhaus, the

Vienna Burgtheater, the Constance Municipal Theatre, the Basle Comedy Theatre, not to forget various opera performances and an original production of "My Fair Lady" by the Berlin "Theater des Westens".

The private hospital village of **Littenheid** has financial worries; revenue increased by 123% in the last 15 years, whilst expenditure mounted by 223%. There are 400 patients, and next year, the hospital will celebrate its Golden Jubilee. **Lommis** now has a Protestant church, the Dreifaltigkeitskirche.

Since the **Kreuzlingen** electorate has agreed to an interest-free loan of 1.1m. francs to the *Genossenschaft Schwimmbad Hoernli*, the swimming baths will now become a reality. The *Molkerei* has been enlarged and is equipped with the most modern machinery; up to 12 metric tons of butter is produced daily.

A building of service flatlets has been opened at **Mannenbach**; the "Seepark" has 26 flats which have to be bought for a period of ten years. There is nursing and domestic staff, as well as a resident doctor. The inauguration in August was celebrated with a big fireworks display. **Muenchwilen's** new secondary school has been opened.

For half a century, the Sisters of Baldegg have served the Commune of **Romanshorn**; due to shortage of novices, it is no longer possible to keep nursing sisters at the local hospital. Konrad Frueh has celebrated his diamond jubilee in the "Textilsackfabrik Fischer & Cie". The former *Gemeindeammann* Johann Rutishauser has been awarded honorary citizenship of **Salmsach**. **Sitterdorf** has an aviation centre; it comprises a work and repair shop and will have a swimming pool, riding school, tennis courts and children's playgrounds. 2.93m. francs have been granted for a central water purification plant at **Steckborn** (126:7 votes). 2m. francs will be spent on an underpass near the station of **Sulgen**. **Stettfurt** has a new swimming pool, and **Wengi** has provided a new clean water supply.

In September, a school parish assembly at **Weinfeld** decided by 505 to 260 votes to dismiss a primary teacher. A complicated case ensued, but the Cantonal Educational Council supported the electorate, and the teacher had to comply and pay all costs.

ST. GALL

St. Gall has hitherto had its Councillors of State elected by its Parliament for the duration of only one year. A new law is being prepared which provides for popular election for a period of four years. The ordinary accounts of the Canton are expected to show a deficit of 3.46m. (revenue: 255m.) for 1967. The extraordinary accounts estimate 71m. income and 82.1m. francs expenditure. The total deficit for 1965 was 2½m. francs.

The basic salary of a lecturer at St. Gall University is to be increased from not quite 29,000 to 40,000 francs, in special cases even to 45,000.—. Children's allowances to employees are to be raised, and the Cantonal Parliament also granted Fr.640,000.— for an extension of the Agricultural College of Flawil. Not far from a million francs is needed for the Rhine correction on St. Gall territory.

The Liberal Democrats of the Canton have dispatched a questionnaire to all households, asking citizens' opinions about cantonal and federal questions of politics. The comprehensive improvement scheme of the Linth has been completed. For twenty years, it has been going on under *Oberingenieur* Jacques Meier, Lachen, and has cost 32m. francs.

In 1965, there were about 6,000 fewer bicycles in St. Gall, whilst the total number of the Canton's motor vehicles went up by over 5,000 to 72,576.

The cantonal schools of St. Gall are to be reformed; one of the novelties will be a division between the *Maturitaets-* and the *Diplomklassen* of the commercial section from the first year. There will be increased tuition of mathematics, and geometry will be a new examination subject. The Cantonal Teachers' Training College at Rorschach is short of seven class rooms. The R.C. *Kantonsrealschulen* are to be extended.

The new President of the Synod of the Cantonal Protestant Church is *Kantonsrat* H. Zogg, Niederuzwil. The new chief physician at the Cantonal Hospital at Grabs is Dr. Joerg Widmer from Graenichen (Ag) at Kreuzlingen. The *Gemeindekrankenkassen* celebrate their Golden Jubilee.

Like in other Cantons, the number of livestock owners has decreased, but there is an increase in the number of animals, the decrease in the number of horses was as much as 36% in St. Gall.

The **St. Gall** town accounts for 1965 ended with a small deficit (66.7m. francs of expenditure). 5.6m. francs are to be spent on a new school at Halden; it will have a first aid centre. Nearly half a million francs has been granted for a mortuary at the Bruggen Cemetery. In summer, an important marketing seminar under Prof. S. H. Britt, Chicago, was held in St. Gall. The Cultural Prize for 1966 was awarded to Prof. Dr. George Thuerer, writer and historian and educator in dangerous times. The new youth hostel was opened at the end of September.

18m. francs have been granted by the town's electorate for the improvement of transport and communications. Various civil defence buildings and posts are to be erected in the near future, at a total cost of 93m. francs. 4,547 invalids have been taken care of in the 15 years of "Pro Infirmis" in St. Gall. The renovation of the Cathedral will cost over 9m. francs, of which 6½ had already been granted previously. A large part of the renovations was completed by 16th October, the traditional *St. Gallusfest*.

In the Rotmonten, a new Protestant church has been inaugurated. Heinrich Schlegel retired as President of the Protestant People's Federation; his successor is Pfr. H. Rutz. The Salvation Army of St. Gall celebrated its 75th anniversary, and the *Unteroffiziersverein* its centenary, whilst the oldest Chamber of Commerce in Switzerland, the "Kaufmännische Corporation", celebrated its 500th anniversary.

A colony of chamois has settled and developed in the deep Goldach Gorge East of St. Gall. It is planned to declare the area a nature reserve.

At **Altstaetten**, the "Knochenstampfe" was gutted by fire. **Bad Pfaefers** is 250 years old, and at **Benken**, a new pilgrims' church "Maria Bildstein" has replaced the old chapel of 1882. **Brunnadern** is to have a home for old people thanks to a generous legacy by Mrs. E. Gysi-Giger. The trade school of **Buchs** will cost over 7m. francs; the credit has been granted. **Flawil's** male choir celebrated its 125th anniversary, and **Gaiserwald** has received its first school building since its foundation 163 years ago. **Goldach**, too, has a new school building, as well as **Gommiswald**. **Gossau** is to have a trade training centre as well as a waste water plant together with the Commune of Andwil. In October, a beautiful fountain was given over to the Commune of **Gossau**; it is in front of the new *Rathaus*. In the same village, Europe's largest hobby model railway was opened in October. **Hemberg**, too,