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IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTONS OF AARGAU AND SOLOTHURN

AARGAU

Canton

Like many other Cantons, the Aargau has financial problems, and its planning consists of *Feinplanung* up to 1970 and of *Grobplanung* up to 1973. Considerable cutting down in public expenditure during the first phase is to reduce the excess of expenditure to a quarter. The annual accounts showed a deficit of "only" 9.9m. francs as against a budgeted 17.4m. in the ordinary expenditure. Accounts for construction work showed a deficit of 15.1m. francs (budget: 25m.) and for road building a surplus of 0.3m. francs (budget: 0.9m.). The budget for 1968 expects a loss of 10.7m. francs with estimated revenue of 316.3 million francs. Hospital building costs are estimated at 18.8m. and road construction at 98.3m. francs — shortage of 3.2m.

Planning occupies the authorities, and a cantonal delegate has been appointed. A special agricultural zone is visualised in the new building law. A total of 170 road construction projects are planned at a cost of 215m. francs. The Reuss plain improvement is being studied by a commission of 15 members. Seven Communes are affected, especially with regard to water supplies. The Canton also subsidises waste-water plants of various Communes. The Wynen- and Suhrental railways are once again joined by a tunnel in Aarau. This and other subsidiary lines on Aargau territory will be receiving cantonal subsidies for technical improvements.

The Canton of Aargau is studying intensively the question of how best to contribute to Swiss university training. The plan of a full university with the usual faculties has been dropped. On the other hand, the project of a medical academy is being studied, in which the human being as a whole should be treated. An institute for *Bildungswissenschaften* to be run in conjunction with the Academy will cost some 100 million francs.

After the "Christian-Democratic People's Party" came into being last summer, the political group "Liberal Aargauers for a Modern Switzerland" (Team 67) has now constituted itself as an independent society. Its aim is to fight for a modern style in politics, founded on scientific methods.

The three cement works in the Aargau (Holderbank Wildeg, Wuerenlingen-Siggenthal and Jura) have generously presented the Cantonal Hospital in Aarau with the means to install a treatment centre for kidney troubles, including artificial kidneys, a project which would be too costly for the State.

Communes

The town of Aarau has to pay an extra 190,000 francs towards the cost of the waste-water plant Aarau, which includes ten Communes. This is due to higher construction expenses which have been apportioned to the various Communes. The historic Huebscher House on the "Graben", is to be moved further North. Its owner will pay for this herself and then present the house to the town; it is to house the Municipal Library, a restaurant and offices.

A thermal bath dating from Roman times has been discovered in the course of construction work at Baden;

the find is even older than the one brought to light last April, which probably dates from the second century. At the other end of the scale, the centre of Baden is to be altered to have easier flow of traffic *on four levels*.

At the end of the year, a Jewish wedding took place at the old synagogue at the former Jewish Commune of Lengnau. This was the first time for half a century, and it was a demonstration of the bonds between wide Jewish circles in Switzerland and the old Jewish settlement in the Surbtal.

The Commune Assembly of Lenzburg granted an annual contribution for the upkeep of the Philipp-Albert-Stapfer House on Castle Lenzburg. Its management publicised the grant, for it felt that such a gesture for cultural purposes was commendable at a time when money grew shorter everywhere. With it, the Lenzburg citizens demonstrated their sense of culture. The Stapfer House is kept up by the New Helvetic Society as a *Stätte der Begegnung*.

The Baroque Church at Muri is to be renovated, and with this decision taken by the Catholic Church Community, the most important monument in the *Freiämter* will be preserved; the work may take some 20 years in all.

The Jurabergwerke A.G. at Frick have sold the site at Sisseln where they originally intended to build iron-works, to the Commune. The price plus an additional present of some land, enables Sisseln to make a profit of 2 million francs.

Spreitenbach, a village which has developed rapidly over the last few years, is to have a modern shopping centre with a window front one kilometre long. The Commune of Zeihen is to have a cultural centre which will include school, church, gymnasium, Commune Hall and kindergarden. At Zurzach, the largest open-air thermal spa in Switzerland is being constructed; it will include two hexagonal baths, indoor baths, a restaurant, a hotel, etc.

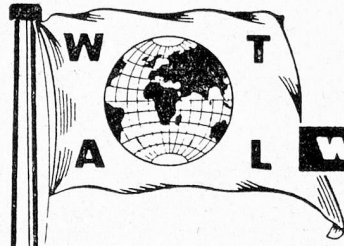
SOLOTHURN

Canton

Solothurn, too, has financial worries; a special commission has made 64 proposals for saving money. These include such things as buying wholesale for hospitals. The accounts for 1967 showed a deficit of 5 million, revenue standing at 197.1m. francs. In addition, there were vast sums for national roads and *Juragewässerkorrektion* of 6.3m. The budget for 1968 is balanced at 168.4m. francs in the ordinary accounts and shows a deficit of 23 million in the extraordinary accounts. Total expenditure (222m.) will surpass the 200 million franc mark for the first time. The Canton proposes to increase its financial participation in the Aare-Ticino joint-stock company for electricity (ATEL) by purchasing new shares for 13.5m. francs.

The regional airfield of Grenchen is to be extended, and the Confederation, the Canton, as well as Grenchen and Solothurn are to contribute financially. Like in other Cantons, the Solothurn hospitals are to be enlarged at a total of 60m. francs. Housing, too, gets priority, and within one year, the number of subsidised homes was increased five-fold.

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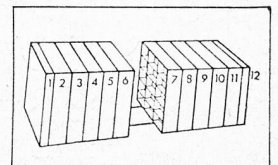
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The Canton has allowed medical teaching and training at some of its hospitals, as a first contribution towards helping Basle University. With Berne, the Canton has arrived at an agreement which will allow Bernese boys and girls to attend the *Gymnasium*, the *Oberrealschule* and the *Handelsschule* in Solothurn and Olten.

Communes

Fritz Moos-Flury left his valuable art collection to the Commune of Biberist. On 22nd July 1499, the Battle of Dornach was fought (*Magdalenentag*). In December last, a "Magdalenen-Zunft" was founded to which Swiss citizens whose families have lived at Dornach for 50 years, may be accepted. Its aims and objects are to promote social and cultural projects, as well as old Dornach customs.

At Ermenswil-Eschenbach, a new Catholic Chapel is now in use, conceived as a "*Burg Gottes*", with a watch tower with four bells. The Citizens of Hofstetten-Flueh rejected the budget for 1968 and made cuts in building projects in order to cut out the estimated deficit of 220,000 francs. "Cutting one's coat according to one's cloth . . ."

Olten's population is going back every year, a process which may become of serious consequence if it continues. On 1st January, it numbered 21,078 inhabitants. Nevertheless, planning goes on of a centre in the South-West, which is to have an intake of 8,000 people. The suburb is to include a trade zone and a special zone for "non-disturbing" industries, a cultural and school centre, etc.

On 1st January, the town of Solothurn counted 18,865 inhabitants, 2,554 of them citizens of the town and 4,145 citizens of other parts of the Canton. The number of foreigners has increased slightly to 2,641. The *Städtebundtheater* Solothurn-Bienne shows a deficit of 78,600 francs for the season 1966/67. According to the agreement, Solothurn is to carry 37.5% and Bienne the rest, both in addition to annual subsidies. The new director is Heinz Zimmermann at present in Lueneburg. The free political/cultural discussion and action group "Young Solothurn" appealed to the authorities to restore the one-time famous hermitage of St. Verena. If necessary, the young people are willing to help with the finances by means of a "Bettlerfest" like the Basle population organised in order to help purchase the Picasso pictures.

The *Waldweiher* at Starrkirch-Wil has been declared a protected area. It is intended as a school reservation where children should be able to watch the life of amphibia and marsh plants.

The latest Church Commune to give the women the vote is the R.C. Parish of Wangen near Olten. According to planning experts, Zuchwil will be the most densely populated Commune of the Solothurn district by the year 2000. It has 10,000 inhabitants now and will have a population of 21,000 by the end of the century. It is ideally situated to comprise three large centres, with the Aare and the Emme as boundaries and with plenty of green belt land.

Teachers and students assisted the expert Dr. W. Meyer, Basle, in the restoration of the Wartburg near Olten. The hill on which the ruined castle stands, was inhabited from about 1050 to 1415. It was the seat of the Froburger and was destroyed by Bernese during the conquest of the Aargau in 1415.

(Edited from news and information received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

"GOLDEN ROSE OF MONTREUX"

Colour v. Black-and-White

For the first time, colour television will be competing on equal terms with black-and-white at this year's contest for the "Golden Rose of Montreux", the world's top award for TV light entertainment.

Colour was first seen at Montreux last year — but only in the non-competitive section. Only black-and-white programmes were allowed to compete for the "Golden Rose", which was won (for the second time) by the BBC, with its programme "Frost Over England".

This year, however, many countries are expected to be submitting colour shows. The judging panel, and the cream of the world's TV executives who will be at Montreux to attend the "Golden Rose" contest, will watch the closed-circuit — transmissions on dual sets — one showing colour and one showing black-and-white.

This year's contest is to last eight days. It opens at the Swiss lakeside resort of Montreux on 25th April.

Organised jointly by the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation and the town of Montreux, it is held under the auspices of the European Broadcasting Union, which has 28 active members — mainly on the Continent of Europe — and 48 associate members from every part of the world.

[S.N.T.O.]

SWISS BANK CORPORATION

The 96th Annual General Meeting was held at Basle on 1st March, 1968, under the chairmanship of Dr. Samuel Schweizer, attended by 161 shareholders representing a total of 366,046 shares. The Report and Accounts for 1967 were approved as were the Board's proposals to distribute a dividend of Frs.70.— (14%) per share (as against Fr.60.— (12%) last year) or Frs.17.50 per share of the October, 1967, issue. Frs.22,000,000.— will be allocated to the Special Reserve, Frs.2,500,000.— to the Pension Fund and Frs.7,676,368.68 carried forward.

The eight retiring members of the Board were re-elected for a further period of three years, and in addition, Dr. André de Meuron, Vice-Chairman and Managing Director of "Société Anonyme de Participations Appareillage Gardy", Geneva, Dr. Jürg Gadiant Engi, Chairman of Lonza S.A., Basle, and Dr. Willi Rohner, Councillor of States, Altstätten, were elected to the Board.

SWISS INDUSTRY AND THE WINTER OLYMPICS AT GRENOBLE

Sulzer Bros. Ltd. of Winterthur and its French affiliate supplied the eight refrigerating compressors generating a total of 4,650,000 frig/h, for the network of 90 miles of refrigerating tubes used to make ice for the speed-tracks and skating rinks where the skating and ice-hockey events were held during the Tenth Winter Olympic Games in Grenoble. In addition, Sulzer Heating Co. Ltd. of Paris, installed the heating plant for propelling heated fresh air under the spectators' stands in the new hall. The French branch of another Swiss company, Escher Wyss, which five years ago supplied the refrigerating plant for a skating rink at Grenoble, was responsible for supplying the artificial cooling plant for the curves particularly exposed to the sun on the bob-run at Alpe d'Huez.

[O.S.E.C.]