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*Cover:*

Mr Willi Ritschard, Head of the Federal Department of Communications and Energy, PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATION 1978 at an Open-Air Parliament (Lands-gemeinde)

## Marriage of a Swiss woman

*(Marriage or Remarriage)*

A Swiss woman wishing to retain her Swiss nationality on marrying a foreign national **must** make a declaration in writing to that effect, **before the marriage**, on a form obtainable from the Swiss diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

## The Canton of St. Gall

The author, Prof. Dr. Georg Thuerer, born in 1908, lectures in German language and literature, as well as Swiss history at the Graduate Institute of Economics in St. Gall. His major work as a scholar is the «St. Gall History» (1953/1972) which presents civic life, culture and economics from prehistoric times to the present. Apart from that, he has written poetry in German and in dialect.

The Federal State of St. Gall counts amongst the larger Cantons of Switzerland. With regard to population, it comes fifth with its 388 000 inhabitants, and as to area it is in sixth place with 2014 square kilometers. Looking at its geographical position, one is struck by two things. St. Gall is a frontier Canton which borders on three neighbouring countries: the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria and the Principality of Liechtenstein. Secondly, it is a «ring Canton», for it surrounds the Canton of Appenzell completely. This already indicates that the

Canton of St. Gall is not a natural creation, but was formed artificially. How did this strange formation come about?

### History

Even two hundred years ago, nobody would have thought that the districts between the Lakes of Constance, Zurich and Walenstadt would one day be united in one single political structure. At that time, there existed some very different dominions. The largest domain was under the rule of the Prince Abbot of St. Gall. He reigned supremely from the palatinate of the famous Benedictine Monastery over his «Principality» between the urban corner-stones of Rorschach and Wil, whilst the Toggenburg was more like a constitutional monarchy in the 18th century. The free imperial city of St. Gall was entirely surrounded by the abbatial estate. The trade

The Baroque Stiftskirche of St. Gall

