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Schaffhausen proposes in a report to the Budget for 1950 to reduce the deficit from Sfrs.918,000 to Sfrs.445,000. The improvement would be reached through the curtailment in expenditure and increase in receipts.

One major proposal is that the Electricity Work of Canton should, in consideration of the unfavourable financial position of the latter, pay Sfrs.100,000 more than usual.

CANTONAL PARLIAMENT OF GRAUBUNDEN

In its Session lasting 14 days, the Cantonal Parliament of Graubunden has amongst other things finalised the budget and decided on the rate of tax for 1950. Improvements amounting to over Sfrs.1,000,000. were amended to the Government Budget, in particular an amount of Sfr.400,000 which was to be a special contribution to the Superannuation scheme of the State Employees was cancelled. Sfr 90,000 increase in receipts from Cantonal undertakings, and reduction of Sfrs.46,000 in expenditure for printed matter and office utensils were other alterations.

The Special Commission of the Cantonal Parliament also wants to reduce the amount to be utilised in 1949 for paying off the War Debt from Sfrs.500,000 to 400,000 so that the Tax reserve would again be Sfrs.600,000. On the other hand certain increases in expenditure were decided upon such as hospitals etc. The Cantonal Parliament approved of these proposals and asked the Government to introduce a special savings program for the next Session of Parliament to deal with.

HISTORICAL MUSEUM FOR AROSA

In the old Eggerhouse in Arosa a new museum for the "Schanfigg" was opened on December 4th. Many visitors from the Valley, as well as Chur and Davos were present at the celebrations which closed with a visit to the museum under the guidance of the Curator. The museum contains : literature from Arosa, Natural Science, various domestic appliances, trade tools, armaments and as the most valuable piece the old flag of Schanfigg which dates from the time before 1600.

ZURICH

The Government of Zurich has allocated in addition to Sfrs 1.8 million subsidies a Cantonal Subsidy of 1.2 million Sfrs. for the building of 109 houses with a total of 475 flats. The total building cost will be Sfrs16,000,000. Including this amount since June, 1948, 576 buildings with a total of 6014 flats (total cost 261 million Francs) have received allocations from the State totalling Sfrs.33,000,000. The Cantonal Government decided to hold a popular vote on 28th January, 1950 on the following question.

Cantonal contributions to the building of a City Hospital in Zurich.

Inclusion of State School teachers, Pastors and members of the Cantonal Police into the insurance scheme of the Cantonal employees.

A gift of Sfr5000 which came from an anonymous donor was added to the subsidy fund for the Cantonal Hospital.

M. MAX PETITPIERRE, PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER OF SWISS CONFEDERATION.

The two Chambers of the Federal Parliament elected on December 15th, Federal Councillor Max Petitpierre, President of the Swiss Confederation for 1950. 213 ballot papers were distributed, 211 handed in