

# News from Switzerland

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of the Swiss population, namely of the concerned sex and age group.

In German Switzerland the majority for franchise and voting rights was 54%, relatively marginal only. In comparison the French Swiss women were for their political rights with an overwhelming majority of 83%, against 9%.

The situation at the end of January 1970 was as follows: Seven cantons have accepted women's Cantonal and Communal voting rights, namely: Waadt and Neuenburg (1959), Geneva (1960), Basel - City (1966), Basel - Country (only cantonal, 1968), Tessin (1969) and Freiburg (1969).

—Tagesanzeiger.

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### NUMISMATIC RARITIES AT FRIBOURG

Visitors to the beautiful old city of Fribourg who also pay a visit to its Museum of Art and History will find a most impressive collection of works of art and antiquities in the more than twenty exhibition rooms of the three main floors of the old patrician home "Hotel Ratze" dating back to the 16th century.

The newly rebuilt coin room is on the building's highest floor. Numismatic fans can admire coins struck in Fribourg in an unusual collection of great artistic beauty. In addition to coins of the historic state there are also remarkable cantonal coins of the first half of the 19th century issued prior to the federal mint (after 1850). Further groups in the collection consist of excavated coins dating back to ancient times and the middle ages (first of all from Pontalban, Sevaz, Aumont, Ueberstorf), of ancient Roman coins of all kinds as well as of cantonal and federal coins and foreign ones.

### A NEW HINGED HOSPITAL BED

Specialising in the production of furniture for hospitals, a Swiss inventor has produced a new anatomic bed for patients. Hinged at four points, it ensures maximum comfort and allows the patient, by means of a special easily operated electrical control cable, to find the most comfortable position for himself. The patient can thus easily put himself to bed or get up, which greatly simplifies the work of the nursing staff.

Presented at the 18th International Inventors Exhibition in Brussels, this invention won a gold medal, as well as a special medal, awarded by the Burgomaster of the town. Specialists, meeting at the 3rd National Congress of Public Hospitalisation in Paris, called attention to the interest of this novelty. (osec)

## NEW ZURICH AIRPORT HILTON TO BE OPENED IN MAY, 1970

The foundations for the first Hilton hotel in Switzerland, the "Zurich Airport Hilton", were laid last March in Glattbrugg-Opfikon, near the international airport Zurich-Kloten.

The Zurich Airport Hilton will be located on a 3.7 acre site at the intersection of the airport expressway and the Zurich-Stuttgart motorway, with direct access to the Swiss Autobahn-network. Only 15 minutes by car from the business and shopping district of Zurich and 30 minutes from the industrial centres Winterthur and Baden the Zurich Airport Hilton will serve the increasing air passenger traffic in Zurich. Because of the elevation on the wooded Hohenbühl in Glattbrugg-Opfikon, the hotel will enjoy a panoramic view of the airport and the lovely farming country to the west as well as the northern section of the picturesque city of Zurich.

The hotel, which will be fully air-conditioned, will consist of a two-storey central building interconnected with a four-storey guest room wing containing 175 rooms. The plans provide for the later construction of an additional guest room wing that will bring up the total capacity to 300 rooms with 600 beds. All guest rooms will be equipped with bath, radio, television outlet and direct dial telephone. There will, furthermore, be some apartments and conference-suites. The entrance hall of the central building will lead into the lobby with a fireplace and to the reception area. The same floor will house a restaurant (138 seats), a bar with cocktail lounge (47 seats), a coffee shop (54 seats) as well as private dining and convention rooms with a capacity up to 200 persons. On the lower floor, there will be a heated covered swimming pool and snack bar with access to the landscaped grounds.

The architect is Walter R. Hunziker of Zurich, working in collaboration with Hilton International's department of architecture and interior design. Swiss-born Hans Weishaupt will take over the management of the hotel. Completion of the first construction phase will be next spring and the opening is estimated for May, 1970.

With the Zurich Airport Hilton, Hilton International will have ten hotels under construction, in addition to its 43 hotels already in operation around the world.

## BERNINA PASS OPEN IN WINTER

The Bernina Pass Road has again been kept open this winter for motorised traffic by the communities of Poschiavo and Brusio. Several critical spots on this road were improved last summer.

## HAUTE-NENDAZ: SION'S BEAUTIFUL GIRL. AT THE WINDOW

The shoulder bent forward a little, mysterious and smiling, she seems to admire the high peaks of the Bernese Alps. Her great love, however, belongs to Sion, the canton's capital and the love is mutual. Haute-Nendaz is an extensive sun-drenched tableland at an altitude of 1250 metres (4100 feet) — a paradise for all sportsmen who love nature in all its greatness and variety, who love hiking and discoveries. As a prosperous resort, only 20 minutes from Sion, Haute-Nendaz with its dozen skilifts and its aerial cableway offers a terrain excellently suited for skiing competitions. Adjoining Haute-Nendaz is the newly opened up tourist centre of Super-Nendaz which is surrounded by an impressive background of mountains. Due to the outstanding topographical layout international cross country skiing contests were already held under first class conditions.

Facing north, the ski runs of Nendaz are less remarkable for their technical difficulties than for the high speeds which can be reached here. They start up in the high alpine grazing lands of the northern slope of the Dent de Nendaz. They run across woodland above the plateau and finally reach the same finishing line in the clearings of the resort of Nendaz in an area called Les Cleves. The starting point can be reached via aerial cableway. It would be no problem to provide parking lots near the finishing line. The area chosen for the cross country run and the biathlon is at an altitude ranging from 1260 to 1500 metres (4200 to 4900 feet) above sea level. The fact that it faces north guarantees good snow conditions until the end of February. The runs between the high tableland of Raerettes and the de la Printse Valley use to good advantage the irrigational canals that make it easier to set up ski runs. The ski runs often lead through woodland and along the edge of forests. The Kurrikala competitions of 1965 have shown that the terrain is particularly suitable for contests in nordic disciplines.

## ENGLISH CHURCH CENTENARY

The English Church at Zermatt will celebrate its centenary in 1970. This is one of the oldest and most famous English churches in Europe; it is known as the 'Parish Church of the Alpine Club' and is beloved by climbers in Europe and America.

An appeal is to be launched to raise money to provide, if possible, a flat for holiday chaplains. Centenary celebrations are being arranged; the Centenary Service will take place on August 9th, 1970. The Bishop of Leicester, who has looked after the church during August for the last twenty-five years and is a member of the Alpine Club, will be in charge. Enquiries should be addressed to: The Commonwealth and Continental Church Society, 7 York Buildings, Adelphi, London, W.C.2.