

It happend in the canton of Fribourg

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chosen, well thought-out and financially stable individual projects is the type of help which corresponds best to the Swiss character and the limited resources of money and personnel available to the country.

Swiss foreign policy is marked by its character of permanent vigilance, coupled with the determination to test and prove again and again the value of Swiss principles of state under the ever changing problems of contemporary history.

(By courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

(The Federal Council's report regarding home affairs will be published in the next issue of the "Swiss Observer".)

IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF FRIBOURG

Fribourg is no doubt one of the most beautiful old Swiss towns. It is not surprising, therefore, that four volumes of "Die Kunstdenkmäler der Schweiz" are dedicated to this Gothic city in the Uechtland. The two first volumes dealt with the considerable number of fine church buildings of Fribourg, and the third volume on the many beautiful private buildings is still in preparation. The fourth, "La Ville de Fribourg" by Marcel Strub deals with the splendid lay-out of the old town with its fortifications, fountains and public buildings. The "Gesellschaft für Schweizerische Kunstgeschichte" which is responsible for publishing the complete works (Birkhäuser Basle), has issued the Fribourg volume as the fiftieth in the series.

But it is not only the town of Fribourg, but also much of the countryside of the Canton which deserves mention. Already in 1811, Madame de Staël discovered that "il y a, dans ce canton, une chaleur qui vous va au cœur et qui vous soulange comme un baume. Je n'ai jamais rien vu de plus simple et de plus beau". In the Gruyère still reigns silence, peace and sincerity, says Maurice Métral. "C'est là, en effet, que s'enferme encore toute la chaleur d'un pays qui continue d'aimer une même existence dans la bonne tiédeur des souvenirs".

The last-but-one volume on the findings of the federal census on 1st December 1960 was published early this year. It deals with Fribourg. We learn from it that the population in the 284 Communes in the Canton of Fribourg increased by a mere 0.3% between 1950 and 1960 to 159,194. 214 Communes — all of them rural and small with inhabitants from 1,232 at Unterwistenlach to 33 at Villars-d'Avry — showed a decrease of up to 37.7% at La Magne (Glâne) which now only counts 43 inhabitants. Villarsels/Marly lost 35.8% and counts 52 inhabitants and Villangeaux 36.1% and now has a population of 39. In only a score or so of the Fribourg Communes can an increase be registered of more than 10%, mostly suburb Communes of the capital. Its population has gone up by 12.3% to 32,583. 46 Communes in the Canton count fewer than 100 inhabitants, of which 5 with under 50. The smallest Commune in the whole of Switzerland is still Illens (Sarine) whose population decreased by one in the ten years under review and counted ten on 1st December 1960. Apart from the capital, Bulle and Düdingen are the two largest Communes with 5,983 (+13.9%) and 4,284 (+5.3%) heads of population respectively.

Four out of the seven districts show a decline in the number of inhabitants: Glâne (with Romont), now 14,273, Veveyse (with Châtel St. Denis) 7,802, Broye (with Estavayer) 14,742 and Gruyère (with Bulle) 26,061. The other three increased as follows: Sarine (with Fribourg) to 53,126, Lac (with Morat) 18,130 and Singine to 25,060.

FOREIGN ORDERS PLACED WITH SWISS INDUSTRY

The British Petroleum Company (BP) has ordered three gas turbines developing a power of 3,000 kW each from Sulzer Bros., Ltd., in Winterthur. These machines, which will be used to drive generators for the service plant at the company's oil fields in Libya, must be able to work on either natural gas or fuel oil as required.

The Bell Co. Ltd. Machine Works at Kriens-Lucerne, have received an order from Finland for the whole plant for an asbestos factory, capable of producing 150 tons of asbestos sheets a day.

[O.S.E.C.]

Between 1850 and 1950, the increase in the whole Canton amounted to 58,804 and to a bare 500 in the following ten years. On the day of the census, 4% were foreigners, viz. 6,371 Italian, 1,134 French, 929 German 230 Austrian, 23 of Liechtenstein nationality and 714 other aliens.

In 1850, 86.3% of the inhabitants were Roman Catholic, and the percentage is the same today. This also applies to the Protestant communities. Languages, too, show little change, and French is still the mother tongue of 63.4% of the inhabitants. 34% speak German and 1.7% Italian.

On 26th April it was seventy-three years since Fribourg University was founded. Like other Swiss universities, it has to cope with more and more students. After Neuchâtel, Fribourg has had the fastest increase in the number of students, 2,285 today, and double the number of ten years ago. Two institutes of the University of Fribourg are unique, its Institute on Philosophies of Eastern Europe and the Institute on Automation. A new building to house the faculty of science is badly needed. Other desirable improvements are better housing and feeding facilities for students, increase of salaries for lecturers — the lowest in Switzerland — and additional lecturers. 40% of the students are foreigners from some sixty countries. Some of these statements were made at the *dies academicus* in November when a doctorate of law was awarded to Federal Councillor von Moos, last year's President of the Confederation. A few days earlier, Federal Councillor Bonvin had addressed Fribourg students. Prince Franz Joseph II of Liechtenstein, Honorary Senator of the University, paid an official visit in January, and in February, Dr. Wolfgang Schmitz, Austrian Minister of Finance, a former student, visited the University of Fribourg.

On 21st March, the Fribourg Institute met under the chairmanship of the Fribourg historian and author Gonzague de Reynold. This organisation devotes its activities to the arts, literature, music, history, the theatre and soon also to science. It is also associated with the German-Fribourg Working Party. De Reynold has recently been awarded the insignia of a Commander of the Legion of Honour of France by the President of the French Republic. He had already been a Knight of this Order since 1922.

The annual accounts of the Canton of Fribourg showed a surplus; revenue amounted to Fr. 101,036,923.— and expenditure to Fr. 100,903,625.—. The budget for 1965 visualises a deficit of 3.1 million francs.

The Fribourg Parliament is under the presidency this year of Cantonal Judge Dr. Albert Vonlanthen. The President of the Council of State is Georges Ducotterd and the leader of the Cantonal Tribunal of Justice Francis Meyer. The new director of the Cantonal Bank is Rodolphe Sidler.

The new cantonal hospital will cost fifty million francs, twenty more than originally required. Three million francs have been granted for school buildings, the former municipal theatre will be renovated and the Maison Gottrau will be rebuilt to house the administration. Road construction will cost the Canton vast sums; its contribution for national roads for 1964 was first put at 21 million francs, had then been reduced to 5.1 and finally increased again to 9 million francs. Fribourg, like Berne and Vaud, insist that national road 12 (Berne-Vevey) should be classified as first category road, otherwise this highway would already be inadequate from the beginning. The Lower Singine, a wild river known as Sense in German, is to be corrected again. Since the beginning of this century, four million francs have already been spent on it. Another 3.7 million francs are to be spent, and in twenty-nine places the river will be further corrected. The twenty-ninth artificial lake in Switzerland is the Schifflensee with a power station now nearing completion.

Tourist traffic in the Canton is to be intensified, and the introduction of a tax is considered. Moléson-Village is the new holiday centre opened in January. The village is a few minutes by car from Gruyères, and it was developed after a plan by Prof. Dunkel (ETH).

The town of Fribourg visualises a surplus in this year's accounts, and a reduction of 10% in taxes proposed. The last tram has disappeared in Fribourg and trolley-buses have taken over.

The Museum for Art and History was re-opened in November; the rooms of the so-called "Hotel Ratze" have been newly arranged and an annexe has been built.

The contingent of Fribourg grenadiers celebrated its golden jubilee, and it was 75 years since the introduction of the telephone at the end of last year. There were thirty subscribers in 1889, and today there are 9,037. At the end of January, a telex office was opened.

Murten is the centre of the new water purification plant. The town has acquired the historic moat belonging to Migros by exchanging it against another site.

The widow of the late Friedrich M. K. E. von Graffenried von Münchenwiler has presented the town of Murten with a valuable portrait of Friedrich von Graffenried, born 8th July 1759 and one of the members of the "Council of Two Hundred". The picture has a place of honour in the renovated Council Hall.

In January it was six hundred years since Murten and Payerne made a pact for mutual aid. The anniversary was celebrated in October.

At Tafers there was a serious fire on the big farm of the Stritt family, the second time in a few years. The fire was caused by a stranger who smoked in the barn, an inmate of a mental nursing home.

The smithy of **Ueberstorf** was completely gutted by fire in February.

Lastly, some news of the grape harvest at **Wistenlach**: Owing to frost damage, the quantities were below average, but as regards quality, the Vully wine of 1964 may be considered first class.

(News by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse, "Tages-Anzeiger" and "Echo".)

RECENT DEATHS IN SWITZERLAND

The following deaths have been reported from Switzerland:

Prof. Toni Reinhard (48), Basle, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy and History; member of the Grand Council.

Jan Pieter Terwey (81), Dotzigen, Berne, well-known painter; of Dutch origin, but in Switzerland since 1912.

Alfred Nicole (83), Geneva, well-known journalist with Sonor A.G., publishers of "La Suisse"; co-founder of "Les Pages d'Art"; Hon. President of the Geneva newspaper publishers and of the "Union Romande de Journaux".

J. E. Chable (62), Aigle, writer, at one time in the service of the Secretariat of the Swiss Abroad and the Swiss National Tourist Office; journalist and President of the International Pen Clubs of Western Switzerland.

Mgr. Charles Humair (81), Delémont, former director of the College Saint-Charles at Porrentruy and professor at the Seminaries of Lucerne and Solothurn.

Arthur Moeri (82), Lucerne, well-known figure in economic organisations; head of the firm of Moeri A.G. for heating and airconditioning; one-time Cantonal M.P.

Dr. iur. Eugen Hasler (80), Zurich, lawyer and former judge; member of the Federal Court of Justice from 1937 to 1950; also author; Colonel of Infantry; during the war in charge of the sector "Presse und Funkspruch".

Richard Schweizer (64), Zurich, Chairman of the Board of "Neue Schauspiel A.G.", well-known film director; recently responsible for Gotthelf films.

Madame Louise Trovati-Gruaz (101), Signy/Vaud.

Bruno Schoenlank (73), Zurich, author and Socialist poet; an opponent to German National Socialism, his works were burnt in Germany; emigrated to Zurich in 1933.

[A.T.S.]

30th ANNIVERSARY OF U.K.-SWITZERLAND SERVICES OF SWISSAIR

On 1st April, 1965, it was the thirtieth anniversary of the inauguration of direct Swissair services between London and Zurich. The first service was operated by Douglas DC-2 aircraft, with fourteen seats and took nearly three hours with a stop at Basle. For the first time it was possible to be "there in a day". Breakfast in London and dinner in your resort in Switzerland.

During summer 1965, Swissair services U.K.-Switzerland will be operated by DC-8, Coronado 990 and Caravelle jet aircraft, carrying 81 to 140 passengers.

New Swissair services for Summer 1965 will provide a further extension to our North and West African network with a new once weekly service to Casablanca on Mondays and to Abidjan and Monrovia once weekly on Saturdays.

On 6th April, Zagreb was re-introduced on the service to Belgrade on Tuesdays. A new once weekly service to Budapest on Fridays will commence on 28th May.

* * *

Swissair has appointed Mr. John Elliott Press and Public Relations Manager for U.K. and Ireland, from May 1st, 1965. He rejoins the company from the "Financial Times", where he was Deputy Foreign Manager.

From 1955 to 1961 Mr. Elliott looked after Swissair's press relations and publicity in this country. In his new function he will also assist Mr. M. A. Keller, the airline's General Manager for U.K. and Ireland.