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# IT HAPPENED IN THE CANTON OF ZURICH

## CANTON

The Government of the Canton of Zurich has declared Karl Ketterer (Landesring) as successor to Dr. Sigmund Widmer in the National Council. The new President of the Cantonal Parliament is Dr. Max Dennler (BGB), and that of the Government *Regierungsrat* Franz Egger.

In spite of increasing tax revenue, the debt of the Canton of Zurich is growing. The deficit was 15 million francs for 1965, and the debt increased to a new record figure of 164.4m. A tax revision is under way, and a new *Finanzausgleich* project has been accepted by the Cantonal Parliament. The emolument total of the Zurich State personnel has passed the 250m.-franc mark. At the end of last year, 14,644 persons were employed by the Canton, 3.26% more than in 1964.

The Government has submitted a proposal to the *Kantonsrat* to take part in the increase of the Swissair share capital with Fr.1,242,500.—

The consumer price index in Zurich has had its biggest increase in 1965. With August 1939 at 100, it stood at 215.4 points at the end of December. This is 9 points or 4.4% higher than in 1964.

One of the proposals accepted by the electorate in April was taxation at source of foreign employees with limited working permits.

In 1965, 8,539 new flats were built in the Canton, about 300 more than last year. As regards national road construction, Fr.102.16m. was spent and nearly three million on subsidiary roads.

The Cantonal Parliament allowed 6.7m. francs for an institute building of the University next to the new Raemibuehl school. At the end of April, the University celebrated its 133rd *Stiftungsfest*, and the foundation stone for a new students' home at the Wehntalerstrasse was laid.

A society for psychiatry was founded in Zurich with Dr. H. Baer as its President.

Due to bad weather, navigation on the lake of Zurich suffered a setback in 1965 in spite of increased fares. The eighteen boats transported 1.13m. passengers against nearly 1.3m. in the previous year. The rail route Oerikon-Bauma is to be replaced by a bus service, i.e. Wetzikon-Kempten-Baeretswil-Neuthal-Bauma, and a reduced service Baeretswil-Ringwil-Hinwil.

Ringwil was also in the news in May when the death of a young girl led to the arrest of several members (also in the Canton of Solothurn) of a strange sect. The girl died as a result of maltreatment to "drive out the devil". Another police case concerned a group of mainly homosexual thieves who had 219 thefts on their books!

Extremely heavy storms at the end of March caused damage in many parts of the Canton; in the Rafzer Wald, 2,000 trees were uprooted or broken, and damage to property and woods was reported from many districts. At Kloten, wind speed of 95km. per hour was measured on 27th March.

## ZURICH

"Aktion Zurich" is the name of a new political organisation which already played a part in the Commune elections. Its 200 members claim that the organisation meets a real need, and its objects are to study town problems of cultural, economic and political nature.

For four days in April, the *Stadthaus* was turned into a magnificent flower garden, mainly in honour of the departing Municipal President Landolt. Some of Dr. Landolt's speeches have been recorded, and the first copy was presented to him as a memento.

During the Festival Weeks in June, the new Municipal President Dr. Widmer gave a much-applauded speech on cultural policy, in which he reminded the audience that the town spent 13m. francs p.a. for cultural purposes. Zurich needs yet more patrons of the arts, of whom the town has always had a fair number. The Zurich Art Gallery has had a very successful year and has been enriched by some outstanding gifts and collections, such as the Baer Legacy, the Giacometti Foundation and others.

The Municipal Council proposed to double its subsidy to the "Schweizerisches Institut für Kunstwissenschaft" to Fr.20,000.— and to give a one-time sum of Fr.9,600.—. A further sum of Fr.103,000.— will be donated to the complete scientific-critical edition of all the works and letters of Pestalozzi. "Stadthof II", the new cultural centre at Oerlikon was inaugurated early in the year.

The Commune Council increased its contribution to the "Pestalozzigesellschaft" to Fr.281,500.—.

In 1965, nearly a million francs resulted from supplementary tax dues and tax fines. Nearly every second taxpayer asked for extension of time. In spite of increased tax revenue, the town's debt suffered a further increase and stands now at 141m. francs.

The electorate granted a credit of 62.27m. francs for a second refuse incineration plant and 1.68m. for a block of flats for old people, of which there is still a shortage. The same can be said of hospital beds. Nearly 6 million francs are to be given by the town towards extension costs of the *Stadtspital* Waid.

18 tons of coins were collected in the 2,110 parking meters in Zurich in 1965, to the value of nearly 900,000 francs.

Zurich's new taxi-radio centre was the cause of protest by the "Verband freier Taxihalter" who oppose it.

In May, the one-time most modern installation *Stellwerk* I in Zurich station ended its 30 years of service, and a new central signal installation became operational on 15th May.

The aerial cable way across the lake of Zurich, which was constructed in 1959, has now finally been dismantled.

1965 was a record year for Zurich's Zoo: 574,000 admissions (1964: 504,000). Three young orang-outans have recently been given to the Zoo, a rare gift indeed.

The Zurich-Seebach open-air baths and sports centre were inaugurated on 2nd July. The same day, an exhibition "Gottlieb Duttweiler in Bild und Aussage" was opened at the Migros building at the Limmatplatz.

The Grimmenturm at the Spiegelgasse has been renovated, and some Roman wall remains have been found at the Lindenhof.

In April, the 28th Swiss Fashion Weeks were held in Zurich, and in May, the MEFA (butchers' trade exhibition) took place on the Zuespa site.

The hut of the "Katzenvater of Oerlikon" has burnt down.

## WINTERTHUR

The new Executive of the town of Winterthur with its newly-elected Municipal President Urs. Widmer took

over on 1st July. At the same time a celebration took place to mark the 27 years of successful office by Dr. Hans Rüegg. The new Town Parliament had already held its first meeting on 17th May.

In May, the electorate accepted the proposal for a new home of the nearly 100 years old *Musikschule*. At the same time, the subsidy was increased and 4.57m. francs voted for a new meeting hall at Oberwinterthur. The citizens did not agree to the credit needed to re-build the "Kutscherhaus" in the Lindengutpark.

The Federal Yodelling Festival will take place in Winterthur in 1968.

#### OTHER COMMUNES

The electorate of **Adliswil** rejected two proposals in April, one for a new school, the other for civil defence posts.

Half a million francs is the estimated damage of a fire at the *Baumwollreisserei* Schaetti & Co. at **Bubikon** in April. In May a commemoration stone was unveiled at **Buelach** in honour of the farmer poet Fritz Bopp (1863-1935). The "Neue Buelacher Tagblatt" celebrated its centenary in June.

The Commune Assembly of **Erlenbach** elected as honorary citizen Jakob Schaerer who has been Commune President for 28 years.

Another fire resulted in damage to a total of one million francs; the *Polstermöbelfabrik* Carl Streuli at **Horgen** was completely gutted on 16th June.

At **Maur**, too, there was a big fire in June, when the *Schreinerei* Jakob Frei was seriously damaged, and at **Neerach**, the "Moebelfabrik" Heinrich Meier was gutted by fire causing damage of over one million francs.

**Regensberg's** old teacher Primus Greile was elected honorary citizen. The lake waterworks at **Rueschlikon** are to be enlarged and the old church of **Truellikon** has been demolished to make room for a new one.

**Uster** is to have its primary school at Niederuster enlarged, and the football club is to get dressing rooms. The *Bezirksgebäude* will be added to, and the Canton's contribution is proposed at 2.77m. francs.

**Waedenswil** voters granted nearly 3m. francs for a primary school on the "Gerberacher", and **Wald** is to have a new waste-water plant.

**Wallisellen** decided to support the poor Commune of Fanas in the Grisons, where a number of dwelling houses are badly in need of repair.

(Based on news received by courtesy of Agence Télégraphique Suisse.)

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