

**Zeitschrift:** The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK  
**Herausgeber:** Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom  
**Band:** - (1969)  
**Heft:** 1574

**Artikel:** It happened in Central Switzerland  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-695836>

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# IT HAPPENED IN CENTRAL SWITZERLAND

## URI

The local paper "Urner Wochenblatt" has made an enquiry on women's position towards their voting rights. Its findings were that 75% of questioned women wanted to be given the right to vote. A film has been produced on Uri's soil by the Japanese Asahi Broadcasting Corporation. Title of the film: "Activity of the police in alpine regions". This documentary is to be presented to the international police conference to be held in Osaka in 1970, at the same time as the Expo.

The whole estimated population of 10,000 trouts of the "Stille Reuss" and the Walenbrunnen at Erstfeld has been destroyed due to negligent spilling of phosphoric acid. Workers in a building site were responsible for this. They had been cleaning their equipment with the acid.

The peasant population of Uri is dwindling. It amounted to 34% of the whole population in 1930. Today, peasants make up no more than 20% of the population.

The Government of Uri has approved a general 30% increase in the fees of mountain guides. Earlier this year, teachers had to go to school for three days: their pupils were delighted with the unexpected three day holidays during which their masters were being briefed with the latest pedagogical methods of teaching mathematics.

A new hotel, hotel "Aurora", has been opened at Andermatt.

Work has started on the Gotthard road tunnel. The stretches on the N2 between Amsteg and Meitschligen and between Meitschligen and Pfaffensprung will be opened to traffic in 1971. The construction of the Gotthard tunnel will take from 7 to 8 years. It will probably have a toll, which will pay back Uri's contribution to this gigantic work. Other public works undertaken by the Canton include an improvement of the Seedorf road, which was in a very bad state, and the construction of galleries to fend off avalanches on the Schoellenen road.

The population of Uri has voted down the proposed allocation of a credit of 671,770 francs to the construction of a car control building and a gaol.

## SCHWYZ

The Canton of Schwyz has asked a team of scientists and pedagogues from the University of Fribourg to elaborate the foundation of a renewed law governing school education. The present cantonal law dates from 1877.

The first school for retarded children has been opened in the Canton. It should benefit children from Schwyz, Brunnen, Ingenbohl, Goldau, Sattel and Kuessnacht and aims at making backward children as similar to other normal children as possible.

A civil defence centre is to be erected at Kaltbach, after the Commune of Brunnen had refused to have it on its soil. It will contain offices, lecture rooms, entertainment facilities and an exercise track. Alois Kälin, the famous Swiss cross-country runner and Olympics medal winner has opened a cross-country skiing school at Einsiedeln.

The hospital of Schwyz is to be completely rebuilt at the cost of 12 to 15 million francs. It will serve as a regional hospital.

At a special communal meeting, the voting inhabitants of Lachen agreed to their Commune devoting a credit of 4.2 million to a waste-water purification scheme to be undertaken jointly with other neighbouring Communes. The controversial establishment of a holiday settlement on a site between Brunnen and Gersau has finally been authorised by the Cantonal authorities. The plan had originally involved the erection of a 22-storey skyscraper, among a series of other modern blocks. Following the complaints of the Countryside-Protection Society (Heimatschutz) of Schwyz, the layout of the settlement had to be altered.

A new and completely automated brick factory has been inaugurated at Tuggen. It will produce 55000 tons of bricks of a single format. Fourteen million francs are to be devoted to the construction of a aerial cableway climbing from Brunnen to the top of the Stoos and the Fronalpstock. A first section for 80 passengers climbs up to Morschach, from there two teleferics will reach the Stoos and the Fronalpstock individually.

At the end of last year, the Schwyz section of the Union of Swiss Catholic Women held their general assembly at Einsiedeln and claimed equal voting rights. Their wishes are probably to be fulfilled, since a signature-collection for an "initiative" in favour of their rights has been launched in the Canton.

Cantonal authorities are making a special effort to encourage the tourist industry of Schwyz. A new law lays down that the Canton is to back all installations and organisations concerned with tourists. Hotels, for example, are to receive a premium of 20 centimes per guest and per night.

## NIDWALDEN

The citizens of Stans enjoyed a "Viennese Festival" during the month of April. Their openness to modern art was taxed to the full by plays such as "Orpheus is no consumer" and "Psychomodulation" performed by the "Aktions-theater" of Vienna. The people of Alpnach celebrated their 600th-year jubilee. The celebration speeches reminded the "Alpnachians" of the distant origins of their village: it lies on the site of an ancient Roman camp,

which was governed by a Roman legionary called Alpiniacus.

Stans is spending 5 million francs for a new schoolbuilding equipped with two gym halls and a swimming pool. A new concrete bridge is to be built across the Engelbergeraai at Wil, replacing the existing wooden bridge.

Nidwalden will be the last Canton to have a cantonal library. It will provisionally be harboured in the buildings of the new school of commerce. A Foundation will be created to support it. The library will be enriched by the vast collection of volumes on local history possessed by the historical union and which had hitherto hardly been accessible to the public.

A new electrical power project for the seventies has been disclosed. A reservoir of 1.25 million litre capacity will be built on the Emetten plateau, above the Lake of Lucerne. This will contain water pumped during the night with unused energy generated by nuclear power stations. The energy of this high-level reservoir will be used in the day, when current is most needed. The power station at lake level will have a power of 200 megawatt, and produce 300 million kwh annually.

## OBWALDEN

The President of the Cantonal Art Commission, who is also a member of the Cantonal Government, handed the first art prize of the Canton of Obwalden to the 43-year-old composer Caspar Diethelm from Sarnen. Some of his works were performed in the course of the prize-giving ceremony.

Obwalden's criminal law, embodied in the "criminal proceedings law" of March 1869 is now a hundred years old. In spite of the fact that numerous aspects of this law were amended in 1902, it now seems distinctly outdated. Consequently, the first steps will be taken to revise it, together with the entire Cantonal Constitution. Another law which might be introduced concerns the youth of the Canton. The Department for Education of Obwalden has sponsored a conference of personalities responsible for the Canton's youth, in order to let them define what new legislation should be undertaken in this field. The conference recommended the immediate debate in the Cantonal Parliament of a law providing for youth assistance and youth protection. The Government of the Canton has decided that the "Three Kings' day" and "Joseph's day" would no longer be bank holidays, following which a Referendum was launched with 700 signatures, asking that the "Joseph's day" holiday be preserved. This was turned down by the people.

The voting citizens of Kern held a special meeting, and in a secret vote rejected the construction of an aerial cableway climbing up to the Bonistock.

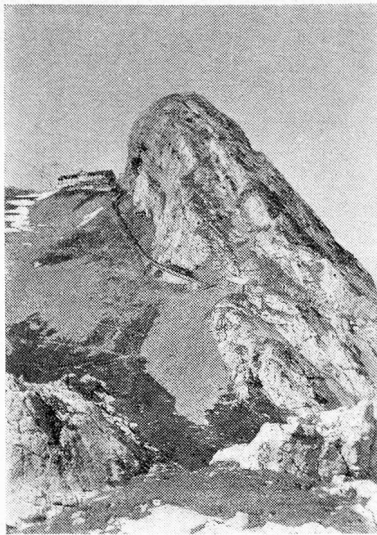
This would have cost four and a half million francs, and the restaurant which was to be built on the summit, half a million.

The cantonal budget was balanced this year, revenue was 19.82 million francs, expenditure was 19.7 million. A number of public works have recently been undertaken, among them the hedging of the left bank of the Lake Sarnen torrent, as well as constructions to contain the Steini, Gehri and Schwand torrents in the Communes of Sarnen and Giswil. These will cost over 20 million francs and be spread over many years. The power station of the Engelbergeraa has been inaugurated. This is a forced conduit power station, the water being forced along pipes from a height of 768 metres and generating a power of 8,300 kw. Engelberg is to have a new skyscraper hotel. This will replace the "Titlis" hotel, which burned down in November of last year.

### LUCERNE

The hotel trade of Lucerne has had a very encouraging first quarter with business 14% up on last year's achievements. The deputy cantonal engineer Hans Fricker has warned that Lucerne was going to suffocate in traffic. It had risen 25% on roads leading to Lucerne in the last year and the national road project already seemed outdated as regards the Canton of Lucerne. The boat-excursion company of the Lake, on the other hand, did bad business last year, and the number of its trippers diminished because of the bad weather.

Lucerne is trying to attract high-capital industries. Now that no Esso refinery will be built at Wauwilermoos,



(S.N.T.O.)

### MOUNT PILATUS

the Canton is trying to attract chemical industry to the same area. The trouble is that there is ten times too little water at hand for the needs of such an industry. The authorities concerned are looking seriously into this matter and are studying the possibilities of a pumping station from the Lake of Lucerne.

The town of Lucerne has refused pay-increases to actors and stage personnel of the *Stadttheater*. This has produced a public protest by the Union of Swiss Actors, who were holding a conference in the city. The tradesmen and hotel keepers of Lucerne have formed a kind of guild intended to promote the city as a shopping and business centre.

The site "im Brueelmoos" that

lies between the Lidostrasse and the Seeburgstrasse has been acquired by the city. This will provide it with land reserve for public utilities, among which a parking and a tennis club. The leaders of both Catholic and Protestant Churches of Lucerne have elaborated a new Church Constitution. This is being examined by the Cantonal Council to see if it complies with cantonal and federal law.

Lucerne has a plan for a Cantonal University. It would have four faculties — philosophy, pedagogy, sociology and science. It would cost 200 million francs and be built over a period of 12 years. The Technical College of Central Switzerland is to have a new building at Horw.

(Compiled by PMB from information received by courtesy of Agence Telegraphique Suisse.)

### STUDY OF COMPETITION

The Swiss Association for the Study of Competition was recently founded in Berne. This firm, whose head office is in Geneva, has set itself the same aim as the International League against Unfair Competition of the International Association for the Study of Competition, of which it moreover forms a part as a national Swiss group. It also plans to study Swiss and foreign legislation as well as the international agreements governing competition, cartels, trade regulations, indications of origin, and names of origin, etc. This new association is open to the following, provided they are domiciled in Switzerland: professional associations, companies, industrialists, tradesmen, etc. Professor Edmond Martin Achard has been elected president.

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