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Autor: Biland, Arnold

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THE SWISS WOMAN'S POLITICAL VOTING RIGHTS — YES OR NO ?

A plebiscite will be held on 7/2/71 when the menfolk of Switzerland will say "yes" or "no". The last one was held in 1959 and was rejected.

At present, a few African States and Switzerland are the only ones on this earth who do not recognise woman's right to vote in the political field. After the first world war women started to gain their voting rights nearly all over the world, the main reason being their platform cry of "no more war". We all know what happened since then.

The first woman in the world to be admitted to court as a barrister was a Swiss woman, a graduate of the University of Basle. On district and cantonal levels the Swiss women have voted for years on equal terms with their menfolk, particularly in matters of education, health, culture and religion. The mayor of Geneva is a woman, all educational degrees and all aspects of our lives are open to all men and women and the Swiss civil code gives, with a few exceptions of minor importance, equal protection to males and females.

But I strongly object to women voting on federal issues. I fear to think what would have happened to the Schwarzenbach poll, which was fought so much more on an emotional than on a clear-thinking level. And why change something which has proved itself for centuries, is it just because the rest of the world thinks we ought to, or because we are a backward country with a lot of industrial and political unrest and in need of female help to put us on our feet? If this poll is passed I am losing a great deal of my pride of being Swiss and of being a man.

Arnold Biland.

P.S. —

I would like to receive our readers' comments for publication.