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ELECTIONS

FOR THE FIRST TIME in history Swiss women have voted with their menfolk in the election for national councillors (Nationalratswahlen for 200 seats), which are held every four years.

No major swing either to right or left and our numerous (11 or 12) political parties have kept with minor variations an even balance. Two of the parties whose aims are "against the foreign influence on people and homeland" had considerable success and it looks as in this respect more stringent measures are likely to be taken in the future.

It is good to know, that the female voters have shown such considered judgment and maturity and as the famous or perhaps infamous opponent to women's voting rights, I am particularly pleased. Ten women national councillors were elected (3 from Zürich, 1 Luzern, 1 Schwyz, 1 St. Gallen and 4 from Westschweiz). These 10, plus one woman State councillor (Ständerat) from Geneva, will help to guide the destiny of our country and we sincerely wish them good luck and success.

These national council elections are by proportional representation and it is interesting to compare this with New Zealand. If the general election in 1969 had been held on this principal the state of the parties would have been as follows:

National	605,960	38	(45)
Labour	592,055	38	(39)
Social Credit	121,576	7	(—)
Others	20,577	1	(—)
	1,340,168	84	(84)

It does look that proportional representation would give a fairer indication of the will of the people.

Arnold Biland.