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POLITICAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR SWISS LIVING ABROAD?

THIS QUESTION has been discussed for a number of years and is likely to come to a head in the near future.

There are extremely important subjects, such as the restriction of foreign labour and the still continued sale of our lands to foreigners (to mention only two), which will most likely be decided by plesbicite. I feel that we, as Swiss living abroad, have perhaps a more objective appreciation of these matters and where our votes could be of value to our Homeland. However, I do not think that voting for representatives of political parties would be feasible. It has been suggested that voting (for plesbicites) could be carried out by our Consulates and Embassies, who would supply the voter with a pamphlet giving the pros and cons of the matter involved.

This political voting right will be one of the main issues to be discussed in Bern.

An entirely different suggestion is the appointment of a State Councillor who would be solely responsible for the parliamentary representation of the aims and wishes of the Swiss living abroad. Whatever is finally decided upon, this new link between us and our Homeland would help a great deal to strengthen our already existing bonds.

As your representative for New Zealand on the Auslandschweizerkommission I will be attending the meetings in August and would be grateful to have your comment on the above and any suggestions, proposals or complaints on any subject that you feel should be brought before the commission.

Arnold Biland.