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for the vineyards remain. The wine-grower, at least in parts, is dependent on these old channels, certainly from the moment of planting the vine-stock. One has repeatedly stated that the vine is of Roman origin. Why should it not be Celtic or Ligurian? Were the soil and the climate not already favourable for its cultivation at times immemorial?

A stroll along a «bisse» in the vineyard means walking in the footsteps of our most ancient ancestors, in the footsteps of those

who settled on our slopes and discovered the splendour of our countryside.

In order to live there, they needed water. They went to find it at the mountain torrent. They opened the first «bisse» a little like the child who plays at the fountain-head. And ever since then, the «bisse» has never betrayed. We ought to remember this.

Maurice Zermatten

(Text and photos: «Revue 13 Etoiles, reflets du Valais», n° 5, Mai 1982)

Results of the federal plebiscite on 2nd December 1984

Surprising conformity

Three subject matters had to be voted on.

The People's Initiative on an effective maternity protection with its proposal of parents' leave of absence of nine months was rejected by a massive majority, i.e. 1 288 181 (84.2%) against 241 400 (15.8%); all the Cantons had a majority against.

The Constitutional Article on radio and television and the Federal Council's counter proposal for aid to the victims of crimes of violence were accepted by a large majority of citizens, i.e. 1 001 693 against 456 102, and 1 240 077 against 272 141 respectively. Both proposals were accepted by all the Cantons. Voting participation was 37%.

The maternity protection Initiative had been proposed by the big women's organizations and supported by the Parties of the Left. It demanded complete cover of all costs arising from pregnancy and birth, the introduction of paid leave of absence for the parents (mother or father) for 9 months. It was this proposal which was op-

posed by most voters. The Initiative also asked for protection against notice during pregnancy. Parliament, Federal Council and all the Parties on the Right had declared unanimously against the Initiative, not least because some of the new introductions would have been unacceptable for employers.

The Constitutional Article on radio and television, which was accepted by 68.8% of the citizens, had practically no opposition from the political Parties. It enables the Confederation to legislate in the field of electronic media, in order to get a more satisfactory basis. A first project of this kind was rejected in 1957 and a second one in 1976.

The proposal for aid to victims of crimes of violence was accepted by 82% of the voting electors. The aid by Confederation and Cantons as proposed for the constitutional change will be realized as moral and legal assistance, as well as considered compensation should the victims get into financial difficulties due to such crimes.

I. F.

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