

Letters to the editor

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WOMEN'S POLITICAL VOTING RIGHTS

Results of the Poll (supplied by the Airmail Edition of the "Tagesanzeiger") were.—

	Yes	No	%
Zürich	119,631	59,375	62.3
Bern	95,482	48,028	52.0
Luzern	29,454	17,511	60.2
Uri	2,477	4,340	71.6
Schwyz	5,945	8,136	56.0
Obwalden	1,668	1,902	50.7
Nidwalden	2,703	2,141	68.1
Glarus	2,692	3,823	62.8
Zug	6,699	4,483	66.4
Freiburg	19,405	7,888	53.8
Solothurn	22,030	12,331	58.3
Basel-Land	21,229	5,353	50.4
Basel-Stadt	27,480	5,962	51.0
Schaffhausen	8,252	6,296	80.0
Appenzell AR	3,485	5,253	65.0
Appenzell IR	574	1,411	52.5
St. Gallen	27,042	31,113	61.0
Graubünden	12,746	10,557	55.0
Aargau	39,469	39,229	72.9
Thurgau	13,464	17,046	67.5
Tessin	20,808	6,438	47.2
Waadt	55,849	10,689	51.2
Wallis	24,479	6,127	53.0
Neuenburg	20,205	4,426	57.0
Genf	38,135	3,738	56.5
Total:	621,403	323,596	57.0

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR:

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

Sir,—Thank you for reminding us all that there are very bright and learned women able to be barristers, mayors (in Geneva), doctors, etc.

How is it then possible that you could not trust them — and their less brilliant sisters who nevertheless might have good common sense and clear thinking abilities — for voting on Federal issues?

"Why change something which has proved itself for centuries" you write. But life is changing all the time, and circumstances, and duties . . . We have to accept this rule, and be proud if our home country progresses towards more complete maturity.

SUZANNE MOND.

Sir,—I know that Arnold Biland is an intelligent, talented man. The statement attributed to him simply cannot be for real. How unfortunate that this was printed in English in this fair land. No-one can be blamed for their sex, the place in which they were born, or how they were brought up.

Any men who would deny equal rights to their sisters, to the ones they love, or to those who bear and rear the nation's children, have not cause for pride but shame. However, it is still not too late for people to search their conscience and realign their thinking. If it was not for women there would be no-one to vote.

FRANZ J. SCHULER, Tahuna.

Sir,—Luckily for the Swiss women, Mr Biland resides in Frankton, New Zealand, and as we have heard in the News, he will have lost his pride of being a Swiss and what is worse, of being a man!

I for one will be very relieved to know that Switzerland has become a real Democracy. After all, most of us have a mother, a sister, a wife to judge women's abilities on.

I fearlessly look forward to a future in which my superiority as a political wizard as well as my virality has to be proven between equals.

HANS MESSMER, Wellington.

[Sincere thanks to the above writers who have taken the trouble to reply. Controversial subjects are most stimulating, one always learns and how boring the world would be, if we all thought on the same lines.—Arnold Biland.]

News from Switzerland

NEW SAW FOR HANDYMEN AND MODEL-MAKERS

A Swiss firm recently put on the market a saw of entirely new design, which will allow both amateurs and professionals to do an infinite number of different jobs. The great originality of this saw lies in the fact that it is equipped with an electromagnet and not a conventional motor; this revolutionary new design has the advantage of doing away with maintenance and lubrication and at the same time ensuring exceptional long life. This handy, silent light saw — its weight varies from 3.5 to 5 kg (7½ to 11 lb) depending on the model — is ideal for many purposes: it saws with remarkable precision and neatness all kinds of wood as well as resin, plastic, nylon and even metals. Its blade can be replaced by a fine file, so that it can also be used to make prototypes, in precision engineering and the watch industry.

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