

Women in Swiss Government

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simply another statistic in their files. After all, you have a good family who can look after you for the rest of your life, haven't you?

But in the case of your burglar, by hitting back and protecting yourself, you have upset the apple cart. The case is now much more complicated. For the police it would have been much simpler if you had finished up flat on your lounge floor instead of the burglar who will now claim that he was drunk, had lost his keys and believed he had re-entered his own house by forcing a window when you viciously attacked him. (Do not laugh, this excuse has got more than one burglar off the hook allowing him subsequently to sue the victim for grievous bodily harm on top of it). Furthermore, by preventing the burglary, you have also eliminated the proof that a crime was being committed thus giving even more weight to the burglar's argument that he was doing nothing illegal when you attacked him.

Police do not like cases where the victim fights back and they like it even less if the victim gets the better of the criminal. Therefore, do not expect a pat on your back or a medal for bravery from the police. But one thing is certain: from now on your life will never be the same again, as we will see in a future article, when you have to appear in court as a witness. Your ordeal has only just started.

EPILOGUE.

Burglaries exist because the law has allowed them to become a low-risk occupation. Every five minutes, a house in New Zealand is being broken in and in 90% of the cases the burglars get away with their crime even when caught, particularly if they are teenagers. It is obvious the police cannot protect every

house or car 24 hours a day against possible burglaries. So the law should give the people the right to defend their families and their properties by every means at their disposal, not with one arm tied behind their backs and the menace of being prosecuted should some physical harm come to the burglar while he is in the process of committing a crime.

There is something drastically wrong with modern civilisation when honest, law-abiding people, particularly the elderly, have to live barricaded in their houses with burglar alarms and safety locks on all windows and doors, as virtual prisoners in their own homes whilst the criminals are free to roam the streets. Over the years, the wheel has turned because even a generation ago, it was exactly the other way round. When will our governments and law makers at long last make the wheel turn back in our favour?

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR.

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GOOD HEAVENS, WE FORGOT OUR 22 TRAMS

Here is an unbelievable story from Geneva. When the Geneva authorities undertook to re-establish some new tram lines through the city, after having ripped them up some years ago, they decided, without consultation with the tramway company, to purchase 46 brand new trams to run over the new lines.

But unknown to the Geneva authorities, the tramway company had renovated over the years in its own workshops some old, disused trams bringing them up to the required modern specifications. In total, 22 trams as good as new and ready for use had been sitting in the tramway company's workshops for the past 10 years and not one City Councillor remembered that or bothered to check when they ordered their 46 new trams. And so, among many red faces, Geneva boasts now a tramway park well in excess of its requirements and the taxpayers have paid almost 100 Million SFR for this blunder.

WOMEN IN SWISS GOVERNMENT

Like in New Zealand, Swiss women are not going into politics in the numbers expected. Out of 210 delegates at the "Nationalrat", only 42 are women, in other words, only one in every five. A total of 12 cantons are not represented by any women at all.



100 YEARS TCS

The "Touring Club Suisse" (equivalent to the Automobile Association) celebrates this year its 100th anniversary. Created in Geneva in 1896 by 38 enthusiastic cyclists, it has grown over the years to an organisation with a membership of over 1.3 million and a staff of 1200.

Although the TCS was in the past often in direct opposition to the SBB-CFF, their relationship has become more amenable over the years to a point where their mutual co-operation has become so close that the SBB carries now the TCS emblem on its locomotives as the picture shows.



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