

Zurich men once again deny their women the vote

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ZURICH MEN ONCE AGAIN DENY THEIR WOMEN THE VOTE

On Sunday, 20th November, the electorate of the Canton of Zurich had to go to the poll to decide whether suffrage should be granted to the women of the Canton. The preceding campaign was fought with great determination, both for and against. The result is disappointing to the advocates and supporters, but gratifying to the opponents, such as the "Federation of Zurich Women against Votes for Women". They maintain that political rights are for men only who should be made aware far more strongly of their responsibilities as members of a democracy.

Participation in the voting was high, 73%, and 93,372 ayes were registered as against 107,773 nays. All the rural districts rejected the proposal, and out of 171 Communes, 153 were against. Only 18 Communes accepted it, amongst them the town of Zurich. Ground has been won, however, for the total number of citizens who disagreed was 39% as compared with 48.6% in 1959. Strangely enough, Winterthur rejected the proposal, and the Commune with the largest majority against, was Andelfingen.

A few days after the plebiscite, the *Frauenstimmrechtsverein* of Zurich called a meeting to take stock. Some 200 women and some men gathered, including the Chairman of the Campaign Committee "Stimmrecht für Mann und Frau", the former Municipal President of Zurich, Dr. E. Landolt. There was a lively discussion, and it was felt that much work was to be done so that one day, not too far away, Switzerland could sign the Human Rights Convention.

It is difficult to understand, especially outside Switzerland, that such a highly democratic country should still deny its women the vote. It must be remembered, however, that in Switzerland, matters of great public importance

have to be decided, unlike in most other countries, including Great Britain, where the vote is used every few years only to elect an M.P. and the local Councils. It is precisely for this reason that many women inside Switzerland feel they are not ready for such tremendous and far-reaching political responsibilities.

But Swiss women are active in public life just the same, and in Zurich, they have been on school commissions as long as 67 years. Since 1911, they have been eligible to sit on Trade Tribunals, and a year later, they were admitted to school authority bodies. Since then, the field of their public activities has been widened, and today they are *Jugendanwältin* and *-richter*, Clerks of the Court, *Kanzleibeamte*, etc.

[A.T.S.]

RECENT IRON AND DIAMOND WEDDINGS IN SWITZERLAND

On 26th November, Mr. and Mrs. Fritz and Marie Baumann-Léplattenier celebrated their Iron Wedding in St. Gall.

The following couples have recently had their Diamond Weddings:

Mr. and Mrs. Célien and Hélène Penoy-Donze, St. Imier.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gygax-Grisel, St. Imier. Mr. Gygax was at the head of a watch case factory until 1960 and is also an artist.

Mr. and Mrs. Jakob and Carolina Staub-Good, Widnau (SG.) Mr. Staub was *Bauführer* of the international Rhine regulation.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Fanny Schober-Hack, Basle.

Mr. and Mrs. Marchand-Bueche, Court/Moutier.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl and Anna Aeschbacher-Stettler, Eggswil/Emmental.

[A.T.S.]

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