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Thoughts for the Annual General Meeting



With the Annual General Meeting of the Swiss Society to be held shortly it is most appropriate and timely to reflect upon the cherished right of our people — Swiss people especially — to exercise their right to vote . . . as we claim to possess the most perfect version of democracy in the world.

“The love of democracy is that of equality” quotes Montesquieu, and Franklin D. Roosevelt once said in a celebrated speech “Democracy, the practice of self-government, is a covenant among free men to respect the rights and liberties of their fellows”.

At the forthcoming Annual General Meeting we are going to be faced with a test on whether our thinking is in accordance with these thoughts: whether we do respect the rights of our members who will not have the opportunity or the means to attend the Meeting on account of the widespread nature of the country, and who would wish to exercise the right to vote.

Therefore, we should realise that a great many of our members do not have the opportunity to be a member of an affiliated club and would naturally be deprived of this most cherished right of every Swiss.

The Swiss Society movement in New Zealand — an offshoot of the Swiss Benevolent Society — has a proud history and is, according to a recent visitor to this country, Mr Channey (editor of the “Zurcher Tages Anzeiger” and executive member of the Neue Helvetischen Gesellschaft), second to none other Swiss movement in the world.

Let's think and do not make it poorer by depriving a minority the right to vote — a minority who number only a dozen or so: 210 members of affiliated clubs against 196 single members . . .

— Editing Committee.