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SHOULD I GET NATURALISED ?

Sooner or later all of us Swiss who have settled in New Zealand will have to answer this question.

It is neither an easy one nor a decision to be taken lightly. We have the inherent loyalty to the country where we were born on the one hand, and the quite obvious duty to the country which provides our living on the other.

New Zealand laws are very generous and considerate and with few exceptions do not discriminate against aliens. I know we are not allowed to vote, but we are in good company—the Queen cannot vote either.

I think it depends greatly at what age you came to New Zealand. If as a baby you arrived with your parents and received all your schooling and education here, then it is obvious that you become a New Zealander when reaching maturity. If you emigrated at a mature age, say over 20, it is a much harder decision to make, but even if you decide against naturalisation you can still be a valuable, appreciative and loyal citizen in your adopted country. Give a reliable and honest day's work to the best of your ability at whatever you may be employed or are doing and get involved as much as you can in the community you live in — give generously of your spare time for the common good.

However, I cannot advise on this question, it is entirely between you, your conscience and the country you were born and the country you live in.

Arnold Biland