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EDITOR'S POSTBAG.

London, 21st March, 1954.

The Editor,
Swiss Observer,
23, Leonard Street, E.C.2.

Dear Sir,

Much has been said in your columns about the vote for Swiss women. There have been various arguments for and against it. But it seems to me that both men and women have been wrongly attacked, the women for not wanting the vote badly enough, the men for not giving it to them gladly. The vote in Switzerland entails much more than the election every few years of the local council and one's M.P. The Swiss woman realizes that to her suffrage means going to the poll in communal, cantonal and federal matters every few weeks, and consequently she would be expected to take part actively in the life of the commune — an aspect of the vote in Switzerland which is often forgotten. She is aware of the fact that, on the whole, her political education is not very advanced. She is conscientious and therefore rather afraid of facing this responsibility.

It is right that the woman should have the vote. Not every woman can bring pressure to bear on a man, and a great deal of talent and common sense is lost to the community. It is no more than just that in this matter she should have equality with the man. It is not in the nature of Swiss women to try violent tactics of the suffragette movement in England. It is equally alien to the Swiss men to hand the vote to the women from one day to the next.

For 20 years I have lived in this country where all my English friends can vote. But not for one moment have I felt ashamed that we Swiss women have no vote yet. I appreciate the great wisdom behind the Swiss Constitution, and Swiss Democracy works slowly, but well. In the light of Swiss political history the absence of women's vote becomes of minor importance. I am convinced that the Swiss woman must have the vote, and I am equally certain that she will get it. Her political education is going forward and with it her confidence in her public abilities will grow. The vote will be the logical and inevitable result. It may take several years yet, but once she has obtained suffrage in this way she will face her responsibilities in the true Stauffacher tradition and her influence will be considerable and beneficial.

Yours faithfully,
Mariann.

(Mrs. Walter Meier).

(This correspondence is now closed. Ed.)

OUR NEXT ISSUE.

Our next issue will be published on Friday, April 30th, 1954. We take the opportunity of thanking the following subscribers for their kind and helpful donations over and above their subscription: A. Steiner, A. Renou, M. Buchmann, Mrs. A. Rossier, A. Ehrlsam, A. F. Frikart, E. Bernasconi, E. A. Nussle, J. J. F. Schaad, J. S. Schneider, R. J. Keller, E. Luterbacher, Mrs. R. Homberger, A. Abplanalp, Max Wiesendanger.

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