

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1955)

Heft: 1263

Artikel: Press review

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-694460>

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PRESS REVIEW.
By Théo Chopard.

The Swiss Press comments on the results of the Federal elections. All the newspapers, from Right to Left, agree that this ballot reveals an extraordinary stability. The National Council — so writes the "Tribune de Genève" — comprises 196 seats; only four of these have changed their political colour. There are neither victors, nor vanquished. Nevertheless, in spite of this stability, the electoral body shows a tendency, which is growing more and more marked, to vote towards the Left. Among the Catholic-Conservatives, the Christian-Social Wing progresses. The Left Wing Radicals maintain their position more easily than those of the Right. There is nothing in the way of a land-slide, but, nevertheless, a considerable change may be observed in favour of the Socialists, who — as the "Basler Nachrichten" notes — have gained four seats. The "Gazette de Lausanne" adds that our electoral régime, which is that of proportional representation, reveals itself as being a conservative system. Although this paper, as well as the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung" observes that a certain movement towards the Left has occurred, both newspapers conclude that there would appear to be no reason for modifying our general policy. The Catholic "Courrier de Genève", however, which also remarks on this movement towards the Left, draws different conclusions. This evolution, which, for the moment is almost imperceptible, must not be looked upon as being insignificant. It should serve as a warning to the Authorities to develop their social policy in a better manner, in anticipation of more difficult times to come. The Socialist "Volksrecht" declares that the moment has now arrived for the Government to be more progressive in regard to their social policies. The "Suisse" writes that in view of the fact that this evolution towards the Left is becoming accelerated within the so-called Bourgeois Parties, as well as within the Opposition, it may be anticipated that the Socialists will multiply their efforts in order to obtain two seats on the Federal Council (on which they are no longer represented). Nevertheless, when all has been said, the fact remains — even in the opinion of the Socialist "Tagwacht" — that the results of the elections bear witness to an extraordinary equilibrium between the forces facing each other. The "Journal de Genève" considers that

this equilibrium may be explained by the favourable economic situation; without being enchanted with their Government, the citizens are not displeased with it. An interesting remark on this subject is made by the "Tagesanzeiger", of Zurich, which observes that this stability has been maintained from as far back as 1919, that is to say, during thirty-six years, in spite of the disturbances of every kind which have marked this period. The reason why this stability has not been impaired, is because of the rights to Initiatives and to Referendums, and because most of the laws are submitted to the people, all of which gives the Swiss People the power to proceed in a continuous manner with the application of the necessary corrections.



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