

Women vote on the right to vote

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cependant, redora le blason gastronomique de Buckingham et, bien qu'il ne fut plus question de ripailles à la Edouard VII, la grande reine, en dépit de son caractère conservateur, désira toujours une cuisine "up to date". La reine Mary avait une passion pour les chocolats et son "five o'clock tea" se composait, chaque jour, d'un choix de gâteaux et de biscuits variés: à Tschumi de se débrouiller! Avec l'époque actuelle, les soucis culinaires de Buckinham ont été réduits à leur plus simple expression, et probablement qu'Elizabeth ne dine pas mieux qu'un habitué du Ritz ou du Dorchester. Il est vrai que Gabriel Tschumi n'ordonne plus les menus et il n'est plus là pour surveiller la confection d'un pâté de la belle époque, fait de dinde farcie de poulet, avec faisan à l'intérieur du poulet et bécasse à l'intérieur du faisan, ni pour commander la cuisson d'un potage dont la préparation demandait trois jours.

Signe des temps: Gabriel Tschumi, septuagénaire toujours vert, dont l'embonpoint garde la marque des banquets victoriens, se retira juste quelques mois avant le décès de la regrettée reine Mary. Mais le Lausannois Tschumi demeure, dans les annales de l'Angleterre, le spécialiste des asperges au beurre telles que les désirait Edouard VII, l'artiste qui préparait les omelettes de George VI telles que les aimait le souverain (avec deux cuillerées de crème battue dans les oeufs), la providence du duc de Gloucester dont la passion va aux perdrix à la crème et celle du duc de Windsor dont le péché mignon est les huîtres ou le petit coq de bruyère. . .

Pierre Hofstetter.



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WOMEN VOTE ON THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

Recently all women over 20 living in Basle, had been invited to vote on whether they want the vote. The "Daily Telegraph" (Feb. 19th,) wrote:

"In Switzerland, one of the oldest of the democracies, "Votes for Women" is still a controversial issue.

The Swiss man in the street — but not his wife — probably has a more direct say in law-making than his counterpart in any other democracy. According to the Swiss constitution all laws which lay a direct responsibility on the citizen must be passed by a popular ballot if 30,000 voters assert their right to a referendum.

In municipal and parish affairs the last word also lies with the voter.

Yet Swiss women to-day have no more say in public affairs than their ancestresses had in the days of William Tell, although the constitution says that "All Swiss are equal before the law; there are no subjects nor any privileges of place birth, persons or families."

Women are, indeed, treated as the equals of men except in the matter of the vote and in compulsory military service. They pay the same taxes, are accepted in the same professions, serve on juries.

The first women's vote on votes for women was in the canton of Geneva in 1952. The "Ayes" had a majority of five to one, but they represented less than half the women voters. A Bill giving women the right to vote on cantonal matters was later rejected by a large majority.

One of the favourite arguments of the anti-feminists, which seems to be borne out by the result of the Geneva poll, is that women really do not want to vote. When, some six years ago, the men of Zurich were called upon to decide whether they should, the city was plastered with posters bearing the slogan: "Husbands, fathers, brothers, protect us from politics."

The result of the present ballot in Basle is by no means a foregone conclusion. A great many women believe they can wield greater influence in the home than on the hustings."

* * *

Of the 76,700 women of Basle, who were called upon to vote on whether they wanted the franchise or not, only 59 per cent turned up, and 33,100 voted "yes" and 12,300 voted "no". (Ed.)

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