

JAPAN'S WOMEN STEP IN

Japan's women make history as the country comes through the first free election ever known in the land of Geisha girls and no-no-honourable War Lords. It's a novel occasion and women are in a big majority in the endless queues waiting for polling time.

Secrecy is guaranteed and after centuries spent in subjection Jap women mean to have a say in the future. Allied Occupation authorities took a big chance on the election and it came off - though the old servile customs die hard. From the ballot boxes come results which put Japan's Conservative elements ahead with a commanding majority. The voting women played for safety and decided to give democracy a chance. But it wouldn't have been an election if there hadn't been a bit of trouble. Out came the banners as the strong-arm boys paraded their favourite slogans through Tokyo streets.

The opposition retreats and things begin to warm up as the big battalions head for trouble. Standing by for action, Tokyo's police riot squad takes a hand and then it's every man for himself. But while the men did the scrapping, the women's votes were deciding the issue.