

MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1911.

## Ask the Government for Votes

When he does not care to give a characteristic sledge-hammer refusal to a request that fails to meet with his approval Sir James Whitney can be diplomatic. He was at his best when several hundred women called upon him and the members of the Government Saturday morning to again plead for the right to vote. From the beginning of his reply to the end there was not a word that could be construed into a promise, but the ladies departed in quite a cheerful mood.

"I can only say," remarked the Prime Minister, in winding up, "that with reference to your proposal embodied in the bill introduced, our answer will be given when the bill comes up for second reading."

The advance guard of the deputation arrived at the Parliament buildings long before 11 o'clock, although the time set for the interview with Sir James and his Ministers was 11.30. When the members of the Government arrived the main staircase was crowded, and every point of vantage was occupied.

Dr. Margaret Gordon, President of the Toronto Suffrage Association, opened fire upon Sir James by reading an address calling upon the Government to allow a full discussion of the Studholme-Proudfoot bill, and to approve of its purpose by making it law.

"No State," said Dr. Gordon, "can lay claim to a democratic and representative form of government which forces one-half of its population to be taxed without being represented. No State can be called a democratic State where one-half of the community is

governed and punished according to laws which they have neither helped to make nor agreed to submit to."

The address declared that the right to vote was one acquired through centuries of struggle for the recognition of human liberty and human respect, which is expressed in the fundamental principle that there should be no taxation without representation, and no government without consent.

Dr. Augusta Stowe Gullen delivered an eloquent appeal for the ballot. Woman's proper place was the home, but man-made conditions had forced her from the home to make her own living. The granting of the vote to women would bring about reforms in matters respecting the home which had hitherto been largely neglected. Dr. Stowe Gullen closed by referring to the thousands of immigrants who were pouring in, and who in a few years would be given a vote.

"Surely," she exclaimed, "we intelligent wives and mothers could do as well as they. We certainly could not do worse."

The other speakers were Miss Harriet Johnston of the Toronto Teachers' Suffrage Association, Mrs. J. W. Bengough of the Toronto Suffrage Association, Mrs. J. B. Lees and Dr. Margaret Johnston.

Sir James modestly disclaimed any credit for having "allowed" the suffrage bill to be introduced, pointing out that the Government could not have stopped it had it desired to, "and we were not so minded," he added, while the ladies applauded. The Prime Minister referred to the proposal of the deputation as one involving a "social and political revolution." It was a serious subject, and one that could not be decided off-hand. He assured the ladies that the matter would receive full consideration