

## SUFFRAGE BILL COLDLY RECEIVED

Visit of the Fair Sex Was a  
Disappointment.

SIR JAMES WAS EMPHATIC.

Country Was Not Ready for a  
Social Revolution.

Liberal Leader Endorses Principle of  
the Bill, but Considered That the  
Time Had Not Arrived to Put it  
Into Effect.

Several hundred disappointed and indignant members of the fair sex filed out of the galleries of the Legislative Chamber yesterday afternoon just before 6 o'clock. They had just listened to Sir James Whitney presiding over the obsequies of the woman suffrage bill. Even the most optimistic among them came to the Parliament buildings with little hope of the measure going through, but nevertheless the positive manner in which the Prime Minister stamped his feet all over their cherished measure was disheartening. Mr. Allan Studholme, who introduced the bill, supported it so vigorously that the ladies became enthused, but Mr. W. Proudfoot of Centre Bruce, who was expected to prove the Labor member's right-hand man, was disappointing. He was strongly in favor of woman suffrage—in the abstract—but he was somewhat doubtful whether the time was opportune for it.

**Rebuke for Mr. Donovan.**

Mr. A. E. Donovan, Brockville, whose qualification to speak upon the subject was the fact that he "probably knew as many women in Ontario as any other member in the House," opposed the bill and brought down upon himself a scathing rebuke from Hon. A. G. MacKay for using the words "slimy pool of politics" as something women should not mix in. The Liberal leader favored the principle of woman suffrage, but doubted whether the women of the Province really desired it. Dr. T. S. T. Smellie of Fort William opposed the bill and used the occasion to say some unpleasant things about the little Labor man.

Mr. Studholme came back with a quiet retort. "I hardly think it is fair," he said, "to attack me. Whatever my faults, I have never been personal. I have got it pretty hard sometimes and I have never hit back."

The bill was lost on division, Mr. Studholme not securing enough supporters to demand the yeas and nays.

**Were Ready for Trouble.**

Sir James Whitney and the Government apparently expected a demon-

stration of some sort. Three Provincial detectives, in addition to the House constables, were on hand to guard against trouble, one in each gallery. Apart from a little applause while Mr. Studholme was speaking, the ladies, however, were very quiet.

**Would Benefit Canada.**

"What would this vote be for Canada?" asked Mr. Allan Studholme, in supporting his bill. Woman suffrage, he claimed, would benefit Canada physically, economically and socially. He referred to what women had done in Finland and elsewhere, to show the benefits of giving them the vote. In reply to the argument that women would not vote if they had the right, Mr. Studholme declared that wherever woman enjoyed the right of suffrage, whenever a moral or social question came up women were found in the lead of the forces for righteousness. He quoted from printed statements accounts of women voting in Great Britain many years ago. Labor organizations held up both hands all over the world for their sisters being given the vote equally with them. He pleaded for the girls and women working in the city with no homes and poor conditions surrounding them.

**Reform Must Come.**

With fine sarcasm the Labor member said if some one high in authority or "some learned fellow" said these things, the Legislature would receive him and his message with open arms and say it was all right; but when the poor wage-earner raised his voice on behalf of the women they said the old fellow was wasting time and telling fairy stories.

But whatever they thought of it, said Mr. Studholme, they could not stop the progress of this reform. He did not care what they thought of him. Women felt they were the equals of men and they would presently demand their rights. Men who cast reflections upon women cast them upon their own mothers and daughters and sisters, for all were of one blood.

**Only a Question of Time.**

Mr. W. Proudfoot (Centre Huron) hoped the time was not too far distant when the Government—if not this Government, at any rate some Government—would place on the statute book a law entitling women to the same rights as men, and to exercise their franchise in the same way.

The only question between those holding different views on this matter, he thought, was the difference of opinion as to whether it were yet the opportune time to grant this right. Most men, he supposed, felt that women were far and away above men, who looked up to them and revered them. It was because of that that many men felt so strongly; they would not like to see them going out and mixing with men in political elections, and being brought into contact with the things that men are. The influence that women have would no doubt change entirely the present system. At present, however, he said, when some women had the right to vote on certain questions it was hard to get them out. It would be a matter of education.

Mr. Donovan (Brockville) referred to Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and Idaho, where he argued, woman suffrage had not proved very successful. He thought there was no necessity here for such a radical change, and while professing great friendship for the ladies, said the Legislature should wait till a large majority of them were desirous of the franchise. In most Church courts, he said, women had not this right.

**Hardly Time Yet.**

Mr. Robert J. McCormick of East Lambton was greeted with delighted desk-thumping from both sides of the House. In his naive humor he remarked he scarcely knew how it would fare with him if he voted for woman suffrage—his wife might carry the convention, and he would be staying at home. However, he agreed with his hon. friend from East Hamilton a little better than usual, but thought it hardly time yet to give the