

# BILL TO EXTEND VOTE TO WOMEN

## Would Allow Them Suffrage if They Own Property

## EFFECT MAY BE TO DISQUALIFY HUSBANDS

## The Opposition Not Satisfied With Proposed Amendment

Ontario is to take a step in the direction of women suffrage. That is the effect of a bill now before the Legislature, introduced by Mr. Findlay G. Macdiarmid (West Elgin), to give married women who own property the right to vote in municipal elections. Mr. Macdiarmid's bill is to amend the Ontario voters' list act to make this possible, but the effect will be to disqualify married men, who hitherto have held office on property standing in the name of the wife, from continuing to do so. A companion bill to amend the assessment act has also been introduced by Mr. Macdiarmid to facilitate this purpose. Under the bill, if it becomes law, a married woman will have the option of notifying the assessor or the Court of Revision, in writing, that she proposes to exercise the right to vote on her own property, accompanying such notice with a list of the property standing in her name. The Government is not behind Mr. Macdiarmid's bill, and the members will be free to deal with it as they wish.

### What Opposition Wants.

The Opposition were not satisfied yesterday to have the amendment brought about in this way. When the municipal act was being considered in committee, Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex), wanted the clause defining who should have a right to vote amended then and there. He pointed out that prior to 1859 women could not convey their own property, but since then the law had changed from time to time, so that they now controlled the property which stood in their names, and the law should be further changed so that they should have the right to vote on the property which they so held. To that end he moved that the clause in the act be struck out which prescribed "male, widow or unmarried women."

Mr. Hanna took the view that striking out clause (a) would lead to interminable confusion. If that clause were stricken out it would disqualify Aldermen and Councillors in towns and cities in the Province, because unless a man were an elector it was absurd to say that he could occupy a position as Mayor, Control-

As a further argument, the Provincial Secretary said to deal with the question in that way would be to go in the teeth of the expressed wish of some of those who advocated the right of women to represent their property. If the clause were eliminated from the act it would have the effect that a woman who owned her own property would have to vote on it herself or leave it unrepresented. It often happened that a woman owned property by the courtesy or generosity of her husband. Some of those who had given most thought to the matter

### TO COMPLETE SCHOOL OF MINES

Kingston wants \$20,000 to complete the School of Mines. This was the request made by a deputation headed by Mr. W. F. Nickle, M.P., which met Sir James Whitney and the members of the Government. Already \$100,000 has been expended on this school, but the equipment needs \$20,000 to complete. The Government will consider the matter when the estimates come up. Dr. A. W. Ross, local member for Kingston, introduced the deputation.