

GOVERNMENT REJECTS WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILLS

Three Measures Voted Down After an Animated Debate

GALLERIES FILLED WITH SYMPATHIZERS

Opposition Members Make a Strong Plea in Behalf of Women

Something fell in the Legislature yesterday. The hopes that had been raised that Ontario would take a forward step in extending the franchise to women received a rude shock when three separate proposals were voted down by the members of the Government.

The first bill to fall by the wayside was that brought forward by Mr. Wm. MacDonald (Centre Bruce), to extend the Provincial franchise to widows and spinsters who now voted in municipal elections.

The second proposal was brought up during the joint discussion of several bills introduced by Mr. J. C. Elliott (West Middlesex) and Mr. E. G. Macdiarmid (West Elgin). The object of these bills was to give married women who own property the municipal franchise. It was on this subject that Hon. W. J. Hanna some weeks ago threw out the strong suggestion that the Government might be prepared to go that far, and intimated that Mr. Macdiarmid's bills had been drafted by the Government for that purpose. Mr. Elliott's measure was to give married women the vote as joint owners with their husbands, as is now the case with farmers' sons. Mr. Macdiarmid, on the other hand, sought to give the woman the right of election to represent the property instead of her husband. But the Government would have none of either, and a strict party majority defeated this scheme.

The last measure to receive the axe was that of Mr. Allan Studholme (East Hamilton), that went the entire length of enfranchising women, and the debate on this continued into the night sitting.

Women Crowd Galleries.

Feeling ran high during the afternoon. In anticipation of a brisk debate and at least the adoption of the principle of the Macdiarmid bills, the galleries were crowded with women sympathetic to the bills. Rumors of a threatened demonstration probably accounted for the presence of Superintendent Rogers and several able-bodied members of the Provincial Police force. Ostensibly as interested spectators of an academic discussion, these gentlemen were placed at strategic points where they would have been available in the event of an assault on the sacred precincts of the House.

A slight demonstration did occur during Mr. Studholme's remarks, as he was facing the crowded gallery, when he said that the vote for women was coming, and sooner or later it would be an important issue in the country. An outbreak of applause in the Speaker's Gallery brought the Prime Minister to his feet. Sir James vigorously protested against any show of feeling whatever. "They have done what they knew was a deliberate of-