

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1915.

# PROGRESSIVES SCORED IN SUFFRAGE DEBATE

## Minister of Public Works Twitted for His Change of Front — Attorney-General No Longer a Radical, but Steeped in Toryism

In the resumed debate in the Legislature yesterday on the bill to extend the municipal franchise to married women the feature was that the progressives had it practically all to themselves. The inaction on the part of those on the Government side was never more apparent, only one member from that side of the House rising to speak against the bill, while five Liberal members and Mr. Studholme advocated the proposed change. The Attorney-General's defence was particularly criticized, as was also the positions of Messrs. Macdiarmid (Minister of Public Works), and W. J. Hanna (Provincial Secretary), both of whom were declared to be former supporters of a similar bill. The Minister of Public Works, when reference was made to this, seemed uneasy, but Mr. Hanna merely grinned. The debate was adjourned, and it is understood the principle of the bill will be forced to a division.

### Mr. Macdiarmid Twitted.

Mr. W. McDonald (West Bruce), resuming the debate on the bill, twitted the new Cabinet Minister, Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, who at one time introduced a bill for the very thing now desired. He made a beautiful speech, and the Provincial Secretary was behind him, backing him up, and then he got an intimation to pull it off. He (Mr. McDonald) contended it was absurd to grant unmarried women and widows who had property the vote and place a disability upon married women. He was confident that if the vote were extended along the lines desired it would have nothing but a beneficial effect.

### Would Go No Farther.

Hon. Mr. Hoyle (North Ontario), who followed, covered a lot of ground on the suffrage question, not by any means pinning himself down to the question involved in the bill under discussion. He reviewed the history of the franchise movement in Britain, and trotted out Lord Brougham, D'Israeli, Gladstone, Asquith, Christabel Pankhurst, and other celebrities. He declared he was not in favor of going any farther than what was now upon the statute books of the Province.

Mr. Davidson (North Brant) said when he heard people arguing along the lines followed by the member of North Ontario—that it is not time for a change—he was of the opinion that the usefulness of such persons was done. There never came a time in the history of this or any other country where there was not room for progress. He did not think women would be stampeded on public questions of the day as he had often seen the male electorate stampeded.

### British Fair Play.

Mr. Atkinson (North Norfolk), on the ground of British fair play, pleaded for votes for married women in municipal matters. "We believe in the British flag and all that sort of thing," he said, "but where can we find in any place to-day anyone more loyal than our women, our married women? This Government is not so patriotic as it pretends to be if it deprives married women of a municipal vote."

Mr. L. P. Wible (South Essex) asserted there was not a man in this Government to-day who would get up and say his wife was not as capable of voting on social and moral issues as he was.