

VOTE FOR WOMEN IS LIBERAL POLICY

Resolution in Legislature by
Mr. N. W. Rowell

PREMIER NON-COMMITTAL

Debate on the Address Brings General
Praise for Benefits of Prohibition
Act—Mr. Sam. Carter Stirs Minis-
ters on Records.

Women's franchise in tangible form came to the front in the Legislature last night when Mr. N. W. Rowell surprised the Government by moving an amendment to the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. This was seconded by Mr. Allan Studholme, and was in the following terms:

"That the following be added to the motion: And this House would respectfully represent to your Honor that in considering the question of the franchise the just claims of women to equal franchise should be recognized; and this House would approve of the immediate enactment of legislation to extend the legislative and municipal franchise to women on the same basis as men."

The leader of the Opposition made an earnest, powerful appeal in support of conceding the vote to women, mentioning that the western Provinces had already granted this, and proposals were now before the British Parliament contemplating similar action.

Premier Hearst did not commit himself on the point raised, stating that the proper time for a discussion of the subject and a statement of policy by the Government was when the bills which had already been entered came up for consideration. Sir William added that when the statement of the Government was made the leader of the Opposition "will find

that this Government is always abreast of public opinion on every great question, and will do the right thing and do it at the right time."

Mr. Sam Carter injected a good deal of life into the closing stages of the night debate, and caused a flutter in the Ministerial benches when he recalled Premier Hearst's endorsement of Mr. James Norris, the "wine-and-beer license" candidate in Southwest Toronto, and the notorious "ear-to-the-ground" speech of the Attorney-General. Other subjects discussed were prohibition, nickel, nationalization of railways, cheap money for farmers, and Ontario's part in the war.

At 11.40 Mr. Johnson (West Hastings) moved the adjournment. The debate on the Address will be resumed on Tuesday.

Plea for Generosity for Returned Soldiers

Generous treatment of Ontario's soldiers was advocated by Dr. William Jaques (Haldimand), who moved the Address in reply to the Speech from the Throne. "Let us see our duty to our returned soldiers," said Dr. Jaques. "If there is any sense of gratitude in us, if it takes us twenty years to pay, we will do our duty by them. I do not think we can repay them with money. Our duty to them is to as far as in our power replace them with their prospects in life. If they want farms, give them the choicest homesteads we have, or help them to start on a farm. If before the war they were going in for professions, we ought to assist them in this respect by arranging for their fees at

the University." Dr. Jaques made eloquent reference to Ontario's devotion to the mother country, and he would like to say to Great Britain: "We will be with you until the war is brought to an honorable conclusion. Tell us what we can do and we are ready." He thought the prosperity due to the war had caused too much extravagance among the laboring classes. The man who was making increased wages should be compelled to put some of his earnings in war bonds, and there should be a tax on the trade in luxuries. If they could not go to the front they could at least serve by going without luxuries. (Applause.)

Establish Food Depots.

Mr. Alec Ferguson (South Simcoe), who seconded, alluded to the various Government departments, and referring to that over which the Hon. W. J. Hanna formerly presided, said it had been commented upon by the statesmen of the different countries of Europe and by the statesmen of the country south of the line. Alluding to the land settlement scheme for soldiers in Northern Ontario, the speaker said he hoped the Government would acquire in the older parts of Ontario land and cut it up into small holdings and use it for the same purpose. Although there had been a co-operative branch in connection with the Department of Agriculture, Mr. Ferguson thought more attention should be given to co-operation. He advocated central distributing depots for food products in various parts of the Province, which, he believed, would tend to reduce the cost of living. Another important matter was some means of transportation that would bring the product of the farm into the hands of the consumer at a lower cost of transportation than at present prevailed. The member for South Simcoe touched upon the beneficial effects of the prohibition measure, and declared there was not one chance in a hundred of there ever being a license system again in this Province.

Liberal Leader Notes

Advance in Temperance

Mr. Rowell congratulated the mover and the seconder on the speeches, but also took the opportunity to point out they were to-day taking a different attitude on points to that held by them some years ago. On the temperance question the member for Haldimand had been advancing the same arguments that he (Mr. Rowell) had advanced in his constituency at the last general election. Regarding the advocacy on the Government side of greater co-operation in agriculture and some system of loans, the leader of the Opposition recalled the fact that "two years ago we on this side of the House submitted a resolution calling for these very things, and it was my hon. friend from South Simcoe who moved the amendment to vote down that resolution. Here again we are moving forward, and I congratulate my hon. friend in coming up to the position we took two years ago."

Honor Well Deserved.

In congratulating the Prime Minister on the honor conferred by the King, Mr. Rowell said: "I am sure while we might not all agree in the wisdom of developing the system of titled honors on this side of the Atlantic that are characteristic of the other side, we will agree that when such things are being conferred the man who occupies the honored position of Prime Minister of this Province is well deserving of such recognition, and I may say the people of the Province will heartily join in the congratulations to my honorable friend."

Against Hereditary Titles Here.

In connection with the recent honors, the speaker also took note of a statement in the press that a gentleman who was made a Baron was the first native Canadian resident in Canada to have such conferred. Mr. Rowell commented: "I venture to think that in the free democracy of Canada we are not improving conditions by importing hereditary titles passing from father to son. I hope it may be the last. I think when we are fighting the battle of democracy the world over the tendency will be in the old country to bring themselves into har-