

referred to the way women had also given their services in munition factories, and summed up his references to women's efforts by saying there was no telling what service and sacrifice the Province might yet demand of its splendid women.

"When the details have been settled," concluded Sir William, "the Government will bring down a bill including the principle of this bill and embodying the necessary machinery for carrying it into effect."

Now Womanhood Suffrage, Says West Hastings Member

Mr. Johnson, on rising to move the second reading of his bill to grant to women the right to vote at elections of the Legislative Assembly, was applauded from both sides of the House. He declared that the tide was running strong, and he believed that the great majority of the people of the Province were willing that the women should have the vote. "This has been an evolution as well as a revelation," remarked the speaker. "This movement has in the past been called votes for women, but I think we should give what is being asked the more dignified title of womanhood suffrage."

Strong for Prohibition.

"What this bill represents is the corollary to the measure passed here last session, one of the greatest reforms this country or any other country ever knew. I criticized some of the propositions in regard to that, but I say openly to-day if I had the power in my own hand to restore the bar I would not restore the bar. (Applause.) I would not have said that a year ago, because I was not convinced that it was just right, but I am convinced to-day, after a year's trial, that the Government and this House did the wisest possible thing to abolish the bar. (Applause.)"

A Simple Change.

"If you bring the women into the constituencies we will have a leaven that will be of great influence. In response to public opinion, in response to the splendid tide now surging through the country, showing the great demand there is to give women this advantage, I ask with great respect that the Government will get behind this bill, and with the aid of its supporters, indeed by the aid of every member of this House, will put it on the statute book." (Applause.) He proposed to change the word "man" to "person," from including both sexes beyond the age of twenty-one who would be empowered to vote at elections for the Legislature.

Mr. Rowell Hopes for Unanimous Legislature

Mr. Rowell said the bill was one of the greatest democratic measures that the House had ever been called upon to consider, and he thought it would be a matter for congratulation if the measure was passed into law, as he believed it would be, by the unanimous vote of the Legislature. He thought the members should unite in asking the women of the Province to share with the men the great responsibility of the work of government in the days that lay before them. In doubling the number of electors in the Province they were imposing greater burdens on the leaders, who were charged with the duties of diffusing information in order that the electors might vote in a manner that would result in the greatest good. Unless they had an educated democracy, unless the people understood the issues of the day and recognized the duties they owed to others, Ontario would not attain the position they had a right to expect from her geographical position, from her natural resources and from the heritage handed down to them. The responsibility of developing the country would be better discharged in the future than in the past if the women of Ontario were given the vote, because there would be more backs to bear the burden, more soul and more heart, and more noble impulses working for the highest and best things in the Province. (Applause.)

This Most Radical Measure.

The Liberal leader, in opening, said the proposed measure was the most important constitutional reform in the sense of broadening the basis of

the franchise which the Ontario Legislature had been called upon to consider since Confederation. Several measures extending the franchise had been passed by the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat, but this was the most radical measure so far as extending the basis of government was concerned. "It is peculiarly fitting," he added, "that such a measure should be enacted at the very time when we are fighting the battle of democracy, when young men are going from Canada by the hundred thousand to fight against that old autocratic conception that power is centered in a few men in favor of the broad democratic conception that the sovereignty rests with the people, and that they have the right to make and unmake Kings, Governors and rulers of all classes. (Applause.) It is fitting that we in this Legislature should bring forth a great democratic measure for putting further in the hands of the people the sovereign power of controlling the Government by admitting to the electorate the other half of our population which has hitherto been excluded."

Liberals Entitled to Credit.

Mr. Rowell showed that the Liberal party was entitled to a large part of the credit for the measure. "In the year 1912 the issue was brought squarely before this House by Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce), when he submitted a bill to the House providing for an extension of the legislative franchise to women. As far back as 1912 the Liberal members of the House put themselves on record as squarely in favor of this measure, and the Conservative members put themselves on record as squarely opposed to it. In 1913 the bill was again introduced by Mr. McDonald and unanimously supported by the members on the Liberal side of the House and unanimously opposed by the Government side, so that in those two sessions prior to the general election of 1914 the question was before the House." He was glad the Government had seen the error of its ways and was prepared to support the policy for which the Liberal party had stood for some years. He was especially pleased to see that Mr. Donovan (Brockville) was wearing the badge of a convert, and was now in the new army that was in favor of woman suffrage. In other years Mr. Donovan had not been content with voting against the question in the House, but had gone the length of attending public meetings and opposing it there.

Women Take War More Seriously Than Men

"Can we as a Legislature justify the action we are about to take?" asked Mr. Rowell. "Personally, I have no hesitation in saying that we can." (Applause.) The Opposition leader went on to show that there are in Ontario 175,000 women workers who are earning their own living. The women of the Province had been bearing their share of the industrial burdens and rendering excellent service without having any voice in the making of the laws of the Province. The war had opened up new fields for women and new opportunities for service and they had risen nobly to the occasion. They were performing their duties splendidly and heroically. The women were also bearing their share of the great burden of educating the youth of the Province. In the public schools of Ontario there were 10,786 women teachers as compared with 2,760 men teachers. The women of Ontario were teaching the children in the public schools of the Province, and if they entrusted them with the responsibility of doing that they were not going too far in allowing them to have a voice in making the laws of the Province.

Women's Heart in War.

"The women have been indefatigable in every branch of service. They have taken this war more seriously than the men, they have devoted their thought and attention to it, they have put their whole heart and soul into the winning of it, and have given more of their effort than have the men, with the exception of those who have gone overseas as soldiers and sailors. Over six hundred nurses have gone overseas from the Province of Ontario to join the hospital units, and are giving magnificent service at the front. In the strenuous service