

same as if paid directly by the Government. The proposed change is intended to apply expressly to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board, the Hydro-electric Commission and the T. & N. O. Railway Commission. Hon. F. G. Macdormid informed Mr. Racine that the Province had collected \$314,293 for automobile licenses in 1915 and \$618,471 in 1916.

BAR WOMEN FROM HOUSE

Premier Hearst Won't Have Ladies in Legislature

VOTES DOWN ROWELL PLAN

Opposition Leader Argued for Removal of Existing Disqualification of Women as Candidates—Mr. Sam Carter Has Hot Shot for Hearst.

Premier Hearst in the Legislature last night rejected Mr. N. W. Rowell's bill to remove the disqualification of women as candidates for the Legislative Assembly. Seconded by Hon. Dr. Pyne, Sir William moved to give the bill a six-months' hoist. The galleries were crowded with ladies when the leaders spoke.

The Premier's Statement.

"After full consideration," said Sir William Hearst, "I do not think this bill is either necessary or advisable at the present time. (Conservative applause.) There is no demand from any quarter for this bill, and, so far as I am concerned, so far as the Government are concerned, it has not been asked for by any lady in the Province. I did receive a letter from an honorable gentleman in the city of Toronto, who evidently knows my honorable friend (the Opposition leader) very well. He wrote to the effect that if you do not introduce a bill of this character your opponent certainly will introduce one, with the object of trying to curry favor with the ladies, and with all the blandishments and sophistry of which he is a past master he will try and gain political advantage thereby. (Applause.) I am sure the women of Ontario will not be influenced in the slightest by what is clearly an attempt by my honorable friend at the present time to gain political advantage. My experience has been that the ladies are pretty shrewd, and that they are able to see through a man just as quickly as anyone else. (Applause.) They are quite able to tell when a man is trying to be gallant by doing something which he thinks will please them."

No Mandate is Premier's Contention.

The Premier continued that the Government had gone as far in giving women the vote as the ladies expected or desired the Government to go. Indeed, they had gone farther than a great many of the ladies of the Province thought necessary at the present time.

"If we pass the bill we will simply be putting useless legislation on the statute books," said the Premier. "I am not arguing against the principle of the bill. This Legislature has a year or a year and a half yet to live and no harm can be done by waiting until we see what the attitude of the women and public opinion is with reference to this whole question."

"In short, there is no demand for this bill at present. We have already

effected a great constitutional change without any mandate from the people." The women would have an arduous task getting started right as voters, and he was convinced that they would prefer to advance surely rather than swiftly.

Bill Gets Traditional Hoist.

"The matter is receiving the attention of the Government, and I think we have gone as far this session as we are justified in going. The subject will have the consideration of the Government, as every matter pertaining to the welfare and interests of the Province will have. Just as we have done in other matters, just as we have done in other legislation, I am confident that we will not only do the right thing but we will do it at the right time." (Conservative applause.)

In conclusion, the Premier moved, seconded by Dr. Pyne, "that this bill be not now read a second time, but that it be read a second time this day six months."

Mr. Rowell's Position.

Mr. Rowell, in moving the second reading of his bill to remove the disqualification of women as candidates for the Legislative Assembly, argued that as the House had decided that sex would no longer be a disqualification in the matter of voting, the only logical and proper thing to do is also to remove the disqualification of sex contained in the act which deprives the women from being candidates for the Legislature. "We have recognized for many years in this Province," said the Opposition leader, "that any elector can be elected a member of this House. Now that we have enlarged the franchise and included in the class of electors a large section of the electorate not hitherto included, I submit we should not change the principle. This Legislature should continue to recognize the principle embodied in our legislation that any voter may be a candidate for this Assembly. The whole object of the bill which I have before the House is in order that we in this Province may continue the principle which has been recognized for years—to give to any voter under the new conditions the same right as the voters had under the old conditions."

Women Trustees and Councillors.

Mr. Rowell alluded to the success of women on the School Boards and Councils in Britain, and stated that in Australia the same constitution which set forth equality of franchise also gave the right to women to be candidates for election both in the Commonwealth Parliament and in the Senate of Australia.

Mr. Rowell pointed out that in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia women stand on an absolute equality with men, and urged that Ontario, in giving them the right to vote, should also extend to them the right to become candidates for the Legislature. "Let us have an act that is as broad, comprehensive, generous and just as the acts passed in the western Provinces." If elected to the Legislature he was sure women would contribute to the wise solution of many problems with which the House had to deal, and the House would not suffer in dignity or usefulness by allowing women to sit as members.

Hot Shot for Hearst.

Mr. Sam Carter (South Wellington) resented the Premier's gibe at the leader of the Opposition doing these things to catch votes. "I tell you this," cried the South Wellington man: "Your crowd ducked when you had to go to the people, but this man (Mr. Rowell) went to the people on the liquor traffic, knowing that every liquor man would be with you. You dare not go back to the people with your conduct, with your three-fifths clause, and the other conditions. There never has been in this Province for thirty years such a combination which has corrupted and damned politics as the combination of the machine in every constituency which joined with the liquor traffic. There should be a little meekness on your side. In view of these things, I don't like your charge against the leader of the