

NO WOMEN IN LEGISLATURE

J. C. Elliott's Bill Favoring
Female Representatives
is Defeated

PREMIER IS OPPOSED

Warm Scene Between Attorney-
General and Sam. Carter De-
velops in Debate.

After a short and somewhat uneventful session, the Legislature closed its business last night, and will be prorogued on Tuesday. The opening took place on February 5.

The Ontario Government is not prepared to adopt legislation to allow women electors to sit in the Legislature. Consequently, a bill having this object in view, introduced in the House by the West Middlesex Liberal, Mr. J. C. Elliott, was defeated yesterday morning on its second reading. Many Liberal members joined with Government supporters in voting down the measure, taking the ground that there has been no demand for this advanced step in the further extension of the franchise. Sir William Hearst took the stand that there is no need of such a law at the present time, now that an election has been postponed. The Prime Minister, therefore, moved an amendment to give the bill a six months' hoist, and this carried.

In moving the second reading of the bill, Mr. Elliott said he was glad that he had at last found a measure to which there could no longer be objection taken. The Legislature at the last session gave women the right to vote at Provincial elections. He submitted, therefore, that they should enjoy the same privilege as men and be allowed to occupy seats in the Legislature, thus carrying out the same principle that is applied to men over the age of twenty-one years. Women can now be elected to school boards, and he was of the opinion that they have done much real service in this way. Australia has recognized that both the right to vote and the right to sit in Parliament should go hand-in-hand. The United States, too, has recognized the right of women to sit in Congress and in the Senate.

Mr. Lucas Opposed.

In reply, Hon. Mr. Lucas said that he did not intend entering into any academic debate on the question at this time. The line of argument advanced by Mr. Elliott that women should have seats in the Legislature now that they have votes had considerable logic behind it. As pointed out by Mr. Elliott, women are not now allowed to sit in municipal Councils, and there has been no request from either the municipalities or the women for this privilege.

The East Hamilton Labor member, Mr. Allan Studholme, suggested that the Attorney-General should have his ear to the ground.

Mr. Allan Studholme said it was the same story he had heard on previous occasions from the Attorney-General, in questions relating to women, that the legislation had not been asked for. "Is he afraid of his job? Is he afraid the petticoats will come in and take his job?" He thought Mr. Lucas must have something in his ears if he could not sense public opinion. Had there been an election coming in

June everybody would have voted for the bill.

Warm Scene Develops.

The Independent Liberal for South Wellington, Mr. Sam Carter, at this point had a heated altercation with the Attorney-General. It was one of the most heated scenes staged in the local House for some time. Mr. Carter was discussing the measure and said Mr. Lucas' reply savored of cynicism and hypocrisy.

"If I am out of order I will withdraw the word," added Mr. Carter.

"My honorable friend is so often out of order," observed Sir William Hearst.

"I will change it to camouflage then if that is in order," retorted Mr. Carter.

"I now accuse him (Mr. Carter) of being an ordinary public slanderer," warmly defended the Attorney-General.

"I don't care," flung back the South Wellington member, defiantly.

"I charge you now with it," continued Mr. Lucas. "I not only do it, but I am ready to produce a document in support of it." As he did so he picked up several papers.

"I rise to a point of order," protested Mr. Proudfoot.

"Let him go," interjected Mr. Carter.

"I don't want to hear it," rejoined the Leader of the Opposition.

"I will take back anything that I have said if I have made a mistake," chimed in Mr. Carter. "I am not afraid to do that."

"I will give him a chance to withdraw it at the first opportunity," added Mr. Lucas.

The Leader of the Opposition said that it was only logical that women should have the right to sit in the Legislature now that they are allowed to vote. He was glad to hear the Attorney-General admit that Mr. Elliott had been responsible for the legislation passed at the last session giving women the vote.

Sir William Hearst said that at the last session he had taken the stand there was no need of deciding the question, as another session would be held before an election. Now that there is no election this year there is still no need to make a decision. The mind of the Government is open, and it is studying the situation and watching the experiment in other countries. Women are not able to sit in the Imperial House. It is generally admitted that any law to be a success should have public opinion behind it. He asked that the bill be withdrawn.

Mr. Sam Clarke (West Northumberland) didn't think there was any special demand from women for the right to sit in the Legislature, and 98 per cent. of the women never thought of such a thing. Mr. Z. Mageau (Sturgeon Falls) said the people of his constituency were against the measure. Mr. William McDonald (North Bruce) said he intended this summer to educate his constituents up to being in favor of the bill, but for the time being he must vote against it.

Sir William Hearst thereupon introduced an amendment "that the bill be not now read a second time, but be read a second time this day six months." The amendment carried.

ELECTION ACT IS CRITICIZED

Liberal Members in Legisla-
tures Object to Appoint-
ment of Enumerators

OPPOSITION FAILS

Claim is Made That Registry Board
Should Control Appoint-
ments.

Strong objection was raised by
Opposition members in the Legis-
lature yesterday afternoon to the