

DRESS REFORM IS DEBATED

Govt. Counters Mr. Dewart's Motion With Amend- ments

HOUSE IS FACETIOUS

An hour filled with much wit and rich humor broke the monotony of a dull afternoon in the Legislature yesterday. Mr. Hartley Dewart's resolution to introduce dress reform among the women attending the opening ceremony of the House was the subject over which the members chose to become facetious. Mr. Dewart spoke in a serious vein on his resolution; but he was about the only one who did. Hon. T. W. McGarry, the Provincial Treasurer, replied to the member for Southwest Toronto, and he suggested that it was "creeping old age" that had caused Mr. Dewart to find fault with the women's dress. There was some queer jockeying for position before the vote was taken on the resolution. Mr. McGarry sought to put the Liberals in an unenviable light among the ladies, introducing an amendment to Mr. Dewart's motion congratulating the women on their splendid services in the war. Mr. Mark Irish, Northeast Toronto, poked some fun at Mr. Dewart, and introduced an amendment to the amendment adding a clause that the House was pleased to recognize the great services rendered by the women of the Province in the production of munitions.

It was then the jockeying began in earnest. Mr. Dewart declared that the amendment was out of order, but the Speaker did not bear out his contention. The Southwest Toronto Liberal said that the Opposition did not intend to be forced by the Government to take a stand against the ladies, whom they had championed. He asked that his resolution be withdrawn, and that the Liberals vote, like him, for the amendment.

All Vote For Amendments.

Mr. McGarry replied that the motion could not be withdrawn, but had the Government desired it could have ruled it out of order previously. Mr. Proudfoot remarked that there was no need to vote on the question, as the position of all was generally understood. If the Government insisted on the vote being taken, they could vote for both amendments. The vote was then taken, and the Liberals and the Conservatives alike voted for the amendment to the amendment, and the amendment as amended. Mr. Allan Studholme, the East Hamilton Labor member, was the only one who refused to assent to the amendments, and he declared he would not vote on either the motion or the amendments.

While the resolution had been looked upon with much mirth, Mr. Dewart made his argument most seriously, and he subsequently deplored the fact that the Provincial Treasurer had become facetious in the matter. He believed that it was only right, with the progress of democracy, that there should be dress reform. Women were coming into the House, probably from the working classes, and the style that has prevailed in the past would be out of place.

Mr. McGarry wondered just what the member for Southwest Toronto proposed. The resolution said that the same "regulations as to dress at the opening of the House shall apply to both sexes." He wondered if the resolution was directed at the Speaker or the Sergeant-at-arms. In the early days there had been no trouble about fashion. The fig leaves were the first used, then blue paint, and subsequently skins.

Mr. Studholme said that the whole thing was camouflage, and he would not be drawn into it.