

WOMAN SUFFRAGE BILL IS PRESENTED IN LEGISLATURE

Hon. Dr. Roberts of St. John Introduces Measure—Interesting Discussion on Marriage Laws, Amendments to Prohibitory Act and Liquor Advertising.

Fredericton, May 29.—The House met at 3 o'clock.

Mr. Macleod presented the report of the committee on agriculture.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton), gave notice of enquiry as to the cost of the increased production convention, also as to the dismissal of David Jackson, bridge superintendent of Carleton county.

Mr. Sutton gave notice of enquiry as to the dismissal of Frank Glidden, caretaker of the Woodstock bridge.

Mr. Peck gave notice of enquiry as to whether the minister of public works instructed the supervisor of roads in the parish of Hillsboro to only repair roads suitable for carriages, but not to be particular to make roads passable for automobiles.

Mr. Speaker said the phraseology of that enquiry was objectionable, inasmuch as it contained a statement of fact, whereas it should contain nothing but the actual enquiry.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said he should have to appeal to the House from the Speaker's ruling. The enquiry was phrased in a definite manner and called for a simple answer, "yes" or "no."

Mr. Speaker said that he had noticed a tendency on the part of members making enquiries to introduce irrelevant matters which had no place in notices of enquiry, and the practice should cease.

Hon. Mr. Smith (Carleton) said he thought Mr. Speaker was confused between the answers to the enquiries and the enquiries themselves.

Mr. Speaker—"Possibly both," adding that the enquiry had better be withdrawn while he considered the point.

Miscellaneous Bills.

Hon. Mr. Burchill presented the petition of the town council of the town of Chatham in favor of a bill to authorize the said town to issue debentures; also the petition of the Southwest Boom Company in favor of a bill to consolidate and amend the several acts relating to the company.

Mr. Sutton presented a petition from the town of Woodstock in favor of a bill relating to that town.

Mr. Potts presented the petition of the St. John River Hydro-Electric Company, in favor of the bill to amend the act incorporating the said company.

Mr. Guphill presented the petition of the Mayor and Aldermen of the town of St. Andrews in favor of a bill relating to the water system of that town.

Mr. Magee presented a petition in favor of a bill relating to Port Elgin village.

Mr. Michaud presented a petition from the town of Edmundston in favor of a bill to amend the act relating to the agreement between the town and Frasers, Limited; also to authorize the town to issue debentures and to amend the act in incorporating the town.

Mr. Grimmer presented the petition of the town of St. Stephen in favor of a bill to authorize the guaranteeing of the bonds of Hart Bros. Limited, by the said town.

Hon. Mr. Byrne introduced bills to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act to aid and facilitate the work of the commission appointed to enquire into the working of the Ontario and Nova Scotia Compensation Act, and a bill to repeal the act relating to short-hand reporting in certain courts. He also laid on the table the report of the Workmen's Compensation Act commission.

Hon. Mr. Robinson introduced bills to confirm the assessments made in aid of the Canadian Patriotic Fund to provide for the refunding of provincial and municipal indebtedness and to provide for the funding of certain expenditures in connection with the Jordan Sanatorium.

Woman Suffrage.

Hon. Dr. Roberts pursuant to notice introduced a bill to amend the New Brunswick Elections Act. This bill he explained, was the final outcome of years of effort on the part of the ladies of New Brunswick. It was promoted by the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the King's Daughters and other women's organizations, and its idea was to give women equal suffrage with men.

On the order of the day being called, Hon. Mr. Robinson asked that supply be allowed to stand over for a day or two.

The House went into committee with Mr. Leger (Westmorland) in the chair, and took up the consideration of the bill to consolidate the law relating to the solemnization of marriage.

Hon. Mr. Robinson said the bill was simply a consolidation of the existing acts and contained no amendment whatever to the law as it now stood.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said in looking through the sections of the bill it occurred to him that there was one case where some little amendment to the law might be advisable. In England, prior to the passing of Lord Hardwicke's act the marriages of persons under 18 years of age were not necessarily invalid because the consent of the parents had not been obtained. There was a decision in the courts of New Brunswick that the English law held good here, and he thought it might be advisable to amend anything which might be likely to question the validity of a marriage under such circumstances in this country. The bill could be amended without any difficulty. Another question which it might be well to consider while they were dealing with this subject was the status of children who were unfortunate enough to be born prior to the marriage of the parents. In most European countries the subsequent marriage of the parents legitimated children born before marriage and placed them in the same position in regard to civil rights as children born afterwards. This also was the law in one province of this Dominion if not two, Saskatchewan and Alberta, and he thought the time had arrived when the same law should be in force in this province. There were no doubt some objections to be raised, one of which was that it might tend to cause loose living.

He did not think, however, that there was much to be afraid of in that respect and in any event if the law as he suggested was enacted it would give the parents the chance to remedy their previous faults.

Marriage Licenses.

Hon. Mr. Byrne thought that some greater protection should be thrown around the issuing of marriage licenses. Under the existing conditions people came from the State of Maine who for some cause or other are not able to get married in that state but have no difficulty in doing so in this province. Persons seeking marriage

licenses should be obliged to make an affidavit as to their status and age and if they will not make any affidavit notice of the intended marriage should be published for some days before hand.

Mr. Potts said there appeared to him to be enough in the bill to require careful consideration. Conditions had materially changed since the requirements of the marriage licenses first came in. He thought that the marriage of young people should be encouraged and not hindered, particularly in view of the present situation in the country. What was wanted was more advanced ideas and instead of putting hindrances in the way of the young people getting married he felt more like taking them by the hand and leading them to the altar and waiting while he tied them up.

Hon. Mr. Sweeney said that question of the marriage bonds might also very profitably be enquired into. As matters stood bondsmen nowadays were very frequently men of straw. Anybody who was willing to go with a prospective bridegroom and sign the papers was accepted. It should be the duty of the provincial secretary or whoever issued the license to see that the bondsmen were honest. There was no penalty attached to the bond which made it practically worthless and there should at least be some sort of safeguard in so important a matter.

Clandestine Marriages.

Hon. Mr. Baxter said that the act of 1915 had been framed with a view of preventing clandestine marriages. In regard to bans the parties might reside in different places and publication might be made in one place and not in the other.

Major Tilley said that so far as the Church of England in this province was concerned bans were not published in one case out of a hundred. He thought if publication was desired (Continued on page 4)

The Victory Won—our task but well begun!



"Alcohol is more destructive than war, pestilence and famine."

—William Stuart Gladstone

THE CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT

The policy of the Dominion Alliance is to encourage the repeal of the Canada Temperance Act (Scott Act) in counties in which it has been operating. Where this is done the new Provincial Prohibitory Law would then become effective. It is always easier to enforce one uniform law. The New Brunswick Government cannot put its new law in effect in Scott Act counties, as the latter is Dominion legislation, which has precedence over provincial legislation. Friends of temperance who live in Scott Act counties are, however, asked to co-operate in the more thorough enforcement of that Act so long as it continues in operation.

The summit of the hill at last has been won after countless futile charges. Shouts of jubilation proclaim victory. The last German has fled. Flushed with success, the soldiers' caps are flung high in the air, but the old veteran captain shouts, "Off with your tunics, boys, and dig in for your lives! The victory is yet not ours—this summit must be held!"

For half a century the people of New Brunswick have fought the Demon Rum for possession of the province. The summit of the last commanding position is won. The Prohibition Law in New Brunswick was finally consummated when it went into effect May 1st, 1917. Let us not shout "Victory" too fervently. We have won only the means to a final Victory—the power to enforce province-wide freedom from the Traffic. The real fight is yet to come.

Are we going to leave to a few zealous and sincere officials the whole brunt of the fight? Or, shall we let them know that they have behind them, in their duty of enforcing the New Prohibition Act, a whole province full of reserve power and vigilant enthusiasm that will help and encourage them to consolidate this glorious heritage of Prohibition for ever!

Help to Enforce Prohibition

Licensing of the liquor traffic has had a fair trial for many years. Within a comparatively brief period New Brunswick must vote again and decide for or against a permanent Prohibitory law. In the meantime, the Prohibition law must demonstrate its worth beyond doubt. Brief though the testing time may be, we believe the people will, by their hearty and sincere co-operation, make the result decisive. Never again in New Brunswick shall the enemy gain a foothold!

Every man and woman in this province shares the responsibility for the proper enforcement of Prohibition—not the officers of the law alone. **Your** duty is clear.

No matter where you live, whether the Canada Temperance Act or the new Prohibitory Law operates in your district, you are urged to use every legitimate means within your power to heartily support and aid the officers in their sworn duty of enforcing the law.

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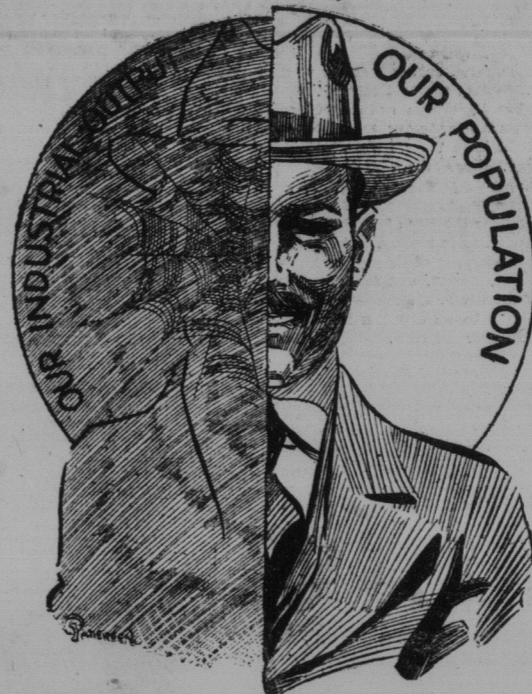
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This condition should be changed. We are certainly in a favored locality: raw material in abundance, cheap power, unexcelled transportation facilities, good living conditions are ours.

The biggest lesson we have to learn—the lesson we must religiously practice and preach is this: Patronize local industries—Buy goods made at home. If we unite in this effort, increased progress and prosperity for our community as a whole cannot fail to be the result.

We, as individuals, wherever possible should encourage excellence in our community by giving preference to home products. Let us each one make it a point to buy something made at home today. You will find something in every store you visit.

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