

April 26, 1911



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to this particular bill, but expressed his firm belief that the day would soon come when such a bill would pass the legislature.

"I am not going to take up the time of the House defending the rights of women. I feel, as all the members of the House, I am sure, feel, that women are not looked down upon, but looked up to with reverence. It is just that reverence that causes many men to object to the idea of women mixing with men in our elections. Women voters in municipal elections can always be counted upon when any question of moral reform is before the electorate."

In R. J. McCormick, of East Lambton, the bill found a friend who was danger in spite of the fact that he saw danger in it for himself.

"I'm afraid," said he, "that if this came up in Lambton my wife might take the convention and she would be here and me up yonder. We have to look after our own interests. Every living soul in my family are girls, and if I don't say a word on this bill they will want to know why, and I might find myself out of the house. I was wondering if that raise in our salaries had anything to do with this demand for a vote."

### Mr. MacKay's Views

Hon. A. G. MacKay pointed out that the bill was in such a form that it could not be passed, and therefore must be treated as a resolution. On that ground he would vote against it. From that he went on to speak in a general way in favor of women voting.

He resented the statement made that women could not enter politics, because they were bad. No man of a clear sense of duty could enter public life without being made better by so doing. In his opinion the granting of the franchise to women could not have anything but an ennobling influence. If the women in England had made nuisances of themselves, they had followed good advice in so doing, the advice of the late Henry Campbell-Bannerman.

It was not a fair argument to say that women did not want the vote because they did not all vote in municipal elections. That was rather a barren privilege. The experience of other countries showed that where women had the franchise they used it almost in as large numbers as the men. He had not heard of a country where the franchise had been once extended to women and withdrawn.

"I think they'll have it in the Old Land in the next two years," declared Mr. MacKay.

### Same Work, Same Pay

One result of granting women's franchise would be that women doing the same work as men would get the same pay, as they should. From a democratic point of view the arguments were all on the side of the women. They boasted of the laws being "broad based upon the people's will," and yet men claimed to be the whole people. Women were as much affected by legislation as men.

"The granting of full franchise and giving them the hall-mark of full citizenship," said Mr. MacKay, "will not induce our women to rock the cradle any less frequently or any less intelligently, but more frequently, more intelligently, and more confidently, because she will know that she holds in her right hand a weapon which will protect the future of her child."

Mr. MacKay said that it was a question for the women themselves to decide whether they could do the most good with or without the ballot. If they decided that they could do more with the ballot their request should be granted.

### Avoid Haste, Says Premier

Sir James Whitney refrained from a discussion of the general principle of the bill, but devoted himself chiefly to emphasizing the need of a voiding haste or recklessness in dealing with such questions. In the present discussion no evidence had been furnished that there was any general demand for such a change from the people of the province. Such changes, he thought, were the products of evolution. People thought that they were hastening time or murdering time, but they were mistaken. Such things came by the working out of laws which were God's laws. The whole thing was to form public opinion, and public opinion when formed would express itself.

The bill was declared lost on division.

In New Brunswick the women's suffrage bill was defeated by only a majority of three.

## It Is For You To Say



Try Blue Ribbon once. Then it is for you to say if you will use it after that. If you find that it is not superior to the tea you have been using you may take the packet back and your money will be refunded. But we know you will like it.

### THE INNOCENTS

To make perfect the heaven of mothers  
The little children die,  
For what care they for the praise of God  
Who have sung a lullaby?

The arms that have ached with nursing  
Would ache with their emptiness  
Were there no little children  
To fondle and caress.

And while the saints and angels  
Sing loud in adoring throngs,  
God hears the mothers and children  
Singing their crooning songs.  
—Peter McArthur in *Ourselves*.

### THE GRASSHOPPER'S MISTAKE

"Take care, there! I'm afraid you don't see where you are going. You'll get caught in that spider's web the next you know."

But he kept on jumping as carelessly as ever a grasshopper could, and never minded a word I said. Up he would go, without any thought as to how or where he would come down. There was a spider's web in the tall grass just before him.

"Take care," said I, "or you will get into trouble. Don't you see that spider's web?"

He winked at me saucily, and said: "You just attend to your books!" (for I was getting a lesson in geometry). "I guess I know how to keep out of a spider's web!"

The words were hardly out of his mouth when up he went again as heedlessly as ever. A shiver in the web and a bending of the grass told the story. One of his hind feet had caught, and with an awkward curve he had come around to hang with his head downward and his back to the web.

"There!" said I; "didn't I tell you?"

But the grasshopper's pertness was not diminished. "There's only one foot caught," said he, "there are five feet yet. I'll show you. Just see here!" and he turned half-way over and gave a push with his free hind foot, but instead of pushing his hind foot free, the one he pushed with was caught, and he was worse off than ever.

"There!" said I again. But he interrupted me, and said, in the midst of another convulsive struggle. "Wait a minute; I have four feet free yet."

But the only effect of his efforts was to get all his limbs entangled in the deceptive snare.

And now was the spider's opportunity. Out he came from his hiding-place and ran backward and forward over the body of his victim, spinning each time a thread that made more fruitless the desperate struggles of the grasshopper. It was but the work of a moment, and every limb of the head-strong, silly grasshopper was bound fast, and a web had been spread so thick over his head that I could not see it at all.

That's a true story, children. I saw

with my own eyes. I did all the speaking, but the grasshopper and the spider did just what I have told you. I am older now than I was then; that was a great many years ago. Since then I have seen children as reckless and foolish as this grasshopper, and have seen their parents and teachers waste their advice, and to as little purpose as I did then.—Well-Spring.

**ONLY THE OLD PLAIN PEOPLE**  
My people are old plain people, the simple and sweet and slow—  
Only the old plain people it is so sweet to know.  
Only the old plain people, Toilers of trust and gleam,  
Who sow in the open valleys  
And reap in the hills of dream.

My people have hearts for trusting, and they are the first and best,  
With hearts of the honest feeling for life in a stainless breast.  
Only the old plain people,  
With labor to do to live,  
And nothing but love to offer  
And nothing but hope to give.

My people are old plain people who greet in a friendly way  
With a wave of the hand saluting, and a merrily sung good-day.  
Only the old plain people,  
The strength of the world, its trust,  
Who are never ashamed of labor,  
That it humble them down in the dust.

Who are never ashamed of struggle and worry and grief and care.  
But toil with a something noble in tone and twang and air.  
Only the old plain people,  
My friends that I love to greet  
With a ripple of love's good-morning  
In a land that is all so sweet.  
—Bentztown Bard in *Baltimore Sun*.

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