

sion of 1916, who went over the ground and made friends in every town and city in France, Canada will obtain one-eighth of all the orders that will come to North America. Our population is one-eighth of that of the United States. I am quite sure that one-eighth of those orders will be granted to us with the greatest pleasure by all the authorities in France. Some products could be standardized and could be produced in such a way as to keep many of our mills going night and day. The French people are most desirous of showing their goodwill and gratefulness for Canada's participation in the war.

I notice that we are promised a new Franchise Bill. The question does not especially appertain to this Chamber, but I express the hope that the Bill may be based on true democratic principles. I hope that, as we revert to normal times and conditions, all citizens will be treated on an equal basis. Immigration laws, as the honourable gentleman from Selkirk (Hon. Mr. Bradbury) has said, may in many instances be made more severe, but when those immigration laws are passed, they should apply equally to all, and the people who enter this country under them should all be treated evenly under the Franchise Act.

The Government has announced that women will be given the right of membership in Parliament. I do not object to that, since I voted in favour of recognizing their right to express their views at the polls, and the recognition of that right implied the right of representation. Some may think this right is merely theoretical, but it is not so in some of the legislatures of the Northwest, for I am told that there are already two women representatives in the legislatures of Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Hon. Mr. DENNIS: And in British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. DANDURAND: And there is one in British Columbia. I may mention that I saw in the House of Representatives of Norway, the Storting, a university woman, a professor of high standing, who had been elected for one of the wards of Christiania.

Other important measures are announced which strike me as highly interesting. Highways are to receive the attention of the Government. The interests of the returned soldiers are to be considered, and I would add my wish to that expressed by the

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honourable gentleman who preceded me, that their treatment may be generous. Public health will be discussed and better housing conditions studied.

I see that temperance legislation also will engage our attention. I say "temperance legislation." In the Speech from the Throne, if I am not mistaken, the word "prohibition" occurs. I have already had occasion in this Chamber to say that I am not in favour of prohibition; I am in favour of temperance legislation; but I may state, speaking for myself, that I intend to resist, to the utmost of my power, the prohibition of French wines and the prohibition of beer. I hope we shall all be able to express freely our views on the matter, and, if we feel that wines from France are not objectionable or injurious, or that the use of beer is not injurious, we shall allow to the people of Canada the freedom to use such beverages. I have yet to learn that beer and wine have been injurious features in the life of the nations that have used them. I am ready to join in the banning of alcohol, because I have seen to what extent it can inflict damage upon the community; but when it comes to beverages that have yet to be proven dangerous, I draw the line, claiming the right of the individual to enjoy whatever beverage he wants to use if it is not injurious to the community. And I will draw the attention of my honourable friends to this fact, that our confederation is based on a contract which drew the provinces together, and I am quite sure that the provinces, when they joined in confederation, consenting to deliver to the Federal power a certain number of rights and privileges in order to clothe it with the necessary authority to attend to the general welfare of the community, did not intend to authorize the Dominion power to encroach upon the domestic habits of the population. In fact, if you read the Act of Confederation you will realize that all that pertained to the habits of the population was left to the various provinces. I feel that it would be encroaching on provincial rights, it would be violating the spirit of the constitution, to permit one section of the Dominion of Canada to impose its customs and habits upon another section.

The Speech from the Throne states, as do all speeches from the Throne, that the financial statement for the preceding year will be laid before us, as well as the Estimates for the coming year. I desire to express the wish that, as this session may last for some months, we may have a full accounting from the Finance Department of its administration