

had been rolling on through the centuries like a great wave that could not be stopped? She further pointed out that militancy was largely the result here of official unimaginativeness, and exhorted him to see to it that in Canada the women would not be driven to such terrible methods by similar mistakes on the part of politicians. Miss Sharp ended by repeating the question put by Miss Barrett—Would he on his return to Canada introduce a measure giving Votes to Women on the same terms as men?

Mr. Borden's Reply.

You have asked me whether I propose to announce on my return to Canada that I will introduce legislation on the question you mention. I can only say that at present I have no such intention, and for this reason: We have in Canada at the present time nine provinces, the legislatures of which absolutely control the franchise so far as the election of members and provincial legislation are concerned; therefore, so far as these provinces are concerned, and so far as the provincial franchise in each of these provinces is concerned, the Parliament of Canada has absolutely no power whatever. In addition to that the Parliament of Canada, for some fifteen years past, has adopted and maintained a law under which the provincial franchise is made valid for the purposes of election to the Parliament of Canada. If, therefore, I should go to Canada and announce what you suggest, I should be making a departure from the policy which has been in force in our country for more than fifteen years. It is needless to remind you that a departure of that character would require a little more consideration than I have been able to give during the few moments at my disposal this morning, I mean the question whether or not we shall enact a general franchise law. As a matter of fact, until it had been taken into consideration, and until we had definitely decided to revert to the old practice, it would be

manifestly impossible to make any such announcement as you suggest. The statement of affairs there briefly resolves itself into this: So far as the nine provinces are concerned, we have to be convinced that it is expedient to abolish the law that has been in force for fifteen years, and to establish a general franchise law for electoral affairs throughout Canada.

Miss Barrett: If you do establish that general franchise law will you establish it so that women—?

Mr. Borden: I am coming to that in a minute. So far as your affairs in the British Isles are concerned, with which I do not profess to be acquainted, that is a question entirely for the British Isles. I do not interfere with these matters for the same reason that I would not expect the Prime Minister of England to come to Canada and interfere with those matters so far as we are concerned. It is a matter in respect of which the people of the British Isles, both men and women, must work out their own salvation. I would like to be permitted, with all respect, just to make one observation, that I think the women of Canada are sufficiently intelligent to judge of these matters for themselves.

Wiser Than Mr. Asquith.

I should like to add to that that I should be most happy to receive any delegation from the women of Canada made by them for the purpose of laying before me their views and impressions, and I trust the time will never come when I shall decline to receive any deputation or delegation of that kind.

I am not aware that the laws in Canada at the present time, or in any of the provinces are unjust to women. Certainly, so far as the Dominion legislation is concerned, we should be most eager and ready to make any changes in the laws in that regard, if it can be demonstrated to our satisfaction that such injustice exists. Some reference has been made to the homestead laws. I can only say that so far as the home-