

for the islands. What a pity the honorable gentleman does not take his own advice. At least if the other members of the House would consent to take up their history books, they might thereby escape being misled by the supposedly learned, but really unfounded statements of the honorable member.

Mr. McPhillips is also quoted as saying that "it was necessary before a body could go to the people that it should have some constructive policy to present." Here the honorable member appears to be distinctly muddled. The women who are asking for the franchise are not "going to the people" for election (by the way, who are the "people?"), but merely asking to have a voice in electing those who will make the laws which they have to obey and who will fix the taxes which women must pay equally with men. We are told that Mr. McPhillips made profuse quotation from Gladstone, but he seems to have omitted such axioms as "Taxation without representation is tyranny," and many eloquent speeches in praise of democracy which are attributed to the "Grand Old Man." Will Mr. McPhillips explain to us how we can have a democracy when only approximately half the people are represented?

The honorable member for the islands is further quoted as saying that "the parliament was but a development of the family idea, the family organization." This statement becomes truer every day, since so many matters formerly attended to by women in their own homes—such as food, clothing and amusement for the family—have passed out of the hands of the house-mother into those of the community, and have hence become subjects for legislation. This statement by the honorable member for the islands is one of the strongest of arguments in favor of woman suffrage. It is true that in law (man-made law, that is) the father is the only member of the family who is vested with authority, but the law in this respect is entirely out of accord with the facts of every-

day life. The importance of the mother in the family is shown by the fact that amongst working people the death of the mother is much more disastrous to the unity of the family than the death of the father, and this in spite of the fact that the woman's earning power is perhaps only one-half to two-thirds that of the man. It is precisely because the state is an extension, as it were, of the family, that women are needed in the government along with men in order to give a well-balanced and representative organization.

Mr. McPhillips is further quoted as admitting that conditions under masculine rule were not as they should be. But almost in the next breath he insists that women must prove men to have failed in their "duties" before the former could be expected to step in and fulfil the duties in which men have failed. Not at all. When woman asks for the franchise she does not propose to oust man from his position as law-maker, which would be the logical procedure, Mr. McPhillips seems to admit, in case man had failed utterly; but merely to assist him by her special knowledge in certain departments of life which in recent years have become subjects for legislation, for, to repeat Mr. McPhillips' quotation from Mirabeau, "Men and women play an entirely different part in nature."

Mr. McPhillips is also quoted as saying, "Women have never been enfranchised." This is not strictly true. Previous to the Reform Bill of 1832 English women with the necessary property qualifications did have votes. There are women in England to-day whose grandmothers voted previously to the year 1832. We are, perhaps, therefore justified in casting the burden of proof on the side of the honorable member for the islands, and demanding of him why our ancient privileges should not be restored.

AILEEN McCLUGHAN.

Lac la Pêche, B. C., March 6, 1913.