

following terms: "The Law Society may in its discretion make rules providing for the admission of women to practise as solicitors."

Convocation by a bare majority¹ directed the Legal Education Committee to frame regulations, and on their report being adopted a rule was passed December 27, 1872, to become effective at Hilary Term of the following year.

Miss Martin was duly articulated—the regulations for the admission of women as solicitors did not differ from those prescribed for men. She was not satisfied with the lower branch of the profession; but there was no statute permitting her to be called to the Bar.

In 1895, the Ontario Legislature (again at the instance of Sir Oliver Mowat) passed the Act² which amended the previous Act by giving the Law Society discretion to call women to the Bar. In the following May, Miss Martin wrote to Convocation, expressing her desire to be called to the Bar; and after a good deal of discussion a rule was passed substantially the same as that for men³ under which she was called to the Bar, February 2, 1897: she was admitted as a solicitor on the same day.

Since that time there have been seven other women admitted as solicitors and called to the Bar—of the eight, the

¹ The mover was Sir Oliver Mowat (who was a Bencher *ex officio* as being Attorney-General of the Province), the Seconder Hon. S. H. Blake (who was a Bencher *ex officio* as being an ex Vice-Chancellor): the vote was 12 to 11 and would have been a tie, had it not been that one Bencher was on his feet in Court and did not reach Convocation Room until the vote was just being taken. His objection was that the Province cast upon the Benchers of the Law Society the duty of deciding in their discretion what should have been decided by the Legislature as a matter of public policy. Most if not all of those who voted "Nay" were opposed to the principle of admitting women altogether. The Minute Books of the Law Society for 1892, pp. 544, 550, and 551, contain the proceedings of Convocation.

² 58 Vic. c. 27 (Ont.).

³ In Easter Term, May 18, 1896, her application was received; June 5, a motion to direct the Legal Education Committee to frame regulations was voted down by a vote of 9 to 6; June 30, Charles Moss, C.C. (afterwards Sir Charles Moss, Chief Justice of Ontario), gave notice (for Sir Oliver Mowat) that he would renew the motion on the first day of the following Term. In Trinity Term, September 14, the motion passed by a vote of 8 to 4; September 25, the regulations were reported and a Rule framed and read. In Michaelmas Term, November 17, a motion to rescind the Resolution of September 14 was lost, and the following day the Rule received its second and third reading and was passed.

Minute Book, No. 5, pp. 19, 738, 768, 775.

Minute Book, No. 6, pp. 10, 13, 26.