

out any organization I shall be glad if he will do so.) I have not yet heard of any organization of women in this province opposed to the extension of the municipal franchise to married women. I am sure my Hon. friend cannot point to any representations made to the Government by any women of this province in opposition to this Bill. Mr. Speaker, if we desire to find out the real source of the opposition to this bill, we will have to search somewhere else than among the women of the province of Ontario.

### IN FORCE IN ENGLAND

My Hon. friend the Provincial Treasurer says that many of the leading women in Great Britain, as well as the women here, are opposed to the extension of the franchise. Does not my Hon. friend know; does not the Government realize that married women in England have for years enjoyed the municipal franchise on the same terms as widows and spinsters? There is no controversy in England whatever over the question of the municipal franchise for married women—all the controversy there is over the parliamentary franchise. WHAT THIS BILL PROPOSES TO GIVE TO THE MARRIED WOMEN OF THIS PROVINCE IS THE SAME RIGHT WHICH THEIR MARRIED SISTERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND HAVE ENJOYED FOR YEARS. In fact, in Great Britain they not only have the right to exercise the municipal franchise, but women have the right to be elected to public municipal positions.

When my Hon. friend says this proposal is too radical, I say on the contrary, it is simply a tardy recognition on our part of a right which has been granted by other British communities many years ago. We are not taking the lead: we are simply making a somewhat feeble effort to catch up in the procession of other British communities within the Empire. This disinclination to give married women the right to vote on their own property, is, as my Hon. friend the mover of this bill (Mr. Elliott) has already pointed out, but a survival of the old, and what now appears to be a most antiquated idea, namely, the right of the husband to control the wife's person and property, and the children of the family, and with this right of control of person and property went the right to vote upon her property.

### VARIOUS STEPS OF PROGRESS.

It is difficult for us to realize that it was only in the year 1882 in Great Britain, and I believe in 1884 in this province, that mar-