

franchise, but very early he began to see that without woman's franchise there would be no real rapid advancement.

### **Woman's Franchise in Australia and New Zealand.**

Professor McNaughton, in an article entitled, "A Plea for Woman's Suffrage in Canada," says, in speaking of Australia:—

"Here and here alone, the British flag, British government and British institutions, hold individual sway, and in this magnificent country it has been realized that women have a distinct and important part to play in contributing to the welfare of the body politic.

Australia simply followed the lead of New Zealand, where parliamentary suffrage had been given to women nine years previously.

In the beginning of his wonderful career as a social and political reformer, Richard Seddon had the insight to perceive that this reform—the enfranchisement of women—was fundamental, and that if he was to carry other measures that he considered desirable, this one must first be accomplished. So his first act upon coming into office was to push through the women's suffrage bill, which had already been introduced by his predecessor, Premier Ballance. In the parliamentary election that took place about a month after the bill was passed, and in which the women voted as generally as the men, almost the entire woman's vote was cast on the side of Sedden and reform."

### **The Conscientiousness of Woman Voters.**

Speaking of the conscientiousness of the women voters in Australia, Professor McNaughton declares:

"This indeed appears to me a distinctive and satisfactory characteristic of the woman's vote—that it above all things endeavors to ascertain and act upon the merits of the case.

The lines in which woman's influence is to be specially felt are becoming gradually clear. In the first place they have largely declared themselves against privilege, against monopolies of all kinds, against the raising of the cost of living by a protective tariff, in favor of temperance, moral and physical cleanliness, and all that goes to build up a good national character. They are organizing throughout the state and their power is great. The question then arises, why,