

was to announce the extension of the suffrage to women—so that women in Canada now enjoy the same franchise as men. Not all of them voted at the last election; only those voted who had immediate relatives in the Canadian Expeditionary Force. But hereafter, through legislation enacted at our last Session, every woman in Canada of twenty-one years of age or upwards will have the right to an equal voice in the nation's affairs with the men of Canada; and the women of Canada have earned that right by their splendid devotion to our cause throughout the war.

We have adopted another very important law. Every Province of Canada except Quebec has prohibited the sale of intoxicating liquors, and the Legislature of Quebec has provided that after the 1st May, 1919, the sale of intoxicating liquor shall be prohibited throughout that Province. The Provinces, however, have not the right under our system to prohibit importation, manufacture, or transportation. After the formation of the present Government and in pursuance of a pledge given to the electorate we provided by Order-in-Council, under our War Measures Act, that the importation, manufacture, and transportation of intoxicating liquors in Canada shall be absolutely prohibited. This is the situation in all the Provinces. In Quebec the sale is permitted in the few communities in which licenses are granted until the first of May, 1919; in all the other Provinces the sale is already entirely prohibited.

Another important measure that we have enacted might not suit conditions in other parts of the Empire. It has been passed under the War Measures Act, a very important statute which confers upon the Governor General in Council practically all the powers of Parliament. We find it exceedingly convenient. The measure to which I allude is popularly known in Canada as the Anti-Loafing Law. It is a very good law in time of war, and I am not sure that it would not be an equally good law in time of peace. It provides that every man in Canada between the ages of 16 and 60 inclusive, regardless of his financial position, regardless of his income, must be engaged in some useful occupation. We have left it largely to the local authorities throughout the country to interpret and enforce it, and they are enforcing it with remarkably good results in many cases.

So far as taxation is concerned we believe that we have in Canada the highest taxation upon war profits that is to be found in any belligerent country. Whether or not you may believe that, I am convinced that the business men of Canada are entirely of that opinion because they have so assured me