

katchewan and Alberta, the provincial franchise has been granted to women by legislative enactment, and in British Columbia the electors have voted in favour of similar legislation:

Whereas it is provided in the Dominion Elections Act that persons entitled to vote for members of a provincial legislature shall also be entitled to vote for members of Parliament, but in respect to Alberta and Saskatchewan—alone of all the provinces of Canada—it is provided that only males shall be entitled to vote for members of the federal Parliament, thus creating an anomalous situation as between the provinces, which should be removed:

Whereas during the present Empire struggle the women of Canada have shown a most intelligent and patriotic interest in, and an unselfish devotion to, the welfare of the State;

And whereas it seems but just and right that they should be given a voice in the direction of its affairs;

In the opinion of this House it is desirable that provision be made either to grant to women who are qualified to vote for members of a Provincial Legislature, the right also to vote for members of the Dominion Parliament, or to grant to women throughout the Dominion the right to vote for members of Parliament, subject to such provisions and limitations as may seem reasonable to Parliament."

As it was out of order for Dr. Pugsley to move this amendment he asked that Mr. Sutherland incorporate it in the original resolution before the House. Dr. Pugsley added that if Mr. Sutherland would not permit this amendment to be incorporated in the resolution he gave notice of the following resolution:

That all the words after the word 'that' be struck out and the following be substituted therefore:

The Dominion Elections Act should be so amended at the present session as to make uniform the right of women to vote for members of the House of Commons in those provinces which have granted to them the provincial franchise.

At the conclusion of this discussion on this debate the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Borden, took exception to Mr. Sutherland's motion and Dr. Pugsley's amendment. He stated that he did not entirely agree with the terms of the resolution and in consequence he suggested the following amendment:

That the words after the word "that" in the proposed motion be omitted to the end thereof and the following substituted therefor:

In the opinion of this House the question of extending the franchise to women should engage the attention of Parliament before an appeal to the people is made.

The House adjourned before the vote was taken on any of these amendments with the understanding that on a later date the discussion would continue.

On August 25th, 1917, the Hon. Wm. Pugsley brought to the attention of the House the fact that the Government had not given any indication of having the discussion proceeded with and was informed by Sir George Foster, who was leading the House, that the matter would be brought to the attention of the Prime Minister.

Again on August 27th, 1917, Dr. Pugsley brought the matter to the attention of the House and Sir Robert Borden promised consideration.

It will be noted that shortly after this the new Franchise Bill was introduced whereby the women of the five Provinces who had already been given the vote were disfranchised and the vote only given

to the wives, mothers and sisters of the soldiers at the front.

From the above it will be noted that the question of giving the women of Canada a vote had been before the House and carefully considered for two Sessions of Parliament.

The following is an extract from a letter which Sir Robert Borden wrote to Mrs. K. O. Perry of Vancouver, as it appeared in the Vancouver papers, September 19th, 1917:

Ottawa, Ont.

"In case I am returned to power, it is my purpose to place upon the statute books a measure granting the franchise to all women of British birth and conferring upon women of foreign birth the right to seek and obtain naturalization on their own behalf; that they may become endowed with the same privilege after suitable residence in this country and perhaps after suitable educational tests. The same measure should provide that a woman of British citizenship should not lose this citizenship upon her marriage except with her own consent."

(Sgd.) R. L. Borden.

PRIMARY NEED IS SHIPS.

Former Premier Asquith in House of Commons on Thursday, December 20th, 1917, stated:

"The primary need at this moment was ships, for which new construction must be supplied by Great Britain and the United States. Everything turned on transport, and in every discussion on man power, that must be the dominating factor.

"I regard the problems of finance and transport as the most pressing, and to-day they were more formidable than a year ago.

"We ought to make it increasingly clear by every possible means that the only ends we are fighting for are liberty and justice for the world as a whole, for freedom of great and small states which should all stand on a level footing and possess equal rights.

"A league of nations is the ideal for which we are fighting, and we are fighting for it with a clear conscience, clean hands and an unwavering heart."

IMPERIALISM.

The jingo Imperialists throughout Canada are doing a lot of loud shouting in response to the following cablegram which the Hon. W. F. Massey, Prime Minister of New Zealand, sent to the Canadian Premier, Sir Robert Borden, immediately after the elections on December 17th, 1917.

"I regard result your election as triumph for Imperial cause and proof that Canadians determined to do their full duty in defending the Empire and bringing this great fight for freedom to successful and satisfactory conclusion. Congratulate senior dominion most heartily."

We would now like to hear from our jingo friends when they read Premier Massey's message to Premier Hughes of Australia on the defeat of conscription. Will Mr. Massey say Australia is disloyal? Certainly not. He knows Australia, and Canada and New Zealand and South Africa are loyal, whether they vote a conscription measure or not. We are having a little too much flag-waving and shouting in Canada and the sooner it is stopped the better.