

parliament were interviewed in person or by letter. The newspapers were pressed into service as a means of creating public sentiment, and by the time the House opened in the spring of 1892 everything was ripe for action.

As a result of the consideration given by the Government to the representations of the official delegation that waited on them, we have the "Act to protect those employed in places of business other than factories."

Because of the lack of enforcing clauses, this law brought no practical relief to those in whose interests it was drafted, but it marks an advanced position taken in the march towards the goal.

While engaged in preparing for this Bill the Committee came by accident, if one may so speak, into possession of a good deal of data that did not fit into their plan of work, as it related not to mercantile houses but factories, the workers in which were supposed to be already sufficiently guarded. The benefits to be derived from the inspection of both mercantile houses and factories by women became apparent, but, lest a double issue might jeopardize the success of the original undertaking, it was decided to ask for but one thing at a time.

From the date of the passage of the Mercantile House Act an agitation was kept up through the County and Provincial Convention, and had not the plebiscite intervened the Government would, in all probability, have been approached in the spring of 1894. Last year, at Cornwall, it was decided to make our appeal without further delay, and, in pursuance of this decision, the Sub-Executive obtained an interview with the Cabinet on Monday, March 18th. The four points pressed were these:

1st—The amending of the Mercantile House Act so as to make it workable.

2nd—The appointment of women inspectors for all places where women are employed.

3rd—The compulsory placing of seats for women clerks.

4th—The prohibition of the use of unhealthful basements as sale rooms.

The session of the House then in progress granted the first two requests, but left the rest in abeyance.

I would recommend that the Mercantile House Act, of 1892, and its amendment, of 1895; also the amendment to the Factory Act, providing for a woman inspector, be printed in the new report so that our workers may have access to these important bits of legislation. Special plans of work with reference to them will be reported from the Plan of Work Committee.

I would further recommend that this Convention should tender to Sir Oliver Mowat and Cabinet its most hearty thanks for their humane action in the introduction of the amendment above referred to, and should express their gratitude to those whose votes enabled it to become law.

FRANCHISE.

The cause moves on apace. It is no use for the *Barrie Examiner*, the *Walkerton Telescope*, or any other little town paper, to bestrew the track with its opinions of the