

from this was The National Union of Women Suffrage Societies, at present having for its president, Mrs. L. A. Hamilton. Another famous Ontario suffragist to carry the banner of suffrage is Mrs. Yeomans, also of Toronto. In addition to these bodies the W.C.T.U. and the National Council of Women in Canada have made suffrage one of the main planks in their platforms.

But though it was in Ontario, the heart of the eastern part of Canada, that suffrage had its inception, it has lagged here and in circumjacent provinces. It found heartier accord and more active following up in the breezy far west. In the four western provinces life was as yet less easy than the east; the fighting spirit of the pioneer had not become enervated by too much civilization. And, moreover, the land was new, taking thus the more readily to reform than the staid, more settled provinces of the old east, where time was necessary for long deliberation.

Since the war began the four western provinces of Canada, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba have allowed votes for women. In British Columbia and Manitoba these rights not only pertain to provincial elections but to Federal also. Thus not only will women voters figure in the next Dominion election, but women candidates.

In the other two provinces the law, as it stands, forbids women to vote in Federal elections. But with the first two enjoying the full rights, it will not be long till the other provinces make a fight for Federal voting rights. With the exception of British Columbia the right to vote has been in force for over a year in the other provinces. British Columbia has decided the question by a provincial election, and women have the vote now.

As an instance of what little things will do to turn the tide of affairs, a brief review of the British Columbia election is worthy of attention. Some time ago a petition signed by 20,000 names was presented by the leading suffragettes of British Columbia to the legislative assembly in session, asking for the vote. Though the petition was politely received by the legislature, it was surreptitiously consigned to the wastepaper basket, "unwept, unhonored and unsung," as one member light-heartedly remarked afterwards. But women's ears are long. The contemptuous receipt of their plea was just the thing needed to fire them to action. The women of the province, under the leadership of Mrs. John Farris and Mrs. Ralph Smith, of Vancouver, started a whirlwind campaign. The laws regarding women were particularly offensive, particularly the clause applying to child marriage. Old party lines were forgotten. The wives of Liberals joined hands with the wives of Conservatives. They checked and corrected voters' lists, conducted house to house campaigns and occupied the public platforms in behalf of their cause. Mrs. Smith delivered thirty-five addresses, Mrs. Farris ten. On election day women personally saw to getting the voters to the poles. And they won. Perhaps had those legislators been a little more careful, a little more polished and suave in the rejecting of the petition, the women might not have risen so quickly in their ire. All of which shows how little politicians know when it comes to dealing with women not as women but as vote-wielding human beings and equals.

The battle was less difficult in the other three provinces. Evidently more familiar with the danger of women once they move in a body, the legislatures of the Provinces of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan all granted the franchise when petitioned for. Manitoba and Saskatchewan women received the right in January and March, with Alberta having pioneered the way the Fall before. In the latter province, Mrs. Arthur Murphy became the first woman judge to hold office in Canada. Her interests are chiefly with young girls and male juveniles in crime.

Through the vote the women of these four provinces will shortly have the opportunity to place grave stones over such unjust legislation as child marriage laws in British Columbia, dower and homestead laws in the prairie provinces. Already women's work has helped along the cause of prohibition. Four provinces are now dry: Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, Ontario and British Columbia goes dry in July next.

Ontario is still the dividing line between the victorious west and the lagging east. But interest is rousing within its confines now. On the other hand Prince Edward Island and Nova Scotia confess supreme indifference. Quebec, though much active suffrage work has been carried on, still refuses the women even the vote on municipal and educational matters, and it is the only locality in the entire civilized world where a law has been passed debarring women ratepayers from becoming school trustees.

Still, nothing succeeds like success. And with such stirring victories won in the west, new life is bound to come to those women of the east. As it stands, Canada's women have made more rapid and greater progress than any other part of the civilized world.

As an outcome of the raising of \$500,000,000 for war purposes, the per capita debt of every man, woman and child in the Dominion is \$61.09. With the added \$30,000,000 raised for charity purposes, this total becomes \$65.14. This, without taking into consideration a neat little national debt of such a small matter as \$722,111,000.

But the mere fact of assuming the first mentioned obligations was bound to put prices on many things high. In fact, the cost of living was never higher in the Dominion than to-day. Powerful combines, in many instances, have taken advantage of things to run prices up. In connection with this, women once more came to the fore in the fight against injustice. While the incident was confined to one small part of the country, it shows what concentrated effort and

careful business dealings can do in the matter of effecting savings on the cost of living.

Mrs. R. J. Deachman, of Calgary, Alberta, is just a little over four feet high. But she is president of the Calgary Consumers' League with a three thousand women membership, and Mrs. Deachman, with the Consumers' League behind her, whipped the combines, and cut the cost of living in over three thousand households. Here is how they did it: They bought Lesser Slave whitefish by the car at the far northern sidings, where these fish were loaded. They found a Lethbridge miller who gave them a great cut on flour in two carload lots, and they bought and shipped it to Calgary. Next, the Vacant Lots Garden Club raised vegetables on 200 lots, with the result

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