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# Legislative Council

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ncil met at 3.30 p.m. purreading of the Act to Amend

MONDAY, March 16.

thes a precedent apart alto- hearty support of every member. on the acerbities of political

method, that man's ingenuity t devised whereby the will

Government assured.

ist be order. There may be ment. s of opinion amongst the in's officers and crew, but unese act in unison, shipwreck A once, and still famous, with these words:-"When we delib-

ture. One half of the popue of the whole manhood of the them is now.

Colds. enza and as a ventive Laxative Bromo *<u>Quinine</u>* tablets

At the request of the woman suffragists, the charge of this Bill in this chamber has devolved upon me, and of the great Victorian poets did:— I account it not only a high honor, but a cherished privilege. That there edicurnment. In moving the are those in the Chamber more skilled, more experienced and more acof the Consolidated Stat- ceptable, I am only too conscious. My And (3rd Series), entitled "Of hope is, however, that the importance of Members of the House of the matter, and the justice of the claims which find expression in the

followed, might do much sonably termed the first measure of far heavier than his own—those rights at the next session see fit to so further enfranchisement for women came be- and privileges which, rightly used, may amend the Electoral Act as to take life, and to rekindle the fore this Chamber, and on that occas- do more towards lightening the loads such steps as may be necessary to of a by-gone age when, to ion, as on this, the honor of its intro- of all. The times have changed and abolish the marking of ballots by reacaulay's memorable words: duction devolved upon me. It was a we must change with them or lag be-Bill to Amend the Law Society Act, hind, the self-confessed victims of an so that the doors of the legal profes- isolation which has blinded our eyes volving hardship to the aged. It is sion, until recent years, and in some to the movements of the years; our a sad commentary and a shameful lands even now, so exclusive, might ears to the calls of right and justice; one, on our educational system, that be opened wide to women. In the As- whilst our memories are arrested at the illiterate vote continues so imsembly it received majority support, the threshhold of the World War. portant a factor at successive elecbut not unanimity, and in the Council There were no women more pure, tions. Moreover, there is a further the result was similar. The member- more noble and more inspiring, than hope that the day may not be distant

the various species of Chamber. The Bill became law and the right that these of to-day are usk- by some section equally and if posshades which separate fifteen years. It may justly be regard- there any need such as now. The are matters for Government responas his will and each pursues wards the goal of which the Bill now and their interests were more centralt, with so many varying wills, first step towards a full enfranchise- a hundred causes have widened wo- of its purpose, and the total absence

mized through comradeship tion, that these obvious rights have the kinship of humanity, and the untakiness, cemented by loyalty, been so long withholden. But for a stability.

It is said that woman won the right to the bring to-day, party has disappear-like bill under consideration is the bill under consideration is the bill under consideration is the bring to day, party has disappear-like bill under consideration is the bill under consideration is the bring to day, party has disappear-like been so long withholden. But for agitation—agitation which has been conducted in a manner beyond reproach, and worthy of all praise, agitation—agitation which was not merely invited, been so long withholden. But for ity of its interests, irrespective of race or sex.

It is said that woman won the right to the Franchise as the result of her its interests, irrespective of race or sex.

It is said that woman won the right to the Franchise as the result of her its interests, irrespective of race or sex.

It is said that woman won the right to the Franchise as the result of her its interests, irrespective of race or sex. ernment measure. It is not but demanded by the failure to recogfeatured by any one party. nize the just rights of woman-citizenored by men of all parties. ship—this measure would not be beentary terms it is a private fore us to-day. There are in our rather, a non-Government Bill, midst some women, who have enjoyed never has a Bill of more wide the full rights of citizenship in other on been presented to this parts of the Empire, but have been cwn fair land. Surely, they then their country. It is a right recogof Newfoundland is directly in- vatism, on arrival in our midst, British their courage, their adaptability, if gift it is considered, then the gift is as now in so many others, to traverse the other half indirectly. Of subjects and our kinsfolk, to surrend-1833 residents of Newfoundland er the rights which other lands, justwhen the census was last ly and wisely have accorded them, and resume their places amongst the 49 out of every hundred. Sure- non-voters, the criminals, the imbewell that a matter of such ciles and the immature of the land. should be discussed and dealt citizens with all the rights and privfree from the trammels or lim- ileges of their brothers; whilst their as of party. Let the gift or the wives are excluded. It is well to de-

> ity, the delicacy of womanhood being day. What the war did was to dissisoiled by contact with the stern real- pate prejudice, and to cause man to ed the Countess Markoviecz who failsolled by contact with the stern realpate prejudice, and to cause man to
> ities of life, and their dainty feet muddled by traversing the paths that puberected pedestal.
>
> A land of settled government,
> A land of just and old renown
> where Freedom slowly broadens the proportion of women who aspire do far harder work, and face more dirt and more danger every day of their lives. The sympathy and consideration extended to them, the earnest desire to relieve them from the regularities and unpleasantness of life for part of one day in every four life commendable and more considerate the winds, or how long the bay tree them. Woman will stand to gain by flourishes wives and sisters, no matter what heir station in life may be, are daily their station in life may be, are daily and right the day must win, To doubt would be disloyalty. facing difficulties and solving proh-

Even Tennyson, a Victorian of the

thought, As also in birth and death. No power on earth can relieve either the Chamber in that spirit. ROBINSON said-Mr. Bill now before us, will be all the ad- ties before God or their fellows. It thic Bill, which has receiv- vocacy required, and will prove suf- has been left for man to assume the there should not be absolute equality mous approval of the ficient, not only to assure it safe pas- sole prerogative of control, and there-Branch of the Legislature, sage, but to evoke the sympathy and by at times to lessen at others to in- involves a literacy qualification the crease his burdens; whilst refusing path of restriction may prove the path from the purpose which it in- On March 10th, 1910, a few days to share with his co-burden bearers,— of wisdom. My hope, if not my conand one, which, even if only over 15 years ago, what may be rea- and sometimes the bearer of burdens fidence, is that the Government may

ship was smaller then and when the the wives and mothers of the Victor- when a section of the Act, abandoned second reading was moved there were ian age, but these moved in a world twelve years ago, thereby causing ajerity may be carried out only 10 members present, of whom far different to this in which the woonly three now occupy seats in this men of the present live. Theirs was tests, will be restored, or substituted has been on the Statute Book now for ing. But they desired it not, nor was sible more effective. These, however, ed as the first step in the march to- paths they traversed were secluded, sibility, and the present is a private before the House is the issue; the ized. Steam, Electricity, Radio and animously, because of the singleness man's horizon in these days, and wo- of controversal details. Looking up the Hansard of that larger spheres of both interest and illusions as to the effect of the Bill, year I am interested to note that the motion for the second reading closed motion for the second reading closed citizenship be limited to the home Statute Book. It will produce neither

circle. She, too, has learned, per- a new Heaven or a new earth. The spoke of the natural world as erately refuse the woman tax-payer, miously confused," but as one the woman bread-winner, the right corder in variety we see, of the franchise, we are giving cause here, though all things differ, for agitation," a quotation which in
with these words:—"when we delibhaps better in many ways than men themselves, its responsibilities, and with courage, and confidence, and a matter of fact I have yet to learn proved ability, prefers to face them, that women, whether without the vote of the franchise, we are giving cause with courage, and confidence, and a matter of fact I have yet to learn proved ability, prefers to face them, that women, whether without the vote dicates clearly that the vision of that in the times of peace, as she did so or with it, are less partisan in their with the party system, har- time was not limited to professional well and so fearlessly in the days of views and sympathies than men. Insion, or confused har-aspirations. In a land where indir-war. Florence Nightingale lit a lamp deed, until such time as a more efyou will. It has at ect taxation prevails every woman is whose rays burn more brightly as the fective form of Government than by ement of loyalty which the a tax-payer, and it is not a pleasing years pass by and whose oil is that party is discovered—and there is in in that direction presently in sight of a "Sisterhood," which recognizes in in that direction presently in sight —I am not sure such would be desir-

> self-sacrificing work during the years ber, not by any one party, but by all of war. He would be churl indeed, and parties, and will be thus in a position, ingrate, who refused the tribute of both individually and collectively, to his admiration and his praise for exercise their new powers and redaughters of the Empire, and of our sider will be the best interests of proved the mettle of their pasture, nized, rather than a gift. But if as a ties may it soon be less, in this land, can linger in the minds of men. The which might possibly regarded as at- primal duties, and if the journey is tribute of the Great War Veterans of taching to a party measure. resolution form, was as graceful as it fears of sex warfare. The interests of them. was merited. They voiced convictions men and women are inseparable, His-There are some men who contemptu-

ces of other lands count for anything. Rights endure though wrongs may Rights endure though wrongs may multiply. There are times when rights inaptly spoken of as domestic policy.

May the precedent which may be surrendered in the common inaptly spoken of as domestic policy. may be surrendered in the common There are spheres of community in- now before this Chamber is endeavorto public life is but a fraction of one cause. Sometimes, and not seldom, the terest in which men must necessity ing to establish prove a far forward insistence on rights is at the expense walk like Agag, delicately. The home step towards that stability of Govminated by entering a polling of duty and service. To the enduring life, education, hygiene, community ernment, and that sense of citizenbooth. The great majority of them credit of the women of the twentieth interest, philanthropy, will find new ship, with its services, its responsibilicentury when the call came, rights and more qualified champions. Wo- ities and its privileges, the due reyears, or even in every one or two, is justice. The ultimate triumph of justice is assured, no matter how adverse tice is assured, no matter how adverse equality in citizenship will place upon foundland, ere many hours have passification.

ems, and not only cross word ones, Loyal to their convictions, there blems that men with all their con- was a larger loyalty which for the The idence would hesitate to face, and time submerged these in the wider t is not as suppliants for the exer- that thereby came more full recogni- So said the gentle Words

and it is in that spirit thereby temporarily stayed.

their claim should be regarded, not I do not propose. Mr. President, to nding gift, but a ready and advance lengthy arguments in support of this Bill. as to do so would be Voltaire said, "the reasonings of not only unnecessary, but impertinnen are not worth one sentiment of ent. Each Hon. Member is fully cogwomen." He may or may not have nizant of the purpose of the present men are influenced by sentiment, and were a new proposal, or one which woe worth the land" where either had not been accepted generally or both fail to play their part. In this throughout the Empire, and by most Victorians, and no friend of wider it would be as futile to weary you franchise, whether for males or fe- with vain repetitions as to attempt to man," a not too complimentary defi- castle, or, as a well known and highly nition it may be, but at least a recog- respected medico, did in the days of nition of her partnership and com- his innocency bring codliver oil to radeship in the stress and strain, the Newfoundland for the benefit and be sorrows, the joys and the triumphs half of his prospective patients. It of life. To the die-hard anti-feminist is sufficient to say that the Bill conmay we not say as Browning, another fers the franchise on all women over Stands single in responsible act and lands it dates from legal majority.

The present proposal is a comptom-

ise, and will, I trust be acceepted by

manhood, essentially the same, has I am not, Mr. President, under any what was there accomplished by the sponsibilities solely in what they conproof were needed, of that no doubt free, and without those conditions the pathway of public, as well as of

most to gain is in the widening of in-

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Newfoundland, presented recently in Nor am I in any way disturbed by it will neither frighten nor repel

It is not so long a time ago when ance so fraught with possibiliThere are those whose sisters are bould be discussed and dealt citizens with all the rights and new.

There are those whose sisters are full comradeship, the gentler sex self. Women will have the Legislaket boroughs and faggot votes. The shared their dangers and discomforts, ture open to their admission, but it is franchise has gradually grown until their service and their sacrifice. But very doubtful whether the applicants to-day it comprehends both there, and th, or by whichever name it plore these injustices, and it is humilregarded, be the spontaneous lating, but the opportunity to remedy that the war demonstrated; rather theirs, but right and inclination do pire, its manhood and its womanhood. was it the blindness of those who re- not necessarily coincide. Some years Prejudice has been dissipated, objecfused the recognition due long before have elapsed since the vivacious and tions have disappeared; a wider citithat fateful day of August, 1914. Dur- courageous Angle-American, Lady zenship has arisen, and with it a widously brush aside the just claims of ing those weary years women did, in Astor took her seat in the House of er patriotism. What is true of the womanhood, arrogate to themselves very deed and truth prove her fitness, Commons. There are only three wo- whole is true of the part, and that it and their sex superiority and intellect, but the proof was there and the right men there to-day. It is an illuminatist true, 1914 to 1918 bears indubitable of judgment, of initiative power and to the franchise also, from the day ing fact that of the first two women witness. So may it be said of Newof Executive ability, whilst others that the demand for equality in citi- members of the British Parliament, foundland as the great poet said of discourse of the gentleness, the pur zenship was voiced, and before that one was a Conservative, the other a the land from which our forefathers

her enfranchisement. Man will gain ed, by officially notifying the Speaker even more because of the comradeship of the House of Assembly that this in citizenship which it cannot fail to Chamber cordially unites in its pres-

Mr. President, I now have the honor The charities that soothe, and heal and the privilege of proposing that and bless ttered at the feet of Man like this Bill be read a second time.

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