

WOMAN'S FRANCHISE BILL BEFORE THE LEGISLATURE

Little Opposition Likely to Develop on the Principle of the Bill — Women to Have Franchise on the Same Terms as Men — Mr. Baxter Gives Expression to His Views — Some Members Would Exclude Women Who Are British Subjects Only by Marriage.

The bill to extend the franchise to women came up in the Legislature on Tuesday afternoon and provoked an interesting discussion. After a few sections had been disposed of, progress was reported with leave to sit again. Following is the official report of the discussion:

The House went into Committee, Mr. Leger (West.) in the Chair and took up consideration of a Bill to amend the Rates and Taxes Act as it applies to the Parishes of Northfield and Canning.

HON. MR. BYRNE explained that the purpose of the Bill was to facilitate the collection of Taxes in those Parishes. A large number of foreigners were employed in the coal mines and there was difficulty in collecting from them.

MR. YOUNG expressed the fear that the Bill would work hardship on the employers.

HON. MR. BYRNE said it was optional and not compulsory under the Bill for the employer to pay the taxes of the employee.

MR. MERSEREAU explained that the measure was introduced with the consent of the entire municipality of Sunbury. It was desired that an employer could deduct the amount of taxes from the wages due an employee.

The Bill was agreed to as amended. The Committee took up consideration of the Bill to Extend the Franchise to Women.

MR. CAMPBELL asked if it was the intention of the Government to go so far as to give women the privilege of becoming members of the House.

HON. MR. BYRNE in reply stated that the Bill extended the franchise to women on the same terms and conditions as to men. The Bill did not go so far as to enable women to sit in the House as members.

MR. BAXTER asked if it was the intention of the government to alter the Bill so as to permit women to sit

as members of the House.

HON. MR. BYRNE said that such was not the intention.

MR. BAXTER said that he considered it necessary for the Bill to state the qualifications of a woman as a British Subject. The Dominion Parliament had touched upon that matter by legislation but everywhere irrespective of party there was a feeling that the doors of the Franchise had been open too wide and too long. For some years he had felt that the franchise should be extended to women but still he believed that restrictions should be imposed. Federal legislation contained a provision that women who had forfeited citizenship by marriage with an alien might vote upon making certain declarations. In New Brunswick the number of similar cases would be few but nevertheless he believed that the matter should be touched upon by the Act.

HON. MR. BYRNE said it was hard to draw a line of demarcation in the matter of British Citizenship—the law defined in what British Citizenship consisted. There might be something in what the hon. ex-Attorney General said but he could not see where the line could be drawn differentiating one class of British Subjects from another.

MR. McGRATH brought up the matter of a woman forfeiting citizenship by marriage to an alien.

MR. LEBLANC said this was a Bill on which hon. members did not wish to say too much. He liked the subject but would prefer to discuss it in private. He would limit the franchise to women who were British Subjects by birth and naturalization but not by marriage. It was reported that many Canadian soldiers were marrying German girls. Unless special provision were made those women on their arrival in Canada could not claim the vote. If the war had taught nothing else it had taught that their should be greater safeguards about British citizenship. He had frequently been in Courts and seen a naturalization tak-

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ing place and he had grave doubts concerning the wisdom of even that being allowed too freely.

Mr. Pott's Joke

MR. POTTS said he did not know whether the Bill should be passed as a joke or not. The Government brought the measure in, not because it wanted to but because public opinion compelled it to take action. The resolution of the hon. leader of the Opposition at a previous session had been an indication of that public opinion. The Government had made great talk of the necessity of house cleaning, yet by refusing women the right to be members of the House it was excluding the class best qualified to clean house. On school boards and other public bodies women had shown themselves well qualified to conduct public business. There were many women who could do better as law makers than many of the men he saw on the opposite side of the House. The Government had brought in this measure for a political purpose hoping to gain some credit. The cleverest men made mistakes. They frequently overrated themselves and underrated others. If he were a politician and playing politics he would let the Government go to its doom without saying a word but as it was he wished to say a word of warning against the attempt to exclude women from membership in the House.

HON. MR. POSTER—"You evidently want to change your desk-mate."

MR. POTTS said he was not anxious

to change his desk-mate (Campbell). The two of them stood for purity. He owed much to his desk-mate's influence and wished the House to understand that the pure sentiments which he expressed had their origin in his desk-mate's mind. He hoped the Government would not give a half-hearted measure, but would give women a chance to sit in the House. If he did the Government would not stand long.

HON. MR. BYRNE said that the line of equality for which British Institutions always stood should not be broken down. He was not wedded to the idea but he could not see why the ordinary definition of British Subject could not be accepted.

HON. MR. VENIOT said he could not see why a woman who was a citizen only by marriage should be excluded from the franchise. Could she not be trusted more than the naturalized woman? He was prepared to put more dependence in the one who was a British Citizen by marriage than the one who was a British Citizen by naturalization. The one was based on sentiment and the other on commercial ideas.

MR. CAMPBELL "Which is which?"

MR. TILLEY said he was not often in agreement with the hon. Minister of Public Works but in this case he was. In the West there were many Canadians with American wives and he could not see why women in that position should be excluded from the franchise. The Act should not go beyond the law and he felt safe in leaving the matter as it was.

MR. SWEENEY said he believed that the ordinary definition of a British Subject should be accepted.

MR. BAXTER claimed that uniformity was desirable. The Dominion law in time possibly might be changed but at present it contained certain provisions. If the case under discussion all were from United States the matter would not be serious but all these women did not come from that country. It should be remembered that the British Empire was on the verge of another war, a commercial war in which Germany would do her utmost to regain her former position. It must be expected that spies would be among us. Unless they performed some overt act they could not be removed. They could not be kept out of the Country but they could be kept from taking part in the Government. However, in New Brunswick the number of such women would be very small. The House appeared to be in danger of losing sight of the point brought up by the hon. member from Northumberland (McGrath) a woman born a British subject losing her citizenship through marriage to an alien. There would be many such cases in the Counties of Charlotte and Saint John where a great many men following the sea had become American citizens for certain advantages which that brought them. The Government might consider that matter.

MR. McGRATH was of opinion that a British subject by marriage would be more dependable than one who was naturalized. In the northern part of the Province there were many men married to American women and such cases must be considered.

The Committee reported progress. House adjourned at 6:06 p. m.

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THE BETTER OLE A PRODUCTION VERY HIGHLY COMMENDED

Of the "Better 'Ole" which will be at the Gem next Monday and Tuesday the Chicago News says:

If "The Better 'Ole" fails to amuse you then the happiness of those around you will, and if neither the picture nor the appreciative neighbors move you to laughter, there is something radically wrong with your funny bone and a physician is recommended. Yesterday morning everybody witnessing the performance at the Rose, whether driven into the theatre for shelter by the inclement outdoors or drawn therein by their familiarity with Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather's sketches of Old Bill and his

fellow musketeers, Bert and Alf, was in perpetual paroxysm of joy. Laughter was unconfined. The spectators had as good a time watching the "old walrus" and his devoted an dlikewise amusing friends as the actors who played the parts reflected in the celluloid.

"The Better 'Ole" is a happy extract from the war conceived by a cartoonist with a keen sense of humor and given cinematic utterance by Englishmen who knew their business in the matter of film production and acting, and who knew how to inject the sort of subtlety into the celluloid deeply appreciated by those who make the silent drama a habit. Many will prefer the film to the spoken play at a neighboring theatre.

Artificial Trappings Absent

There are no artificial scenic arrangements hurriedly thrown together to give the semblance of a trench or "pub" or place of amusement or the hundred and one other places pictured in stage sets and suggested by the actors in the spoken play. Realism takes the place of this theatrical sham for the most part. And as for the comic behaviour of De Wolf Hopper as Old Bill, a Briton gives brilliant pantomimic manifestation of the role as humorously in the celluloid as does Mr. Hopper on the stage. Moreover, he clothes the part with humanness—something which the stage version lacks.

The story of Old Bill has been told repeatedly. The film follows the stage play loyally. From the time Bill leaves his wife Maggie and their daughter Lil, to take up arms with his two friends against the 'Uns and through their campaigns in France, it is one long series of rollicking fun. You will find much to amuse you in the fickleness of one of the musketeers who makes ardent love to every maiden in France he encounters, while another will entertain you with his patent cigarette lighter which never ignites despite his persistency. Interest, however, is centred in Old Bill, and in the information he obtains relative to the Hun's effort to cut off a regiment of French soldiers.

It's a splendid bit of cinematic fun with just enough of sentimentality to make it human.

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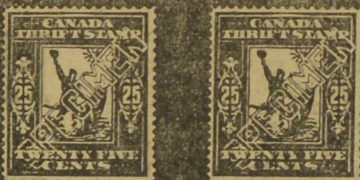
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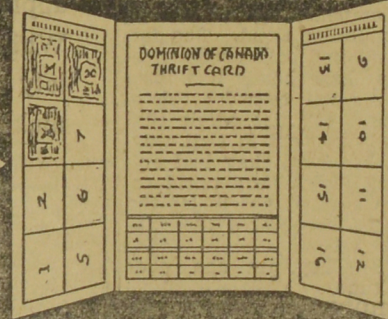
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WAR-SAVINGS STAMPS

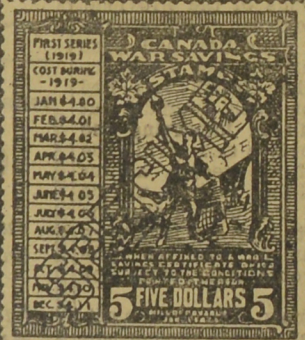
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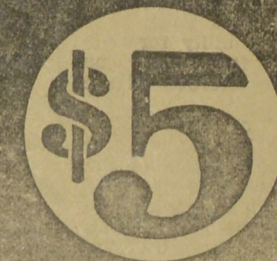
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AGRICULTURAL MATTERS DISCUSSED BY COMMITTEE

Mr. Bratt, the New Deputy Minister, Outlines Plans of the Department — Abattoir and Stock Yards Should be Established in Maritime Provinces—Should be Located in N. B.

The Committee on Agriculture met Wednesday morning and elected Mr. Mersereau, chairman. Mr. Mersereau stated that the committee was one of the most important of the Legislature duty, which was not generally recognized, was to make recommendations for the Department of Agriculture to follow out. He introduced F. P. Bratt, the new Deputy Minister of Agriculture.

Mr. Bratt expressed the hope that the Committee would thoroughly discuss agricultural subjects and make recommendations for his Department. In his remarks to the Committee he would devote particular attention to livestock. The absence of stock-yards and abattoir in the Maritime Provinces was felt keenly by the farmers. The Dominion Government had made an offer of assistance with regard to an abattoir and stock-yard. Such would have to be situated to be convenient to all three provinces and New Brunswick possessed the logical situation. He announced that demonstration in the shearing, dipping, docking and castrating of sheep would start April 1st. Five would take place in each county. The production of wool and mutton was most important. During the past year 30,000 lbs. of wool had been marketed and shipped in a co-operative basis. That quantity would be doubled in 1919. The Department would co-operate with the Dominion Livestock Branch in the distribution of pure-bred lambs. A new basis of bonusing such animals had been adopted. In his opinion the bonus was insufficient and the provincial Department would be justified in granting an additional bonus.

To Mr. Young he said he did not know if rams were available for the demonstration flocks sent out by the preceding government, but there were many breeders in the province with animals available. The credit system for buying ewes would not be continued for there had been a large increase in the number of sheep in the province as the result of the campaign carried on and continuation was not considered justified. He would ask the opinion of the committee on a pro-

position under which farmers could get credit at any bank for the purchase of sheep from any source. In regard to cattle, the Department co-operating with the Dominion Livestock Branch was establishing bull associations. Some ten or twelve already had been formed. The Dominion Livestock Branch would loan a pure-bred animal of whatever breed desired to each association which would keep it for whatever length of time was desirable. Such associations could be formed within Agricultural Societies. The system was now in effect and the bulls would be distributed next month. It was desired to place 50 in New Brunswick.

Mr. Melanson feared that existing agricultural societies might be injured by the new associations.

Mr. Bratt explained that it was not intended that bulls should go into districts already provided with pure-bred animals. In regard to swine he said the pig clubs which had been so successfully established were being enlarged and arrangements were being made for special classes of exhibits from those clubs at the Fredericton and Chatham exhibitions. In dairying the plans of last year would be continued. Grading of cheese would be insisted on as there must be an improvement of quality. Eighteen poultry clubs had been established last year and a like number would be established this year. By next year it was expected that all the eggs required for distribution among these clubs could be secured within New Brunswick and importations from Maine, Ontario, and elsewhere discontinued. In the matter of soils and fertilizers a survey for the purpose of learning lime requirements had been continued. Acidity of the soil was found to be marked in all sections. Lime is a corrective and several deposits were located. It is desired that the demand for crushed lime rock be increased to such an extent that the supplying of it will be placed on a firm commercial basis. The Department's Lime crusher was located at Havelock and was turning out crushed rock at \$3.25