

LOYAL WOMEN WHO MISS VOTE

Citizenship Convention and Women Leaders Who Criticize Franchise Bill

"Resolved: That this convention of the Ontario Women Citizen's Association thanks Sir Robert Borden for the measure of woman's enfranchisement which has been introduced, but wishes to state that it understands that this franchise is granted only on account of war exigencies, and to reaffirm the claim of women to the full Federal franchise as a matter of true democracy, which, in the opinion of this convention, should be granted just so soon as conditions will admit of it, or not later than the termination of the war."

This resolution, which was passed by the convention, held the end of last week, of the Ontario Women Citizen's Association, was the occasion of a lively debate, in the course of which Mrs. James McKinney, M.P.P., of Claresholm, Alberta, said, in reference to the use the women of Quebec might make of the vote:

"Suppose the women of Quebec did vote against conscription—they would only double the vote of their men. They couldn't send any more members to Parliament."

Same Basis for Women as Men.

"I don't quite get the viewpoint of the men who have framed that section of the franchise bill which confines the vote to women whose menfolk are serving overseas," Mrs. McKinney said to The Globe yesterday. "If the male alien enemy is to be disfranchised, of course the women of that class should be disfranchised, too, but if not, I don't see why the woman should not be given the vote. Women who have relatives overseas are not the only loyal women. Many just as loyal have nobody to send. If I could get the viewpoint of those men who framed the clause I would be glad, but, as I see it, if any women are entitled to vote, all are entitled to it on the same basis as all men."

Not British Fair Play.

"It isn't British fair play," said Mrs. A. B. Ormsby, President of the Ontario Women Citizen's Association. "Women whose sons are not old enough to go to the front, or those who have no sons, should not be deprived of their rights. I feel that there are many loyal mothers who would be discriminated against by such a measure."

Mrs. Hamilton's Attitude.

Mrs. L. A. Hamilton, President of the National Equal Franchise League and Vice-President of the Ontario Women Citizen's Association, on the contrary, regards the bill as "quite satisfactory, in view of the conscription issue and the question of the foreign women."

"In war time," she told The Globe "we should all be willing to make sacrifices, and we women should be willing to sacrifice the lesser democracy to the greater. We want our freedom as women, but we want the freedom of the world most. The greater will include the less. We should keep before our eyes the fact that the war is not yet won."