

# PROROGATION OF THE LEGISLATURE.

An Uneventful Finale to a Fighting Session.

## SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Royal Assent Given to Much Important Legislation.

Another Amendment to the Jennison Power Bill—Hon. Mr. Davis Denies That He Intends to Resign.

The Lieut.-Governor formally prorogued the Ontario Legislature yesterday afternoon. It was a remarkably tame finale to a fighting session. There was just a quorum of members in attendance, and of the twenty, the Opposition was represented by five only, Messrs. Whitney, Foy, Pyne, Nesbitt and Carscallen. There were two score visitors on the floor of the House, about half of whom were ladies, and the galleries were not half filled.

Prior to the arrival of his Honor, the Speaker took the chair and the House went into Committee of the Whole to insert in the famous Jennison power bill a general clause that had been inadvertently omitted, preserving the rights of the Crown.

### Royal Assent to Bills.

The bill having been read a third time, the Speaker left the chair, and the Lieutenant-Governor, who had been received at the Parliament buildings by a guard of honor from the Queen's Own Rifles, in command of Capt. R. K. Barker, was escorted into the chamber by Commander Law, R.N., Captain A. Magee, A.D.C., Colonel Lesard and Major J. A. Murray.

Assistant Clerk Sydere read the list of 107 bills passed during the session, and Colonel Clarke, the Clerk, announced that "in his Majesty's name" his Honor had assented to these bills.

The next order was the reading of the supply bill by the Speaker, but at the last moment it could not be found and there was some delay in consequence. A copy having been secured and read, the Royal assent thereto was also announced.

### Speech From Throne.

His Honor read the following speech from the Throne:—

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

In dismissing you from the duties of a session unusually protracted, I desire to congratulate you upon the extent and importance of the legislation which has occupied your attention. The revision of the assessment act by which the basis of municipal taxation is materially broadened and the burdens more fairly equalized is a measure which should prove satisfactory to the municipalities of the Province, and I assent with much pleasure to its enactment.

I cordially approve of the legislation connecting the railways of the Province with the transcontinental systems of Canada. The extension of the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway to the Grand Trunk Pacific, the opening of a line from Thunder Bay to the main land of the eastern division of the same railway, and the construction of the James Bay Railway from Toronto to Sudbury on the C. P. R. will enable

the manufacturers and agriculturists of this Province to share more largely in the trade of Manitoba and the Northwest, besides opening for settlement Crown lands now unoccupied and practically inaccessible. The obligations thus imposed upon the Province will, I trust, be more than compensated for by the increase of trade and population which usually follow railway development.

### The "Soo" Bill.

The measure to which I have assented for the early completion of the Algoma Central and the Hudson Bay Railways is of great public interest, as it is advisable to furnish an outlet for the timber and minerals of a district of great natural resources, and at the same time incidentally aid in the re-establishment of industries at Sault Ste. Marie, on which much of the prosperity of the western portion of the Province depends.

### Free School Books.

The bills which you have passed for the consolidation of school boards in cities and towns, for the supply to pupils of rural schools of free text books, for the improvement of public libraries, and for the extension of technical education, cannot fail to promote the efficiency of a system of education already deeply rooted in public confidence.

I notice with great pleasure the various amendments that you have made to the statute law, by which previous acts of the Legislature have been improved in many important details and their objects more effectually attained. I am particularly pleased to notice the re-enactment of those clauses of the Lord's Day act which, owing to the decision of the Privy Council, were of doubtful validity, incorporated in the revised statutes of the Province. I hope it will be found that the Provincial Legislature has the right to regulate labor on the Lord's Day on public works deriving their legal status from the acts of the Assembly.

I am pleased to notice that you are increasing the asylum accommodations of the Province by the conversion of the reformatory at Penetang into an institution for asylum purposes. With this addition, it is confidently expected that no further increase of asylum accommodation will be required for many years to come. The action taken for the early completion of the hospital for epileptics will, I am sure, be gratifying to all persons interested in the care and protection of this unfortunate class of the community.

### Taxation of Railways.

The necessity for providing additional revenue for the growing wants of the Province amply justifies the imposition of further taxes upon railway corporations, particularly as nearly all the railways so taxed have shared either in the bounty of the Province or of local municipalities. I am pleased to notice that a commission is to be appointed to inquire into the methods of taxation

prevailing in the United States for the information of the Legislature, should it be deemed necessary in the near future to depart from the present basis of taxation.

### Factories Act Amendment.

The amendments you have made to the factories act, with a view to the greater safety and comfort of the artisan classes, command my heartiest approval. Where so much of our prosperity depends upon skilled labor, your efforts to safeguard the health of the operatives are worthy of commendation.

I congratulate you on the large volume of private bill legislation which has engaged your attention, and which I have no doubt will prove advantageous to the many interests affected.

I thank you for the liberality which you have displayed in making the necessary appropriations for the current year, and I assure you that the supplies which you have voted will be expended as economically as is compatible with the efficiency of the public service.

The Provincial Secretary, coming forward, declared:—"It is his Honor's will and pleasure that this Legislature be prorogued, and this Legislative Assembly is, accordingly, prorogued." This concluded the ceremony.

The bill to confirm the agreement between the Public and Separate School Boards of Sturgeon Falls regarding the division of the taxes from the Imperial Pulp Mills Company was in the list assented to, his Honor evidently considering that there was no sufficient reason to act on the petition presented to him, asking that the Royal assent be withheld.

### Hon. Mr. Davis' Denial.

Hon. E. J. Davis, Commissioner of Crown Lands, who yesterday returned to the city, emphatically denied the statement made in an evening paper that he had intimated to his friends that he would not seek re-election again, and that his resignation might be expected before the date set for the election trials, September 20 next. "The story," he said to *The Globe*, "is absolutely without foundation in every particular."

The stories appearing so frequently these days in the Opposition newspapers respecting probable changes in the Cabinet are causing considerable amusement in official circles.