

WOMAN'S VOICE IN LEGISLATURE

British Suffragette Lodged Protest at Prorogation.

CAUSED MILD SENSATION.

Left Building Before Attendants Reached Her.

Demanded "Justice to Women" From Lieutenant - Governor — Closing Ceremonial of Ontario's Parliament —Many Bills Assented to—Speech From the Throne—Proceedings Largely Attended.

The voice of a woman was heard in the Ontario Legislature on Saturday, probably for the first time in the history of the Province. It was the voice of a suffragette, and for the moment threw the House into consternation.

The sensational incident occurred just as his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor had concluded the speech from the Throne proroguing the second session of the twelfth Parliament of Ontario. Everything had gone along smoothly in accordance with long-established precedent. The ceremonial was almost over. The guns had boomed; the militia had gone through their evolutions. The floor of the legislative chamber glistened with the handsome uniforms of the military men and the dainty gowns of the ladies. Members, Judges, church dignitaries and educationists were seated on the floor of the House. All was in due form and in accordance with the sanctity and eclat of the occasion, till the interruption occurred.

Wanted "Justice to Women."

The woman was seated in the Speaker's gallery, immediately opposite the Throne. She rose immediately on the conclusion of his Honor's address. Everyone was so thunder-struck that she was allowed to finish her statement before anyone attempted to interfere. She spoke in clear and modulated tones.

"There is one thing that you have forgotten," she began, addressing herself directly to the Lieutenant-Governor. "I object to this Parliament closing without doing justice to women. Women are just as much entitled to vote as men. I hope that at your future meetings you will do more justice to the cause of women. This is all I have to say at present. Thank you."

There was a murmur in the House as the woman concluded. Sir James Whitney, evidently annoyed, turned to the Sergeant-at-Arms and said, "Will somebody please ask that person to withdraw?" The Lieutenant-Governor, who had risen, stood still for a moment, gazing at his fair inquisitor, while the whole House was on the *qui vive*. A couple of the attendants hurried to remove the woman, but she had already started to go, and, followed by two female companions, promptly left the building.

Had Suffered Imprisonment.

The woman, who has since been identified as Miss Olivia Smith of London, England, was unknown to any of those present in the gallery. She is a nurse, and had suffered imprisonment for disturbing the British

House of Commons. She wore a fur toque and ruff, and was costumed in a dark brown suit. Neither she nor her companions had tickets of admission to the gallery, but as there was no crush and a number of applications from those without invitations, the door-keeper had been instructed not to insist upon tickets being presented. The woman had, therefore, no difficulty in securing entrance. Mr. F. G. Lee, the housekeeper, stated that he was entirely in ignorance of what appeared to have been a carefully-planned interruption, and was not suspicious, as the woman was a stranger and was not any of the known leaders of the suffragette movement. Mr. Allan Studholme, the Labor member, who was prevented from introducing his bill to grant the suffrage to women by reason of failure to get a seconder, said he knew nothing of the occurrence, and was not prepared to approve of such methods.

Many in Attendance.

The prorogation ceremonial was more largely attended than usual and, in addition to the members and guests who occupied seats on the floor of the chamber, the galleries were well filled with visitors. The 9th Battery, under command of Major Brown, fired a salute of ten guns to mark the arrival of his Honor at the Parliament buildings. The guard of honor was furnished by the 48th Highlanders, and the escort by the Royal Canadian Dragoons.

Contrary to usual precedent, prorogation took place in the morning. Notwithstanding, the occasion was one of social significance. Among the prominent ladies in attendance were: Mrs. J. M. Gibson, wife of the Lieutenant-Governor, and the Misses Gibson; Lady Whitney, Miss Foy, Mesdames Crawford, Hendrie, Cochrane, Lucas, and several members' wives. A feature of the ceremony was the number of members present.

Prorogation Was Announced.

The Lieutenant-Governor entered the chamber with the Premier, and was accompanied by a number of officers of the garrison in military dress. His Honor was uniformed as a field officer, discarding the customary civil service uniform.

For nearly fifteen minutes Lieut.-Col. Delamere, the Assistant Clerk of the House, enumerated the one hundred and fifteen bills passed by the Legislature since the fifty-three to which his Honor gave his assent two weeks ago. All of the measures received gubernatorial approval. His Honor then proceeded with the valedictory from the throne, after which Hon. Mr. Lucas officially announced the prorogation of Ontario's Parliament.

Speech From the Throne.

The speech from the Throne congratulated the House on its business-like despatch in dealing with matters which had come before it. It bespoke his Honor's approval of the extension of the principle of agricultural instruction in local centres and the increase in grants made to this basic industry.

Appreciation was expressed over the provision made to encourage the immigration of farm labor and domestic help, and the enactments made to facilitate the operation and extension of the rural telephone system.

The Milk and Assessment Commissions were congratulated upon the good results of their investigations, and satisfaction expressed with the further legislation to facilitate the work of the Hydro-electric Commission.

The power given to the T. & N. O. Railway Commission will, it was pointed out, enable the construction of branch connections where the rapid development in northern Ontario shows them to be necessary.

Bars Closed Christmas Day.

His Honor proceeded: "I am glad to notice that the license act has been amended by providing that hereafter no intoxicating liquor shall be sold in this Province on Christmas Day, this promoting to the sanity and sobriety of this great festival."

After enumerating certain of the bills passed, his Honor congratulated the House on "the continued increase in the financial resources of the Province," which would enable the Government to further "improve the public service and undertake various projects for the development of the Province."