

PROROGATION WAS A QUIET AFFAIR

Only a Score of Members At- tend Closing of the House

HIS HONOR'S SPEECH

Expresses Regret at Action of the Senate—Encourages Co-operation Between Governments for Improvement of Agriculture—Health Act a Decided Advance.

With customary formality his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor prorogued the Legislature at noon yesterday and gave Royal assent to the one hundred and sixty-one bills passed during the session. The ceremony was brief and devoid of the brilliance and social stir that always attends the opening. His Honor arrived promptly on time, accompanied by Major Shanley, A. D. C., General Cotton, and the officers of the headquarters staff, and was received by a guard of honor from the Queen's Own Rifles. A salute of fifteen guns was fired by a detachment from the Ninth Toronto Field Battery. Only a score of members were present. Lady Gibson was escorted to a seat on the floor of the House by Col. Hon. A. J. Matheson, and around her were grouped the wives of several of the Cabinet Ministers. The Judges, who usually grace the occasion, were not present, while prayers, an invariable omission on prorogation day, were said.

In dismissing the legislators his Honor said:—

His Honor's Address.

"In bringing to a conclusion the session of the Legislative Assembly in which you have just been engaged it is my agreeable duty to express to you my thanks for the diligence and carefulness you have displayed, and also for the many measures of an important and public nature which you have enacted to promote the welfare and prosperity of this Province.

"Several of these measures give promise of a new era in the extension and development of Ontario. The first of these, assenting to an extension of our territory as provided by the recent legislation of the Parliament of Canada, will add more than one hundred and forty-six thousand square miles to the area of this Province. At the same time an arrangement has been made whereby we acquire access to and an important portion of an ocean port on Hudson Bay. I observe that provision has been made without any loss of time for the exploration of this new territory, the preliminary steps to be taken by a Commissioner to be sent out by my Government during the coming summer.

Development of the North.

"Another feature of your legislation pointing to the development of the Province is the act authorizing a loan of five million dollars to be expended in the opening up of what is known as New or Northern Ontario, which contains the great clay belt, the construction of roads and

bridges, and the advancement of colonization and settlement.

"An important step has been taken by the measure providing for the co-operation of the Federal and Provincial Governments for the encouragement and improvement of agriculture. From this we may confidently expect the most desirable results.

"The action of the Senate of Canada in refusing the grant of a subsidy to the Temiskaming & Northern Ontario Railway, as well as the appropriation in aid of Provincial highways, are matters of regret.

"By repeating the grant of one million dollars for good roads you have insured the continuation and extension of this highly necessary undertaking, which is being more and more appreciated in the older parts of the Province.

"Great progress has been made in the revision of the statutes, and the completion of this important work is confidently expected during the present year.

Educational Progress.

"Further educational progress may be anticipated from the measure permitting the extension of the age of compulsory attendance at schools under certain conditions. In this connection it is satisfactory to notice the act providing for the establishment of a Provincial College of Art, which will give purpose and efficiency to this useful branch of study. I desire also to draw attention to the provision you have made for the establishment of a Provincial Museum.

"A decided advance has been made in regard to the protection of the public health by the act establishing District Medical Health Officers, who will exercise thorough supervision over the public health in their respective districts.

For Public Safety.

"In view of the dangers arising from careless and inefficient electrical installations, it has been deemed advisable to empower the Hydro-electric Commission to control such matters in the interest of public safety. Provision has been made for the extension of the work of the Commission, and for the proper recognition in a financial way of the services of the Chairman, which step has met with unqualified approval.

"Amendments have been made to the liquor license act to render more effective the administration of the law, and also to prevent evasions by the storage of intoxicating liquor in districts under local option.

"Legislative provision has been made for the establishment by municipalities of industrial farms for the treatment of certain classes of criminals, notably inebriates, now confined in the jails and lock-ups throughout the Province.

"A number of other useful measures have been adopted, and I congratulate you on the continued prosperity and increase of the financial resources of the Province.

"I desire to thank you for the adequate appropriations you have made for the public service, which will be expended with a due regard for efficiency and economy.

"In dismissing you, I desire to repeat to you my thanks for the services you have rendered to the public, and join with you in the hope that the blessing of Almighty God will continue to rest upon our country and upon our people."