

NINETY-NINE BILLS GOT FINAL ASSENT

Public Interest Lacking in Pro-rogation Ceremony

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

War Measures, Liquor Legislation and Other Topics of Session Referred to —Public Accounts Matters Will be Investigated Next Session.

It took only about twenty minutes to prorogue the Legislature yesterday afternoon. The Prime Minister, his colleagues and a score of members gathered for the final ceremony along with a sprinkling of ladies. Compared with the opening the galleries and floor of the House presented a deserted aspect, and beyond the usual throng that is attracted by the mounted escort, the guard of honor, and the guns, public interest was lacking. The Lieutenant-Governor did not take advantage of the war spirit afloat and wear even a military uniform, appearing in faultless afternoon dress, although there was a fair accompaniment of officers of the Headquarters Staff.

The familiar face of Mr. Fred J. Glackmeyer, the courtly and genial Sergeant-at-Arms, was missing. Mr. Glackmeyer was absent on account of illness, which is the second time he has been away from his post at the opening or closing of the House since his appointment after Confederation, the former occasion being in 1874. Mr. J. Bruce Macdonald, Inspector of Division Courts, acted as custodian of the mace, and performed the duties with all the facility of a veteran.

After prayers the only item of business was the reception of the report of the Printing Committee. His Honor then came in, assented to the bills passed and read the Speech from the Throne.

Speech From the Throne.

The Speech from the Throne, reviewing the session and dismissing the House, reads as follows:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

I desire in bringing your labors to a close to express my appreciation of the careful and expeditious manner in which you have transacted the public business, and the spirit of patriotism which has characterized your deliberations.

Since you assembled our brave Canadian soldiers have come into actual contact with the enemy, and have distinguished themselves in a way worthy of our country and the source from which they come. It is with feelings of pride and satisfaction that we have read of their achievements in defence of our flag and Empire. Our hearts and our prayers are with them, and our confident hope is that the complete triumph of Great Britain and its allies in the near future will insure to the world an enduring peace.

I observed that you have approved of the steps taken by my Government in the direction of aiding the mother country, and that you have made provision, by means of a war tax, for such further assistance as experience may show to be necessary. During the recess my advisers will secure all information possible in order to determine the manner in which further aid can be most effectively given.

War Relief Funds.

The public response to the various appeals for funds for war relief purposes has been prompt and generous. I desire to di-

rect attention to a measure you have adopted which confers authority upon municipal corporations to grant aid to the Patriotic Fund, the Red Cross Association, and the Belgian Relief Fund; to equip organization for home defence; to insure the lives of soldiers; to provide for their dependents; and to send food and clothing for the relief of war sufferers. In making such grants at this time it will not be necessary for any municipal Council to submit them to a vote of the ratepayers for ratification.

Information from various sections of the Province points to an unusually large yield of all kinds of food-stuffs during the coming season. This is the outcome of exceptionally favorable conditions, as well as the patriotic appeals for increased production addressed to the farming community. In view of the possibility of a food shortage elsewhere, it is to be hoped that these expectations will be fully realized.

The Liquor Legislation.

An important advance has been made in the manner of temperance legislation, by a measure placing the control and supervision of the liquor traffic under a Provincial Commission, with large powers for restricting the hours within which liquor may be sold; for the suspension of its sale, and for imposing other conditions and restrictions in connection with such sale. Such a measure will prove very far-reaching in its nature, and it is the earnest hope of my Government that it will be met with generous public support so that it may be an effective means for promoting temperance and further reducing the evils of the drink habit.

By the adoption of an act establishing a Department of Public Highways you have taken a necessary step towards giving effect to the recommendations of the Commission which recently went very thoroughly into this important question, affecting as it does the material welfare of all classes of the community.

Efficiency and Economy.

Among other measures adopted are acts giving further power to courts with respect to the recovery of money secured by mortgages; setting apart a fund to provide seed grain for the relief of settlers in Northern Ontario; to amend the corporations tax act; to amend the Power Commission act, and for other purposes.

I desire to thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the various public undertakings, and to assure you that the supplies you have voted will be administered with a view to efficiency and economy.

In conclusion, I thank you for the beneficial legislation you have enacted, and commend you and our country to the blessing and the protection of Almighty God, which have been so bountifully vouchsafed to us in the past as individuals and as a nation.

Public Accounts Investigation.

In order to facilitate the closing of the House, the investigation by the Public Accounts Committee was cut short on an understanding that some matters that it was proposed to deal with this year should be taken up next session. These include the administration of the liquor license fund in connection with the visits of Inspector Snider to Huron, Peel and Welland counties last year when the Canada temperance act campaign was on, colonization road grants, Government House, and the T. & N. O. Railway.