

MODEST CLOSING OF THE LEGISLATURE

Lacks Display of the Opening Ceremonies

FEW MEMBERS ATTEND

Sir John Hendrie's Speech Emphasizes Importance of Campaign for In- creased Production and Reviews Work of Session.

With less ostentatious display than characterized the opening ceremony in February, the Ontario Legislature was prorogued yesterday afternoon. The chamber was sparsely occupied, little over a score of M.P.P.'s being present. There was also a small attendance of ladies. Among the legislators present were: Premier Hearst, Hon. Dr. Pyne, Hon. I. B. Lucas, Hon. T. W. McGarry, Hon. Finlay Macdiarmid, Hon. W. D. McPherson, Hon. Dr. Preston, Mr. N. W. Rowell, Mr. Hartley Dewart, Mr. Wellington Hay, Mr. Sam Carter, Hon. Thomas Crawford, Col. T. Herbert Lennox, Mr. V. A. Sinclair, Mr. Allar Studholme, Mr. John Allan, Mr. A. E. Donovan, Mr. G. W. Ecclestone, Mr. John Macfarlane, Mr. C. H. Mills, Dr. Jacques, Mr. W. C. Chambers, Mr. R. H. McElroy, Mr. Charles Calder. Others there included General Logie and staff officers, and Messrs. J. D. Flavelle and G. T. Smith of the Ontario License Board; Mr. Fred Dane, Loan Commissioner, and Provincial Police Superintendent Rogers. The number of bills which received assent was 111, compared with 118 last year.

Lieutenant-Governor's Speech.

The Lieutenant-Governor's speech emphasized the importance of the campaign for increased production, expressed gratitude to the men who had done their duty to flag and country, and reviewed the legislation of the session.

In part the speech said: "The extension of the legislative and full municipal franchise to women is an important feature of the legislation of this session. It is felt that women have by services rendered to the State and burdens willingly assumed for its safety and welfare fully justified the placing of the ballot in their hands. They will now be afforded the means of increasing the helpful and wholesome influence they have ever exercised indirectly in the past. I trust that the added responsibility thus imposed upon the women of the Province will be productive of much good to the State.

"To meet the increased demands for electric power, authority has been given to the Hydro-electric Power Commission to acquire, if deemed necessary, existing plants at Niagara Falls, and for carrying into effect other important objects. An act has been passed to enable municipalities to tax all lands held by the Commission.

"Legislation has been adopted authorizing the construction of a Provincial highway from the southwestern boundary of the Province to the eastern boundary and connecting with important centres and terminal points. This undertaking, which is designed to improve rural conditions, facilitate local traffic, and cheapen transportation, will receive generous financial support from the Province.

"Provision has been made for the establishment of a superannuation fund for school teachers and inspectors. Besides being an act of justice to a very useful portion of the public service, this measure is calculated to contribute to the permanence and attractiveness of the teaching profession, and in that way to improve the efficiency of our educational institutions.

A Help to Britain.

"Authority has been given for the floating of a Provincial loan aggregating some seventeen millions of dollars. As the purpose of this issue is to repay advances that have been secured from time to time in Great Britain, it will have the effect of helping the mother country financially by releasing British funds invested in our securities.

"A bill has been adopted to enable the Government to establish a Bureau of Municipal Affairs. The object of this department will be to promote efficiency and economy in the administration of our municipal institutions, and it will be charged with the duty of superintending the accounting systems of the various public utilities.

More Nickel Taxes.

"In accordance with the recommendation of the Nickel Commission, legislation has been adopted increasing the tax on the output of mines. By this means the Province is assured a substantial additional revenue. In this connection it is satisfactory to observe that arrangements to establish nickel refineries in this Province are now well in hand.

"The scope of the workmen's compensation act has been enlarged so as to provide for the payment of medical and surgical aid, and hospital and nursing services, during the first month of disability, in addition to the compensation otherwise received by injured workmen.

"Among other measures adopted are bills to enable municipalities to advance money for rural credits; to insure better protection from forest fires; to amend the Ontario temperance act; for the registration of voters; and for other purposes."

The Lieutenant-Governor's escort was provided by the Royal Canadian Dragoons, the salute was fired by the 70th Battery under Major Gordon Balfour, and the guard of honor was supplied by the 216th Battalion.

The ceremony inside the chamber lasted about twenty-five minutes.