

LITTLE POMP AT CEREMONY

Simple Proroguing of Legisla-
ture by Sir John
Hendrie

FEW MEMBERS PRESENT

Shorn of all frills the Legislative Assembly was officially prorogued yesterday by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Hendrie. No travelling escort accompanied his Honor and no guard of honor awaited him at Queen's Park. Nor did a military band provide martial airs for the occasion. Even the customary salute of guns was lacking. It was the first time the Legislature has been prorogued without all this. Few of the members were present—twenty-one to be exact—not even all of the city members attending. Lieut.-Col. Herbert Lennox, who is home from overseas on leave, was greeted by his fellow-members of the House, and Hon. Dr. Pyne, Minister of Education, was welcomed after being away from the House for several weeks because of illness.

His Honor was accompanied only by Col. Alex. Fraser and Lieut. Cochrane. The assistant Clerk of the House, Col. Delamere, read over the list of 87 bills which were passed during the session, after which his Honor gave them his assent. Prorogation was moved by the Provincial Secretary, Hon. W. D. McPherson, following the address of his Honor, and the fourth session of the fourteenth Legislature was a matter of history.

Address of Lieut.-Governor.

His Honor said:

Mr. Speaker and Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:

"In the ordinary course of events this would be the concluding session of the fourteenth Legislature of this Province. The desire, however, of the people to avoid the distractions of a general election at a time when all our energies and resources are required for the protection of our liberties has been so widely and insistently expressed, and so generally recognized, that it has been urged upon my Government as a duty equivalent to a mandate to carry on the public administration without a dissolution until happier and more settled times.

"A measure has, therefore, been adopted extending the duration of the Legislature until a year has elapsed and a session has been held after the return of our men from overseas. I have no doubt whatever that the extension of the term of the Legislature under existing cir-

cumstances, and the spirit of harmony it indicates, will be a source of strength to the State, and an inspiration for more united and more determined efforts on the part of the people.

Welcomes Furlough Men.

"We all rejoice over the fact that members of the gallant First Contingent of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, which left Canada for the war in September, 1914, have begun to arrive here on well-earned furlough. I join with all our people in extending to these heroes a warm and affectionate welcome. Canada can never fully repay the debt she owes the brave soldiers who guarded the Empire in its supreme hour of danger, and won imperishable glory.

"Much of the legislation you have been called upon to consider arises out of war conditions. The act respecting the distribution and sale of fish is designed to increase the supply of fish food, and thus reduce the consumption of meats urgently required for use overseas. Last year's operations, though largely experimental, suggest the possibility of useful results in the future under the powers now conferred.

"Another measure brought about by the war is the act providing for the development and preservation of the fuel resources of Ontario. I trust that some relief from scarcity of fuel may be obtained through the agency of a Fuel Controller, authorized to regulate the consumption of fuel and develop new sources of supply.

"In order that vacant land may be made productive, municipalities have been authorized to take control of such land and to allot it to persons undertaking to bring it under cultivation.

"An act has been adopted to bring under official regulation and supervision the treatment of venereal diseases.

"Important steps have been taken for the improvement of the public service. The act providing for the appointment of a Purchasing Agent is intended to place all Government purchases under expert control. Another measure places the Civil Service of the Province under the supervision of a Commissioner, who will be responsible for the qualification of all appointees, and will report and advise upon the efficiency of the service.

"Several bills containing suggested amendments to the assessment law, and also a bill to amend the Marriage Act, have been referred to special committees instructed and empowered to sit during the recess and report thereon to the next sitting of the Legislature.

"I desire to thank you for the liberal provision you have made for the public service, and for the various undertakings of the Government, which will be expended with due regard to economy and efficiency.

"In relieving you of your duties, I desire to thank you for the beneficial legislation you have enacted, and to express the hope that the blessing and protection of Almighty God will continue to abide with our people and our Empire."