

LEGISLATURE IS PROROGUED

Only a Quorum of Members
Present at Closing
Exercises

A BRITISH AMBASSADOR
Sir John Hendrie in Speech
Reviews Work of
Session

Ontario's Legislative chamber will remain silent for another year. The fifth session of the fourteenth Legislature was prorogued yesterday by his Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir John Hendrie. The closing ceremonies were in marked contrast to the opening. Instead of a crowded floor of the House and thronged galleries there was a bare quorum of members present, and less than fifty people witnessed the termination of the session. When the Assistant Clerk had concluded reading the bills that had been enacted by the House, and his Honor had read his Address, the Provincial Secretary, Hon. W. D. McPherson, formally announced that the House was prorogued.

A distinguished visitor who witnessed the final session, which lasted twenty minutes, was Sir Cunningham Green, the British Ambassador to Japan. The honored diplomat, his wife and daughter sat in seats beside the Prime Minister, Sir William Hearst. Two weeks ago Sir Cunningham left Japan en route to the Motherland, having concluded his six years of service in the Orient. While in the city he and his family are guests at Government House.

R. C. D.'s as Escort.

A detachment of the Royal Canadian Dragoons provided the traveling escort, the Garrison Battalion furnished a guard of honor, and the band of the same regiment played the National Anthem as the Government House party entered the Parliament Buildings. The customary salute boomed out just as the House opened.

When the House opened there were scarcely a dozen members present, including but one Liberal, F. Wellington Hay. However, before the proceedings were finished a dozen more sauntered in, H. Hartley Dewart and G. C. Hurdman further representing the Liberals. In addition there were about a score and a half of ladies, wives and friends of the members, present on the floor of the House.

Review of the Session.

His Honor in his address reviewed the legislation that had been adopted, speaking as follows:

"During the session now drawing to a close your attention has been directed to many measures of a far-reaching and important nature. Much consideration has been given to the changes resulting from the termination of the war, with a view to meeting the altered conditions by which we as a people are confronted.

"I desire to commend the marked interest you have shown in every effort to increase industrial and commercial activities in the Province. The financial provision you have made for carrying on various emerg-

ency undertakings by my Government will, I am confident, be of material help in this connection. You have aided in relieving the situation by the expeditious enactment of the Housing Act, which is designed to insure employment for labor, and at the same time will, I trust, provide a means for bringing about the solution of the housing problem.

"You are to be congratulated upon the adoption of several important educational measures, framed to keep the Province of Ontario in the front rank among progressive communities. Additional facilities for vocational and industrial training for girls and boys beyond the stage of elementary instruction have been provided by the Adolescent Act, and thereby an epoch in our educational advancement has been marked. The act to consolidate rural schools and the act to insure the attendance of all pupils in elementary schools will confer lasting benefits upon the youth of the land. By the increased grants in aid of rural and technical education you have helped materially to strengthen and to extend our educational facilities in their essential features.

"An important change has been made in our Parliamentary institutions by conferring on women the right to sit in the Legislature. I am confident that the growing influence of women will promote the welfare of the State.

Temperance Referendum.

"In pursuance of the undertaking given when the Ontario Temperance Act was adopted, provision has been made for an early reference of that measure to the people. The electors will be given an opportunity to register their will as to the continuance of the act, and on other proposals which are in the public mind. It is earnestly to be hoped that a full and explicit declaration from the people will be elicited on the questions submitted, so that the policy of the Province may by common consent be firmly established.

"Rural conditions in the Province will have much to do with the future of agriculture. Therefore the provision you have made for road building, enhancing as it will the comfort and prosperity of our farm workers, is highly commendable. I observe with satisfaction that you have given sympathetic consideration to the proposals for the development of community life in rural districts by extending financial assistance for the establishment of community halls. Generous assistance has also been given to agricultural education and for the demonstration of scientific methods of farming throughout the Province.

"In order that industrial workers may be given a direct voice in the Government, and that their interests may be more closely looked after, provision has been made for the appointment of a Minister of Labor, who will, when an opportune time arrives, take over the administration of the Labor Department already organized, and will represent in the Cabinet the industrial portion of the community. The welfare of the State calls for the co-operation of Labor and Capital on a basis of mutual understanding and good-will, and the public will welcome every means of promoting that desirable object.

"Amendments have been made to the Workmen's Compensation Act, extending its usefulness and widening its scope. You have provided for the payment of full medical aid to industrial workers and have brought clerical staffs under the operation of the act. Substantial increases have been made in the sums payable to families which have lost their bread-winners, and in other