

interested. Again, countless regulations have been made under, and by virtue of, these temporary enactments. If the statute goes, the regulation made in accordance with powers conferred by it must of necessity be affected.

NO STATUTORY DEFINITION.

Strange to say, although phrases like "the end of the war," "during the present war," are constantly used, the Legislature has left the phrase undefined. Possibly, they thought that a certain nebulousity of duration would give added beauty to their emergency legislation. Some statutes have been described as the artistic creations of the Legislature, and did not Mr. Birrell, K.C., M.P., say on one occasion: "Nothing lends such beauty to a landscape painting as a bank of clouds in the background?"

For obvious reasons, the Judges have not yet been asked to say what is meant by "the end of the war." But where Legislatures and Judges have hesitated to tread, certain "mere lawyers," at the bidding of the Attorney-General, have rushed in. Having considered the matter in all its bearings, this legal committee, over which Mr. Justice Atkin presided, came to the following conclusion:—

We assume that the war will be ended by a treaty or treaties of peace. In order to arrive at the final conclusion of the treaty various stages will probably be required, such as agreements for armistice, cessation of hostilities thereunder, articles of peace, agreement of terms, signature of terms, ratification, exchange, or deposit of ratification.

In our opinion, speaking of the legislation generally, the war cannot be said to end until peace is finally and irrevocably obtained; and that point of time cannot be earlier than the date when the treaty of peace is *finally binding* on the respective belligerent parties, and that is the date when ratifications are exchanged.

The italics are mine. It may be asked, when shall an agreement be regarded as finally binding on the Hun? The answer is, that those who make treaties—the high contracting parties, as they are generally called—are not responsible for the *sanction* which is behind the agreement to which the plenipotentiary