

Lieutenant-Governor, in whom we not only recognize one who has an appreciation of the beautiful in art, but one whose encouragement and sympathy has been extended from time to time to the profession.

I shall now ask your Honor to formally open this exhibition.

Sir Mortimer Clark, after a short address, declared the exhibition open.

### **THE NEW ART MOVEMENT.**

**By E. F. B. Johnston, K.C.**

Every new movement in art, more especially in a young country like Canada, is a matter of interest. Owing to the absence of great art centres and the lack of well-established schools, such as exist in England and continental countries, the tendency of art here is necessarily toward the conventional. Small bodies of artists are created under somewhat imposing names, and for a time a real effort is made to maintain a high standard. The history of art in this country, however, shows that the laudable objects actuating the members soon vanish and the control of art societies passes into the hands of the commercial majority. Petty jealousies grow quickly. The desire to advertise and sell becomes paramount. Favoritism is too often the order of the day, and worthy painters are relegated to the "rejected," or become so disheartened over the treatment their works receive that they, too, lose interest and ambition. This state of affairs has been the ruin of the English academy, has affected the French salon, and has operated injuriously in such well-known art communities as Munich. Every now and again—and as a protest against the purely commercial in art—secessions take place, and younger and more vigorous bodies, under various designations, spring into existence. The International owed its birth to the fact that conventional platitudes crowded the walls of Burlington House to the exclusion of works of genius. The secessionists in Munich could no longer endure the weary waste of commonplaces and branched off, inviting the most brilliant of the English painters, like Sargeant and Lavery, to join in the exhibitions. In a smaller way, what