WHAT THE U. F. O. GOVERNMENT DID DURING ITS FIRST SESSION.

Summary of Legislation Passed in Twelve Weeks' Sitting of the Legislature, With Some Unbiassed Comments on the Ministers and Their Work.

Ernest Charles Drury, Premier of Ontario, is heaving a sigh of relief and wiping a brow that contains many a line that was not there a few short months ago before a political upheaval pulled him unceremoniously from his broad acres up in Simcoe county to take on his shoulders the burdens and cares of administration at Queen's Park. The session is over. It lasted longer than all but one or two previous sessions within record; it came nearer to driving veteran guardians of sacred forms and customs into hysterics than any of its predecessors; it made more precedents and ignored more; it produced more time-wasting discussion and cost more money than any other, even in the palmy days when it took four sessional pensionaires to stand guard outside a door through which no one ever passed; but making due allowance for all its shortcomings, it was a session that, when considered from the standpoint of results, does not require any apologies from the Drury Government or its followers.

No legislative record can be fairly considered by ignoring the circumstances under which it was made. The Drury Government came to the House with but two or three months' coaching in administration, and with no experience whatever in parliamentary practice. With a session but three months away the Ministers on taking office had to give the time which their predecessors could have used in preparing legislation to the very necessary business of mastering principles and details of administrations. It was not to be wondered at, therefore, that Government business was late in arriving in the House. But this was not the only handicap. Taking office as an avowedly democratic Cabinet opposed to the autocratic Cabinet rule of the past, the Drury Government Government was not in a position to rush matters. The old autocratic system had its advantages, and one of these was the manner in which it could clamp the lid on its supporters when necessary—and even on its opponents. But Premier Drury had no alternative but to let the new members talk to their heart's content; which they did, all House rules to the contrary notwithstanding. On top of that the Government had to depend for its support upon two groups whose interests, despite much amiable oratory to the contrary, had little in common

Record of Legislation.

Judge then whether the Drury Government has done well in this record of legislation:

Election law reform; the elimination of the system of enumeration with all the partisan evils incident to a system so open to unfairness.

Mothers' pensions; an advanced measure that will ensure to the widowed mother of two or more dependent children, or the mother with a permanently disabled husband, sufficient support to enable her to bring up her children as worthy citizens instead of being forced to leave them neglected and uncared for while she goes out to work for the money needed to give them all the necessaries of life.

Minmum wages; a bill that provides machinery for the establishment of minimum wages for women and girls in any occupation or employment, except farm labor or domestic service, through the creation of a Provincial Board.

Workmen's compensation; increases in compensation rates from 55 per cent. to 66 2-3 per cent.; substantial increases in pensions to the widows and children of workers killed in the course of their employment.

Superannuation; a system of pensions for the civil service based upon equal contributions by employees and Government that will provide for superannuation at the end of thirty years' service, the immediate effect of which will be the removal of many time-worn employees and the reorganization of the service.

Highways; the enactment of legislation putting into effect Hon. F. O. Biggs' great highway scheme; provison for direct financial assistance to township roads through grants and through loans at nominal rates.

Local option in taxation, which will give to the municipalities of the province the right, upon a vote of the ratepayers, to exempt, wholly or in part, income, business, or improvements. This bill is one of particular interest to the rural sections of the province, since it gives legislative authority for a method of assessment that in many townships has been in vogue for some time. In explaining the bill to the House, and meeting criticism from the Oppostion, Premier Drury stated that in numbers of townships to-day improvements are not assessed, or assessed but lightly. The bill will give regularity to such assessments through a vote of the people. Its application to cities promises complications, since it opens the way to the Single Tax ideal of land taxation only. However, the Government has taken the stand that the people can be trusted.

Studying Estimates

Judging from the legislation passed it would not appear that the Drury Government has gone out of its way to "do things" for the agricultural community. To get an understanding of the encouragement to be given agriculture, including the promotion of education in the farming districts, it is necessary to study the estimates. The budget brought before the House by the Provincial Treasurer, Hon. Peter Smith, provides for very important increases in expenditure on agriculture and education. The grants for rural public schools, for instance, are to be paid in full hereafter upon the basis of salaries, equipment, etc. For years past the annual vote by the House has not been sufficient to give the schools the full amount earned, and a general scaling down has been the result.

The work of the Department of Agriculture will be extended in every direction, and Hon. Manning Doherty hopes to accomplish much through two of the bills put on the statute books—one providing for the sale of milk and cream by test, and the other giving the Government power to make loans at nominal rates to local co-operative organizations entering the business of storing and cleaning seed, etc. The sale of milk and cream according to fat content is to a large extent carried on now, but the importance of the bill lies in the machinery it gives for ensuring to the producer a fair test of his product and a uniform reliable system of testing that leaves no room for question. The system adopted is to give authority for inspection of milk and cream at any point in its journey from the farm to the purchaser, and whenever the inspectors make a test the result will be sent to the shipper. With that official record in hand he will have a means of checking up the purchaser's report of the test upon which payment has heretofore been made. With the possibility of his test being checked up in this way, few purchasers, it is believed, will take a chance of "shorting" the seller.

Benefits All People

Perhaps the first thing about the foregoing review of legislation that will strike the unprejudiced observer is that the bulk of the legislation passed is legislation that will benefit the people as a whole. The charge of "class" legislation has been stilled, and the farmers have made good their declaration that they had taken over the responsibilities of office, not to selfishly serve agricultural interests, but to give real public service.

They have given real public service, but it has not been smooth sailing. Not without reason has it been said that the farmer-labor combination is not a logical one. The Government has pulled safely through the session with, on the whole, reasonably solid support from its own ranks. The farmers and the labor group, however, have had their differences, and if the truth must be told a term less warm than "cordial" must be used to describe their mutual sentiments. There have been moments that worried the Government—the time of the McCreary resolution, for instance, when it appeared that the Labor group might make things uncomfortable. That trial of strength revealed what was already known to many "on the inside," that the Government was not in the hands of the labor men; that if trouble threatened it could look to well-disposed members in both the Liberal and Farmer groups for suport.

The Labor Programme

But apart from the McCreary resolution, which irked them sorely, the labor men had little reason for withholding loyalty to the Government. Their full sessional programme which formed the price of their adherence to the dominant group was placed upon the statute books—mothers' pensions, minmum wages, increased compensation, and the elimination of the property requirement of candidates in municipal elections, the last a measure that the farmers supported through a sense of loyalty to their labor partners rather than because of any affection for the principle involved.

As was to be expected, much of the legislation submitted to the House bore evidences of hurried drafting and lack of consideration. With but a few months to become familiar with the administration of their respective departments and to prepare legislation, it was not to be wondered at that some of the measures were in need of further thought before being adopted. The net result of this, however, was unfortunate for the Government, since it placed them in the position of deserting several of their own bills, or of submitting to Opposition demands for changes. The list of bills dropped or altered is quite a lengthy one. The heralded enactment of a fixed legislative term of four years, with a set election date, was one of the matters that stood over; the extension of the municipal franchise to the sons and daughters of qualified electors, provided they were living at home, was another. Hon. W. E. Raney proposed to eliminate direct appeals to the Privy Council, but that bill, too, went by the boards. The Workmen's Compensation Act measure was changed in response to Liberal and Conservative oppostion, the compensation rate being dropped from 75 to 66 2-3 percent.—which was still, however, a good increase from the old rate of 55 per cent. The Minimum Wage Board bill for women and girls was changed at the demand of H. H. Dewart to exclude domestics and farm help.

Revenue Taxation.

The new revenue taxation was also cut down, not to meet oppostion objections this time, but to smooth over protesting outside interests. The new succesion duty taxes as first announced would have made Ontario's taxes perhaps the heaviest on the continent. The re-drafted bill cut them down considerably, and it is worthy of notice that the changes benefited the large estates rather than the smaller ones. The jockey clubs protested so vigorously against the new $10,000 a day tax on the mile tracks and $5,000 on the half-mile tracks that they convinced Hon. Peter Smith that racing would end in Ontario if he stood by his taxes. As a result the tax was reduced to $7,500 and $2,500. It is generally agreed that the clubs "put one over" on the Honorable Peter

No P.R. Bill.

Proportional representation is one of the planks in the U.F.O. policy, but it did not crop up in the Government's legislation. In view of the fact that proportional voting would, on the basis on the last popular vote, put the present administration out of business, it is not surprising that Premier Drury and his colleagues are not as enthusiastic about it as they once were, and that they can now see "difficulties" that once appeared unimportant. They were not allowed to forget their plank, however, since Hammett Hill, Conservative member for West Ottawa, reminded them with a bill proposing the change. Mr. Hill let the Government off lightly by not pressing his bill, and by suggesting a committee of inquiry. The Premier assented readily, and so next session the House will hear something more on the subject.

The Temperance Question

Although the Ontario House voted strongly in favor of a referendum on the subject of prohibiting the importation of liquor into the province, it must not be supposed that the referendum on the subject this coming summer will end the temperance question, so far as the Legislature is concerned. With one or two exceptions the Labor supporters of the Government voted for the McCreary resolution. In doing that, however, they were acting with the assurance that a committee would be appointed to consider the whole question of O.T.A. administration. That committee was appointed at the close of the session, and one thing appears certain—it will not limit its inquiries only to questions of "administration." There is a strong sentiment that if the importation of all liquor is to be barred the Government should step in and make concessions by permitting the sale under Government control of a more palatable beer. The subject will almost certainly be taken up by the special committee, and the personnel of that body suggests that the proposal will have very sympathetic consideration. Had the Premier wanted to suggest a representative committee that would lean toward a moderate middle course he could not have done better than he did in naming the existing committee.

Another subject that must come up next session, and one that promises trouble, is that of equalization of Hydro rates. The demand for "more equitable" rates is being strongly supported in the rural districts which are either far removed from the source of power or cannot take quantity enough to secure low rates. The larger centres which on the "delivery at cost" basis are enjoying lo wrates will bitterly oppose the flat rate system.

A Close Up Review.

So much for the legislative record. The average man who supported the "independents" in the last general election wants a close-up of the Government itself. He wants to judge whether this experiment, so far as Ontoria politics is concerned, will prove successful in the long run, and that success depends of course upon the way in which the Cabinet shapes up. A "close up" of any man is worth no more than simply an expression of opinion. This one therefore is simply the opinion of one who has studied the Cabinet in action every day for the twelve weeks of the session.

The Hon. E. C. Drury is not a leader of the dominating type. He lacks the force and decision, that confidence in his own judgment, that made Whitney the great leader he was. That he does not lack courage was shown by his defiance of the indemnity hunting majority of his own party. His chief qualities, as they were revealed by the session just closed, are an absolute sincerity, a sense of justice, reasonableness, a quick mind and an even temper. Added to these is the gift of eloquence.

The Drury Cabinet has revealed a few weaknesses. The Hon. Ben Bowman brought no strength to the Government. He is no speaker and his showing in the House did not indicate that he is one of these "strong, silent men" you read about. This is not the opinion of his own colleagues in the Cabinet. Mr. Bowman's claim to office was the fact that he was the sole farmer member from the north. This is still his chief claim. Hon. W. E. Raney is proving himself an able lawyer, though inexperienced in parliamentary practice. He is not, however, popular even among the Government supporters and adds no strength to the Government. The Hon. H. C. Nixon handles himself well in the House, but lacks aggresiveness. Hon. R. H. Grant took practically no part in the proceedings of the House, but in the Department of Education he is given credit for being a good administrator ready to go ahead with what appeals to him. To the average observer in the House, Hon. F. C. Biggs is a splendid Minister. He is not an eloquent speaker but he knows his department like a book and in explaining the legislation he brought before the House he did not, like some of his colleagues, have to depend on briefs prepared by officials. He knew what it was about. He is aggressive and yet reasonable, makes decisions swiftly and is not afraid to voice them. Hon. Manning Doherty is an able Minister, more of a politician, perhaps, than his colleagues, but fully informed about his department and its needs. Hon. Peter Smith is probably the most likeable personality in the whole House, and though the administration of a Treasury Department doesn't provide any means of making a show, "Pete" is on the job. The other farmer Minister, Hon. D. Carmichael, is ready for promotion any time. He is as good a fighter at home as he was in France and measured up well in dealing with Hydro business, the only opportunity he had to show his worth.

The Labor Ministers.

The two Labor ministers, like practically all their followers, are good level-headed men with not even a pink tint about them. Rollo, the more able of the two, is a determined fighter but no speaker. He is open to reason at any time but has a habit of getting behind a spurious argument with a direct manner of speaking that is disconcerting to politicians. He is thoroughly loyal to the coalition but as thoroughly independent, qualities that are not at all contradictory.

SHE RINGS WEDDING BELLS FOR MAIDS

Mrs. Jennie Califas, a woman physician of Omaha, Neb., has solved the housemaid problem of how to keep them. Her agreement is that when they marry she will throw open her beautiful home and give them a fine wedding. She has had only three maids in the last 14 years, each one selecting a successor.

WHY CORN DOES BEST PLANTED IN SQUARES

It Is Only in This Way That There Can Be Adequate Pollination

Perhaps some of the amateur gardeners who read this column may not know that five rows of corn ten feet long will produce more sweet corn than a single row fifty feet long. All good gardeners plant their sweet corn in squares instead of long rows.

Canadian gardeners have lagged in one respect. Comparatively few of them have exerted themselves to force the limit of production from their land. English and German gardeners make their ground yield a great deal more than the Canadian gardeners because the Europeans do not possess the space that is available here. They use more fertilizer, cultivate more carefully and observe their growing plants closer. The planting of sweet corn in squares is an imported method and it is a good one.

Every strand of corn silk represents a potential kernel of corn on the cob from which it issues. It becomes a kernel of corn provided the dust from the tassel falls upon it The pollen dust must be deposited on the silk or there is no kernel of corn. That is the reason we often find cobs of sweet corn with vacancies on them. This shows that some of the silk wasn't fertilized by the pollen.

Strange as it may seem, the ear is part of the blossom of the corn. The tassel is the other part. The corn depends on the wind to drift the pollen dust to the silk. Other plants depend on bees, but bees do not find corn much to their liking. The tassels give off clouds of dust. All it needs is direction.

Why Square Planting is Best.

In a square of corn, whichever way the wind blows, it drives the dust among the stalks. A good deal of it is bound to fall on the silks. In a long single row or double row the pollen is blown off to either side of the row and strikes no silk that it can fertilize. This explains the basis for square planting of corn rather than in long rows.

Also do you know that corn should not be too enthusiastically hoed? This sounds like heresy, but it is possible to decrease a corn yield very materially by too much hoeing. Watch a good farmer cultivate his corn field. He uses a very light machine that merely stratches the surface.

Corn roots radiate like the spokes of a wheel, but they do not go deep. This is one reason why corn, if not hilled up, is so easily blown down by a high wind. The reason for hilling is that the corn throws out a circle of roots from the joints closest to the ground, and hilling up encourages this growth, anchors the corn and adds a larger feeding system for the plants. As it is shallow rooting, too deep hoeing disturbs the root system and hampers growth. Do plenty of hoeing, but do not dig deeply, if you want the biggest yield.

Some Popular Varieties.

There is one corn everybody should plant and nearly everybody does plant nowadays. This is the Golden Bantam, the sweetest and highest quality early corn. It took some time for a yellow corn to make its way, but now most persons will have no other. It is a dwarf variety and will never quite displace the later corns, such as Country Gentleman and Stowell's Evergreen, but it gives them a hard race. Malakoff is another excellent early corn, but Golden Bantam is the favorite.

There are so many varieties of good corn that one can hardly go wrong, but don't neglect Golden Bantam.

FARMING

In this department each week will be given general information to farmers and stockmen. No attempt will be made to criticize the work already being done by Canadian farmers; but an effort will be made to present to the farmers of the country summarized information contained in government reports, and the actual experiences of men and women who have achieved success in farming by following modern methods. Farmers who have found new "wrinkles" or have made a success in any special line of agriculture are invited to send short letters to this paper giving their experiences, or criticizing any of the information contained in these columns.

Vegetable Growing

LEEKS.

Leeks are closely related to onions, and resemble them somewhat in shape and yet have a better flavor, not being quite so hot and sharp.

Seed is usually sown out of doors in rows fifteen inches apart, and the young plants thinned two to three inches apart. The crop should be handled a good deal the same way as onions. It is advisable to draw some earth up around the bulb toward the end of the season. Leeks are usually sold while green in bunches of six to ten.

To store for winter use they should be piled in a sheltered position and a little soil added to cover them from the wind, rain and frost. They can also be kept in trenches as directed for celery. Ontario markets show an increased demand for this vegetable, good prices usually prevailing for good leeks.

LETTUCE.

Lettuce is the most popular and most extensively grown salad crop. The various uses to which the leaves of this plant have been put have given rise to a demand for this crop the year round. During the winter months it is grown in greenhouses, and during the spring, summer and fall it is grown in hotbeds, cold frames, and in quite large areas out-of-doors. It is an important crop, and in normal years there is a constant demand for fresh lettuce. It is a crop which is grown extensively in hotbeds during the early spring months, and is grown by many vegetable growers as a catch-crop and also as an inter-crop. All kitchen gardens have a short row of lettuce in the spring, because it is generally thought to be the easiest crop grown which affords some green food early in the season.

Hotbed Culture.

The seed should be sown in drills one-quarter inch deep and four inches apart as early in the spring as the hotbed is laid down. As a general rule, the seed should be sown thin enough to make thinning unnecessary. Radishes and lettuce may be sown together. Careful attention is necessary in order to give adequate ventilation and watering. The lettuce plant when grown sufficient for use can be pulled out by the roots or can be cut off at the root as desired. Lettuce is also started in the greenhouse and then pricked out into hotbeds or cold frames as the season advances

Outdoor Culture.

Lettuce, being grown for very early crops out-of-doors, is usually transplanted from hotbeds. The soil should be a sand or sandy loam, and should be a warm soil. By this is meant that the soil warms up quickly and early in the spring. A southern exposure is best. A sheltered spot is usually secured if possible, and in some cases windbreaks are used to break the force of prevailing winds. Good drainage is essential, and it is desirable that the soil be free from stones, weeds and other rubbish.

Growing Plants.

As previously stated, it is a general practice among vegetable growers to start the first plants in hotbeds and transplant them to the fields when weather conditions are suitable. Plants should be from two to two and a half inches long when ready for transplanting. Long spindly plants usually should not be set out. Short stocky plants always give best results.

Seed may be sown in soil out of doors quite early, and, as a general rule, a short row is sown as early as possible with the ordinary seed drill. Rows are usually twelve to fourteen inches apart. If sown by hand a very shallow furrow should be made with a lath and the seed barely covered. In small patches the seed can be sown broadcast on top of the soil, and by passing an ordinary rake over the soil a couple of times the seed will be covered sufficiently.

It is always advisable to make several plantings during the season, usually a week or ten days apart. This gives a constant supply of fresh lettuce through the season. For securing extra large heads or for growing head lettuce, the plants should be grown in a thick nursery row and transplanted in rows twelve to fourteen inches apart, allowing eight inches between the plants.

Manuring.

The lettuce being a leaf crop, responds to abundance of manure and humus in the soil. Large quantities of fresh or well-rotted manure should be dug or plowed into a lettuce soil. The richer the soil the better the crop will be. This plant responds readily to application of nitrate of soda. This should be applied at intervals by sprinkling between the rows and raking in; 200 lbs. to the acre makes a good application, and a sturdy growth will result.

Cultivation.

The soil should receive sufficient cultivation to keep the surface in a fine condition and to keep down the weeds. This is usually done with a hand hoe, although some use the wheel-hoe for preserving a mulch between the rows.

Harvesting.

When fully grown, or when grown sufficient to use, the plant is usually cut off at the surface of the soil with a sharp knife. It is then placed in a basket and carried to the shed, where it can be washed and is usually packed in boxes for local market.

Marketing.

Lettuce is usually sold by the dozen heads. For shipping, crates holding three, four or five dozens are used. Head lettuce is shipped in fifty-four strawberry crates usually. Large, fine heads are always in demand over small inferior ones, and should always be grown if possble. All dead or withered leaves should be removed before placing on the market.

Head lettuce is grown only to a limited extent in Ontario, because many gardeners have had considerable difficulty in maturing it. A low moist soil is best suited, and the plants should be thinned to one foot apart. The demand is increasing for this kind of lettuce. Cos lettuce or Romaine is similar to leaf lettuce, but has a straighter and more erect leaf. The culture of this variety is practically the same as leaf lettuce, excepting that the leaves are tied together when they are nearly full grown to bleach the inside.

The Use of Pasture in Pig Raising

BY W. F. STEVENS

For the best results in pig raising it is necessary to make use of pasture. By the use of pasture pigs can be grown more cheaply, they can be kept in better health and will yield a better quality of meat than if fed on grain alone. The most successful pig raisers make the greatest possible use of pasture crops.

Pasture Areas.

One acre of pasture will, in the greater portion of the Province and in an ordinary season, supply sufficient forage for 1,500 lbs. of live pork. That would mean:

5 brood sows weighing 300 lbs. each; or
15 half-grown pigs weighing 100 lbs. each; or
30 weanling pigs weighing 50 lbs. each.

The last two lots must be fed about 50 lbs. of ground grain per day in addition to the forage.

The First Essential.

The first essential of forage for pigs is succulence. Once it becomes tough and dry it is useless for pigs of any age, and may be positively injurious to suckling and weanling animals. One method of keeping the pasture succulent is to keep it pastured off so as not to let it get more than six inches high. This may be done by turning in a few calves when the pasture begins to get tall.

Kinds of Forage

The following classes of plants may be used as forage for pigs:

1. The Legumes or Clovers.
2. The Grasses.
3. The Grains.
4. Rape.

The Legumes

The legumes stand at the head of the list of plants suitable for forage for hogs, and alfalfa stands at the head of the list in point of palatability and nutritive value, while White Dutch clover stands at the head of the list for hardiness and certainty of getting established.

The Grasses

Of the grasses there is none superior to Kentucky Blue Grass for hog pasture. It is second to none in point of quality, nutritive value and palatability. As a pasture grass it is second only to Brome Grass in point of productiveness. Blue Grass is slow to get started, and for a pig pasture should be sown along with White Dutch Clover. It may be sown in a nurse crop of barley or winter rye that is being pastured, or it may be sown along with White Dutch Clover on a sod that has been well cut up with a disc. After the grass is sown the ground should be gone over once with a harrow.

In point of productiveness and ability to withstand drought, Brome Grass must be given first place. It is a little difficult to get established. In order to secure good results it should be sown on land that has been farmed at least two years, but never in a nurse crop of grain. It may be sown with a thin seeding of turnips sown broadcast on land that is free from weeds. On a piece of summer fallow or on last year's potato patch is the ideal place to start a Brome Grass pasture.

Brome Grass starts early in the spring and remains succulent even in a dry summer when most other grasses have wilted. It must, however, be kept from getting too tall. It is not relished in the fall, after severe frosts occur, as is the Kentucky Blue. Although it is difficult to get established, it is much more difficult to get rid of. Be sure that you want it and are prepared to have it always before you sow it.