

LEGISLATURE MAY WIND UP TO-DAY

Night Session Cleared the Way For Closing.

NO EIGHT-HOUR DAY YET.

Labor Member Had to Make Two Addresses.

Was Called Upon to Speak at Ten O'clock—Bar Receipts Limit Rais- ed Again—Half-fare Bill With- drawn—Important Bills.

The minute hand of the Chamber clock was just reaching for the hour of 12 o'clock last night when the Legislature adjourned, but the tired members had the satisfaction of having cleared the order paper to such an extent that the House will probably finish its business to-day. A considerable amount of important legislation was considered during the four hours of the evening session, while two bills were withdrawn and two others defeated. The Government bill to tax bar receipts was passed through committee in short order and at once given third reading. The only change made was to raise the limit from \$50 to \$60 in cities. Mr. W. K. McNaught's bill enlarging the jurisdiction of the Hydro-electric Commission was put through committee without discussion, as was Hon. Adam Beck's bill to provide for the local distribution of Hydro-electric power.

Mr. W. Proudfoot vigorously supported his bill to provide a half-fare rate for street car passengers unable to secure seats. Hon. Mr. Hendrie pointed out the difficulty of operating such a bill, and when the members shouted "lost" Mr. Proudfoot did not press the matter.

Labor Bill Defeated.

Mr. Allan Studholme was forced to make two addresses yesterday. In the afternoon he supported his woman suffrage measure, and at night he was called upon to speak to his eight-hour-day and minimum wage bill.

It was 10 o'clock when the order was called, and the little Labor man objected to being made to go on then.

"If we want to be away from here before Easter we have got to do some work," remarked the Prime Minister shortly.

"Well, now," retorted the Labor man, "is there anybody doing more work in this House than me?"

"You don't do as much work in six months as I do in a week," came back Sir James.

"Yes," commented Mr. Studholme, "and there's a mighty big difference in the amount we get for it, too."

"The Premier," he added, "might have told me he wanted me to go on with it to-night."

In his address he appealed for consideration of the working class, who had never secured a square deal. He commented rather bitterly upon the fact that the Prime Minister and the members had deserted the Chamber.

Mr. Studholme referred to the progress of the Labor movement in Australia and Britain, where Governments were legislating for the workman.

"I won't. You can vote it down," was Mr. Studholme's reply to a request to withdraw his bill, and when the division was taken his voice alone

was raised in favor of the measure.
The Limit Raised Again.

The liquor men, who prophesied that the five per cent. tax on all bar receipts over forty dollars would never become law, were not overconfident. Monday night Hon. W. J. Hanna announced that the Government had decided to make the tax apply only to receipts over \$50 and last night this was raised to \$60 in cities.

The Provincial Secretary stated that the present license in cities, \$1,600, was higher, in proportion to the business done, than in outside municipalities. The difference in the amount upon which the tax would be collected would even things up.

Sir James Whitney stated that the limit was not a final one. It might be that after a year, when the working of the clause had been studied, the liquor men might be asked to pay on the excess over \$50.

To Hon. A. G. MacKay the Provincial Secretary said that the tax would probably be figured upon the monthly average, although the matter was still under consideration.

Barbers Bill Withdrawn.

Mr. Geo. H. Gooderham withdrew his barbers bill when requested to do so by Hon. I. B. Lucas. The bill provided for the appointment of a Board of Examiners to issue licenses to barbers. Hon. Mr. Lucas stated that the bill came in the class of those creating close corporations.

The Single Tax Bill Again.

Mr. A. E. Fripp made another attempt to have his single tax bill adopted by the House. He declared that since last session the sentiment in favor of taxation of land rather than improvements had grown steadily. Fewer Municipal Councils had gone on record against it and a great many more had pronounced in favor.

The Entering Wedge.

Sir James Whitney was quite emphatic in his objection to the measure, describing it as the "entering wedge of the Henry George system." Hon. A. G. MacKay took up the principle with regard to land speculation and told of conditions in Owen Sound, where the development of the town had been held back for years.

Liberal Leader in Favor.

"I am heartily in favor of the principle of this bill," said the Liberal leader, going on to refer to the experience of Vancouver, where the taxation of improvements had been abandoned and land values taxed.

Important Bills Considered.

Mr. W. K. McNaught's bill to add two clauses to the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board act was given second reading. The first clause makes it clear that street railways in making extensions secures no rights not enjoyed under the agreement with the municipality. The second clause declares that the Ontario Railway Board has no power to order or permit double-tracking where it is not provided for in the agreement with the municipality and the company.