

Legislature Closes Deliberations for Year by Giving Final O.K. to 27 Bills—House Prorogues on Tuesday—Has Sat on 80 Days Since February 14

NO SERIOUS CRISIS IN WHOLE PERIOD

After the longest session in its history, the Ontario Legislature wound up its 1922 session at exactly 5.22 o'clock last evening. Immediately the Attorney-General had secured assent for a motion "that the House do now adjourn until 3 o'clock Tuesday, for formal prorogation." members broke into the National Anthem. The last action on the floor was the hearty giving of three rousing cheers for Speaker Nelson Parliament, called for by R. L. Brackin, K.C., West Kent.

The wind-up came even more quickly than members had expected. Although the end of the session was confidently looked for yesterday, the general thought was that the still numerous items on the order paper would keep the House in session until probably 10 or 11 o'clock. However, honorable members were in the best of humor at the prospect of returning to their homes, and measures were put through with the greatest despatch.

Longest One on Record.

The session just concluded is the longest on record. It began on February 14. Since then the House has sat on 80 days. This is 16 days longer than the previous session, which also constituted a record. Altogether 270 bills were presented to members, of which the great majority survived the journey through three readings and committee, although, possibly, somewhat mutilated in the process. Probably a score of measures were presented and withdrawn, outstanding among which was the Attorney-General's bill to abolish appeals to the Privy Council.

Outstanding among the mass of legislation that has gone through during the four months was the Premier's Hydro-radial Bill and its all-important last-minute amendments, which were given third reading yesterday. In addition there have been amendments calculated to strengthen the O.T.A. improvements in the workmen's compensation law; further aid in the distribution of rural Hydro power; Lake of the Woods Control Bill, and the much-discussed 5 per cent. tax on race-track wagers.

No fewer than 27 bills were given third reading in the last two hours of the session, one or two of them being advanced through the stage directly they had met with committee approval. On one measure, Hon. Harry Mills' Gas Bill, the House hesitated in its onrush sufficiently long to send the bill back to committee for one minor amendment, then repassed it and, without stopping for breath, sent it through its third reading.

Two things probably saved the House from setting up an even higher long-distance record—the withdrawal of the Attorney-General's Privy Council appeals measure, and the agreement to dispense with further debate on the Lennox charges, which were open for discussion on the presentation of the report of the Public Accounts Committee. A week or possibly ten days would have been added to the session had these two tid-bits been thrown to the House.

It might be fairly said that the Drury Government was never seriously challenged during the lengthy session. In the dozen or so divisions its majority was never dangerously small, and as a general rule it had a goodly group of supporters on the Opposition side of the House. Except on one or two unimportant measures the U.F.O.-Labor groups voted solidly behind the Treasury benches, and the only rift in the Government lute was when W. H. Casselman, U.F.O. member for Dundas, said some rather harsh things of the Government for its failure to adopt the suggestion made by himself and Hon. G. H. Ferguson for still further aid to the farmers in getting Hydro power.

"HOW TO KEEP THEM DOWN ON THE FARM"

"Make Farming Pay," Hon. Manning Doherty Tells Legislature

One farmer member, M. C. Fox, South Essex, voted against all his colleagues of the Government benches in the Legislature yesterday, in favor of J. McNamara's resolution providing for the appointment of a special committee of the Legislature to investigate the problem of the scarcity of farm hands and to report on such steps as might be taken to securing a healthy "back to the land" movement. The resolution was defeated 22 to 16.

Hon. Manning Doherty opposed the resolution. A really healthy back-to-the-land movement could only be obtained, he said, by making farming conditions really profitable and the lot of the farmer such as to be desired. He mentioned, in passing, that at the very time the returned men were making their pilgrimage to Ottawa, to declare their inability to get work, he had difficulty in restraining the enthusiasm exhibited by a number of farmers over the arrival of 90 British farmer immigrants.