

SWAYZE'S GAS BILL FINALLY DISCARDED

**Plea for Further Trial of
Existing Legislation
Triumphs**

BROUGHT DOWN SUDDENLY

After a fight which started before lunch hour, was adjourned, and taken up again prior to 6 o'clock adjournment, the bill of Charles Swayze (Independent Labor member for Niagara Falls) to repeal all existing gas legislation, was thrown out on second reading in the Legislature yesterday.

Swayze Gets Support.

Mr. Swayze, R. L. Brackin (Liberal, West Kent), Peter Cameron (West Elgin) and J. M. Webster (Lambton), all representatives of ridings situated in the natural gas fields of Western Ontario, complained of the existing legislation which abrogates former contracts between municipalities and the gas companies, and maintained in the argument that the "scrapping" of these agreements in the recent legislation was not ethical or justifiable.

Mr. Brackin, while favoring the principle of Mr. Swayze's bill, that the Gas Board should be abolished and present legislation repealed, putting the municipalities back on their old agreements, said that his riding desired to continue the restrictions put upon the usage of gas for manufacturing or industrial purposes.

"Give It Time," Pleads Mills.

Hon. Harry Mills, Minister of Mines, under whose department comes the administration of the Western Ontario gas resources, urged that the existing legislation be given a chance. He had statistics to show that the consumers had benefited by the change that had been enacted and he stated that only three per cent. of the consumers to whom had been sent a questionnaire had stated they desired the repeal of the bill.

J. C. Tolmie, Liberal member for Windsor, and H. H. Dewart, K.C. (Liberal, Southwest Toronto), fought strongly against the bill, the burden of both their arguments being that the legislation had not yet had opportunity to prove its worth. Mr. Tolmie said that he knew of no municipalities desiring its repeal, and Mr. Dewart declared it was an unheard of thing to bring down on the last day of the session a bill to repeal legislation passed a year previous after most careful thought and consideration.

STIPEND FOR WIDOWS RUNS HOUSE GAMUT

**Is Only Amendment to Workmen's Compensation Bill
That Passes**

SEVERAL BILLS DROPPED

Amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, introduced in a bill sponsored by Hon. W. R. Rollo, Minister of Labor, were abandoned yesterday, except one which sets forth that a widow with children is to receive a minimum of \$12.50 a week.

Manufacturers Interested.

The bill had a curious course. In the morning a deputation representing manufacturers and mining men visited the Building, had a conference with F. Wellington Hay, Liberal Leader, then with Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Conservative Leader, and then with the Minister

of Labor. Mr. Rollo explained that the deputation was satisfied after he had explained the bill.

But objection was taken to the bill in the House yesterday afternoon, during second reading, by J. A. Pinard (Liberal, East Ottawa). He objected to such an important measure coming down so late in the session and declared that he would see that third reading "will not pass today, so the honorable Minister better withdraw his bill."

Z. Mageau (Liberal, Sturgeon Falls) also was opposed to the bill, and this brought a statement from Mr. Hay as to conferences held among the three Leaders on the measure. But now it seemed that opposition was developing, as it had a right to develop; he thought the bill might be withdrawn.

In Cause of Widows.

Mr. Ferguson, however, argued that a clause permitting a minimum of \$12.50 a week for a widow with children should be placed in the bill, even if the rest of the bill was dropped.

Government measures withdrawn included an act respecting the school laws, the Hotels Bill, amendments to the Game and Fisheries Act. Estimates having being all voted, the Supply Bill was given all three readings.

IN PATRIOTIC SONG AS LAWMAKERS PART

**Ontario's Rulers Quit Halls of
Recent Strife in British
Fashion**

WHEN WILL ELECTION BE?

At eighteen minutes past ten o'clock last night the last session of the fifteenth session of the Legislature adjourned with the order paper cleared and all business disposed of. The Legislature meets again formally on Tuesday afternoon for the prorogation ceremonies, and assent to bills; otherwise all legislative business has been transacted. Following prorogation will come dissolution and the elections.

Just as Speaker Parliament stood up to follow out for the last time the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the mace, the members stood and sang the National Anthem. Then Joseph McNamara (Independent, Riverdale) called out: "Three cheers for the Speaker," which were given with a will.

Twenty-eight bills received third reading including the City of Toronto Bill and the bill to incorporate part of the of East York, and the Ontario Medical Act changes. A whole host of notices of motion by private members either were carried without discussion or withdrawn. Those dropped were: Regarding distribution, introduced by Mr. Halcrow; fair wage clauses in Government contracts, introduced by Mr. McNamara; arbitration proceedings concerning the fire at Matheson in 1916, by Mr. Lang; bonus for peat, by Dr. Stevenson; Provincial plebiscite on sale of liquor, by Mr. Homuth, and several orders asking for returns.

Motions Carried.

Motions which were carried without discussion included one asking the Government to take steps regarding St. Lawrence development of power; thanks to France for the donation of land on Vimy Ridge, and orders asking for various returns.

J. C. Tolmie (Liberal, Windsor) in the absence of Mr. Sinclair, withdrew the latter's motion regarding agricultural betterment; the debate on Mr. MacBride's motion regarding the administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act was dropped, as was also consideration of the report of the Select Committee of the hotel and tourist investigation. Mr. Johnston's bill to amend the Workmen's Compensation Act and Mr. Mathieu's to amend the Public Utilities Act were dropped.

The only debate of the evening was on Mr. Lang's motion regarding the arbitration proceedings following the Matheson fire. He with-