

Friday, April 2nd

amend the Church Union Bill, but withdrew it in the face of vigorous opposition from the House. The amendment, which was seconded by Col. J. A. Currie, Toronto Conservative member, sought for the Non-concurring body of the Presbyterian Church the right to the charter of Knox College.

Apple of Discord.

Launched at a time when the bill to amend the Union Bill was called in committee, the MacBride-Currie amendment obviously startled the House. Attorney-General Nickle called attention to the fact that the report of the Private Bills Committee had been accepted; referred to the settlements which he and heads of the disputing churches had reached during the last couple of days; stressed the fine spirit existing between the churches involved, in regard to other difficulties nearing settlement, and characterized the amendment as "an apple of discord" thrown into a religious controversy which, he inferred, was about ended.

Explaining that discussion of the status of Knox College had not been allowed before the Private Bills Committee. Mr. Nickle declared that if the Lewis bill were to be amended, as proposed, the action would constitute "a grievous breach of faith" with those most concerned with the working of the measure.

A. C. Lewis (Conservative, Toronto), sponsor for the bill, congratulated Mr. Nickle on the splendid work he had accomplished in arranging settlements of a number of congregational "hardship" cases. In view of these results he could not support the amendment, notwithstanding the fact that he felt, as Mr. MacBride and Col. Currie felt, that the charter of Knox College should go to the Non-concurring Presbyterians.

In withdrawing his amendment, Mr. MacBride stated he had moved it for another member who was absent from the House. He felt that if it was looked upon as a "breach of faith" he did not desire to be associated with it. Misunderstanding on the question was the last thing he wanted. He gave warning, however, that if the interests of the Continuing Presbyterians were not looked after in the connection stated he would bring in a bill at the next session of the House that would adequately provide for them.

Premier Ferguson declared that there would be little need for any bill if the fine spirit characterizing the conferences between Mr. Nickle and the Church authorities was continued throughout the year. He thought that far more had been accomplished by these conferences toward clearing up the Church controversy than by all the efforts of a year ago.

The Lewis bill was given second reading without further discussion.

Ten Per Cent. Beer Bill Is Jettisoned by House In Last-Minute Rush

*Proposed Measure Affecting
Widow's Dower
Rights Also Goes Over-
board as Legislature Pre-
pares to Prorogue on
Wednesday*

THIRD READING FOR CHURCH BILL

*T.T.C. Must Not Keep
Busses Off Road to Wes-
ton—High Spots of the
Shortest Session in Years*

The Legislature last night cleaned up everything standing on the order paper and adjourned until Tuesday, when the House will take up discussion of the report and recommendations of the Special Agricultural Inquiry Committee. Prorogation is set for Wednesday.

Besides the brief debate on the report of the Agricultural Inquiry Committee, the House will hear resumes of the year's work of the Departments of Agriculture, Mines, and perhaps some others, from the Ministers concerned. The House will resume at 3 o'clock and continue on into the night until this bill of fare is exhausted.

A Record Day in the House.

From the standpoint of actual accomplishment yesterday was perhaps a record day in the history of the Legislature. The Church Union Bill passed through the Private Bills Committee, Committee of the Whole House, and third reading during the day; Bloor Street widening, transfer of the radials from Hydro to the T.T.C., the Weston radial bill—all these contentious matters were disposed of in yesterday's clean-up, and without any of the disputes which were anticipated.

The evening session of the House, one of the driest of the session from the standpoint of the galleries, was fruitful of well over a hundred third readings, with scores of bills passing through committee, and a few others withdrawn.

Outstanding among the bills withdrawn was that of H. Fisher, K.C., to give Judges power in certain cases to revise a will on behalf of a widow, and the measure of J. A. Pinard to sanction the sale of 10 per cent. beer. Mr. Pinard's bill was the one which it was anticipated would precipitate further debate, but Premier Ferguson's persuasive powers apparently won that battle.