

MARCH 13

Faced With Lack of Quorum, Clerk Uses Division Bell To Recall Wandering M.P.P.'s

Major Alex Lewis looked around the Legislature Chamber yesterday afternoon and what he saw didn't please him. The empty seats outnumbered the occupied ones by a wide margin. The Clerk of the House watched a few more members stroll out, and then he acted.

From the press gallery the major was seen to leave his chair and confer with a House official. He then returned to his place at the head of the long table and gave all his attention to the speech being made by John J. Glass (Lib., St. Andrew).

Mr. Glass' eloquence was suddenly interrupted by the shrill sound of the division bell. Its insistent ring could be heard above the voice of the Toronto member, and the handful of members in the House wore startled looks as they listened to the clamor of the bell—but not Major Lewis.

Then the main and side doors

opened and the absentee legislators poured into the Chamber, most of them convinced that the Government was about to be defeated on a snap vote. Somewhat sheepishly they took their places and gave attentive ear to what Mr. Glass was saying.

"I am glad to see my words are drawing in the members," remarked Mr. Glass, when the truants came marching in.

Twenty members form a quorum. What had made Major Lewis decide on action was the fact that the attendance had dwindled to 22 with every indication that it might sink below the required figure.

Well, it was a spring day with a warm sun shining from a blue sky, and most of the M.P.P.'s didn't feel like listening to speeches. And it was also a Friday, usually an off-day. It took Major Lewis and the division bell to remind them that, spring or no spring, the business of the House must go on.

Labels W.P.T.B. Chief 'No. 1 Enemy of Farmers'

Donald Gordon, chairman of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, was labelled "the No. 1 enemy of the farmers of Ontario" in the Legislature yesterday by Col. T. L. Kennedy (Prog. Con., Peel) in a Throne Speech address which he devoted mainly to the problems and injustices faced by the farmers of the Province.

Col. Kennedy complained against control making prices high for what the farmers have to buy and low for what they have to sell. Why couldn't farmers here get as good prices for their produce as the farmers of the United States? he demanded. He cited No. 1 hard wheat as quoted at 75 cents a bushel at Winnipeg and \$1.47 at Chicago,

and choice steers at \$11.50 a cwt. at Winnipeg and \$15.50 at Chicago. He blamed controls.

"Is it any wonder we say this man Gordon is the No. 1 enemy of the farmers of Ontario?" he asked.

He hoped for the sake of future security of the boys overseas and those at home that the errors that followed the last war would not be repeated after this and urged a plan of "county units" to get closer to the farms and farm problems.

He declared that "the farmers of this Province think less of politics today than ever before; they think of future security." He warned that if the present Government didn't give them what they thought they should have, some other form of government would.