

April 6.

Fall Session Indicated As House Prorogues

The first full session of the 22nd Legislature of Ontario prorogued late yesterday, after 25 days of work-packed sittings which produced one of the largest volumes of new and amended legislation in Provincial history. And highlight of the closing hours was the indirect announcement by Premier George Drew that there would be a fall session this year.

Two wholly new departments (Reform Institutions and Travel and Publicity), a record highways program with an expenditure of more than \$46 million, complete revision of liquor sales, widening of Provincial Police work along lines involving a new-type war-proved frequency modulation radio system, continuance of educational grants to relieve home-owners' taxes, radically new health plans such as free medical examinations of all expectant mothers—these are some of the measures given approval by the House. And prorogation was taken on the eve of the continuing Dominion-Provincial Conference's next meeting—with an estimated Provincial deficit from 1946-47 financing of \$21 millions, to be resolved from ordinary revenues following decisions reached as a result of that conference.

Dealt With Them All

A clean record of having dealt with every motion brought before it was made at the session. In all, 176 pieces of legislation, apart from motions, resolutions, etc., were dealt with—including 44 private bills, every one of which was given full consideration and none of which received the often-given "brush-off" of being left completely "in abeyance." Three Opposition (CCF) measures were accepted by the Government and embraced in legislation approved, and one major motion (Liberal) was accepted.

The House met early yesterday to pass through second reading and committee stages several non-contentious Government bills.

Attorney-General Leslie Blackwell paid tribute to professional members of the civil service when he explained that departmental salary increases, noticeable in the estimates, were because offers had been made to the experts "both by the Dominion Government and private business" that far exceeded their salaries "even with the increases." In response, Farquhar Oliver, Liberal Leader, rose to comment that no complaint would come from his group, which appreciated the services and loyalty of the employees to Ontario.

Mr. Blackwell gave further information on plans he had outlined the previous day for Provincial police expansion. These, he said, involved installation of a three-way war-proved radio system which would knit together the whole police system, permitting not only station to car two-way communication but car-to-car communication. The setup, he believed, would not be completed by the year's end, but would be wholly in operation shortly after that time.

Further Police Problems

C.C.F. Leader, W. J. Grummett, asked the Attorney-General to look into a phase of municipal-Provincial police relations which he felt was important. He supported the plans under which municipalities could turn over to the Ontario police the duties of law enforcement, but he believed that some of them felt the expense was too great, not as to salary requirements for officers but as to certain stipulated requirements, such as jails and similar factors, which the little towns could not afford.

During the afternoon session, the House gave third reading to the balance of the legislation still on the order paper and Lieutenant-Governor Albert Matthews visited the Chamber and gave Royal assent to the acts. In his prorogation address, he commented on the efficiency shown during the session, and made one comment respecting labor legislation, a fiery issue with the Opposition groups, when he remarked that absence of amendments to labor legislation had been because of the continuing overriding Federal wartime labor laws.