

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

TORONTO, Feb. 21.

The Printing Committee met this morning, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair. There were present Messrs. Fraser, Macdougall (Simcoe), O'Donoghue, Miller, Creighton, Deroche, and Grange.

Mr. Geo. M. Rose continued his evidence relative to the printing contract with the Government. No material evidence in addition to that given by the witness yesterday was adduced. In explaining why the contract rates for printing at Ottawa were lower than those at Toronto, he mentioned that Mr. Taylor, a former contractor, had been ruined by reason of the contract being accepted at too low a figure, and possibly Messrs. McLean, Rogers, & Co., the present Dominion contractors, would know more of the paying nature of their contract when it expired. He believed that time would show that his representations were correct. The immense quantities of printing ordered at Ottawa allowed a wide margin for binding and press-work, which compensated for the low rates for composition. At Toronto the quantities were very small, and in that respect they had miscalculated in their original tender to the Government. The *Ontario Gazette* was a source of revenue to the Ontario Government, but not to the printers, except the amount they received for typesetting and printing. The time the type was purchased for the printing of the Revised Statutes, amounting to \$7,000, the bills for the type became due, but on account of Parliament meeting late that year, and no appropriation having been made for the purpose, the Government permitted the printers of the *Gazette* to retain moneys collected for advertisements to meet pressing calls. The type was purchased by Messrs. Hunter, Rose, & Co., not for themselves, but for the Government. Referring to the claims of the firm for the increased price for composition, over the original contract, he stated that they were only paid the increased rates for 1873 and 1874, but not for 1875.

The Committee adjourned till to-morrow.

EXEMPTIONS COMMITTEE.

The sub-Committee appointed by the Exemptions Committee met this morning and drafted a number of questions relating to the subject of exemptions, to be sent to the several municipalities in the Province.