

13. Can you suggest any system by which transient traders, such as dealers in bankrupt stocks, can be made to bear their fair share of municipal taxation along with permanent merchants?

Mr. HARDY moved that a printed sheet containing only those sections of the Assessment Act which the Committee had agreed to leave over for further consideration be sent out along with the questions.

Mr. MEREDITH thought that would narrow their enquiry too much; and moved to the effect that the opinion of the people be asked as to all kinds of exemptions.

Mr. HARDY said the Committee had discussed these various sections with the express view of excluding all unnecessary subjects from their enquiry, and no object could now be served in re-opening what they had decided upon.

After some further discussion, Mr. Hardy's motion was carried on a vote of 7 to 4.

On motion, it was agreed that the questions should be sent to the heads of municipal corporations, banks, building and loan societies, insurance companies, commercial agencies, boards of trade, agricultural societies, and to any merchants, manufacturers, and other business, professional, and workmen whose names should be submitted to and adopted by the Committee.

Mr. MEREDITH proposed that the following words be inserted in the letter to accompany the list of questions:—"The Committee will be glad to receive such general suggestions as you may desire to make with reference to the present system of assessment for municipal purposes, or any changes you may think desirable for the purpose of regulating the burden of municipal taxation."

The proposal was agreed to.

After some desultory conversation, the Committee adjourned till Tuesday.

PRINTING COMMITTEE.

This Committee met this morning at 10:30, Mr. Clarke (Wellington) in the chair. There were also present Messrs. Fraser, Boulter, Creighton, Deroche, Grange, Macdougall (Simcoe), and O'Donoghue.

The examination of Mr. Geo. M. Rose, of the firm of Hunter, Rose, & Co., relative to the Government printing contract, was resumed. He made comparisons between the contract prices at Ottawa, Quebec, and Toronto, claiming that as a whole the prices at Quebec were very much higher than those in Ontario, and that the prices in Ottawa were, on the whole, slightly higher than the increased rates in Ontario. In reply to Mr. Macdougall, he said it cost from \$45,000 to \$50,000 for plant to start a Government printing office. With strict supervision, the Government might get the work performed at the same rates as they were paying now, except the annual sum of \$7,000, which would be for wear and tear, interest on capital account, &c. Girls might be employed, and the cost of running the office would thereby be reduced. He confessed he saw no reason why the Government could not conduct such an office, but he did not believe it would be desirable in the public interest, as most politicians had so many needy friends who were or might be printers. These men might be incompetent and yet receive large salaries, which usually prevailed in Government offices.

Mr. MACDOUGALL said these difficulties were obviated in the Government printing office at Washington by the appointment of a superintendent and the enforcement of stringent regulations.

The Committee then adjourned.