

2725

local causes, and is mainly due to the special character of the food, which is said to contain more or less ergot. Dr. Smith reports that as soon as the food is changed the animals speedily recover.

TEMPORARY OFFICIALS.

Dr. Ryerson moved for an order of the House for a return giving the numbers and religions of the temporary employees of the Department of Public Works at the new Parliament buildings and Osgoode Hall during the years 1892-93.

Hon. Mr. Fraser suggested that it would be scarcely fair that the order should be passed in the way it stood, and the return confined to the particular branches of the public service named therein. In a number of institutions in the city and elsewhere in Ontario connected with the Public Works Department there had been temporary employees besides those in the institutions named, and if the information asked for was to be of any use and the criticisms upon it such as sought to be made the return should be of a wider scope. He suggested therefore that the motion should be amended so as to give the names and religions of the temporary employees of the Public Works Department during the years named, together with the time during which they were in the service of the department and the total wages paid to each person.

Dr. Ryerson said he was satisfied to have his motion amended, and it passed as amended.

PUBLIC BILLS.

Mr. Field's bill to amend the act relating to the registration of births, marriages and deaths passed its second reading and went to the Legal Committee. It provides for the keeping of duplicates of registrations in Toronto. Mr. Meredith objected that it would cause an enormous amount of labor over the country. Hon. Mr. Harcourt pointed out that by the use of proper forms the labor would be less than at first sight appeared, and the bill passed for consideration in committee.

Mr. Harty's bill to amend the act to regulate travelling on public highways and bridges was advanced to its second reading. He explained that it was introduced at the instance of the company which for many years has owned and kept up the Cataract Bridge, at Kingston, and that it was to provide that the fines collected for furious driving over bridges should be paid over to the company, which is at the expense of the repair of the bridge. There was no especial comment made upon the measure.

Mr. Waters moved the second reading of his bill to amend the municipal act by abolishing the poll tax. He said in many counties it was not attempted to be enforced at all, and it would be better abolished.

Mr. Meredith said there was ample power vested in the municipalities to abolish the tax if they chose, and if the local objection to the tax warranted it.

Hon. Mr. Hardy thought the bill might go to the Municipal Committee, and some modifications made in the existing law.

Mr. Clancy referred to a portion of Mr. Waters' bill which proposed additional regulations regarding the payment over of taxes, and said it was loading the statute book with useless legislation, and bore out the charge that a good deal of tinkering was done in the House.

Mr. Balfour thought there was not sufficient opposition to the poll tax in the places where it was levied to warrant its abolition.

Mr. Waters replied to the objections, and the bill was then sent to the Municipal Committee.

THE COMMISSION ON FEES.

On the motion for the adjournment of the House, Mr. Meredith asked if it was true that the Commission on Fees had been issued, as was announced in the press, and if the sessions were being held with closed doors.

Sir Oliver said the commission had issued, but no evidence had been yet taken. The sessions so far held had been merely preliminary and related to the mode of procedure, and so forth. This could be better done, he thought, in private than in the presence of the public.

Mr. Meredith thought even this objectionable, and Sir Oliver said he had no doubt when the commission had considered the scope of their investigations they would have no idea of keeping anything from the public.

The House adjourned at 4.30 o'clock.

THE COMMISSION ON FEES.

Mr. Meredith Wants the Sessions Held in Public.

Some Interesting Notices of Motion—Mr. Balfour's Special Gas Committee—Returns and Deputations.

Legislative Chamber, April 2.

The session to-day was as brief as the Monday session usually is. Little business was done and there were no discussions of importance. In the evening Mr. Balfour's special committee on natural gas held its first meeting and took some interesting evidence.

Mr. Balfour introduced a bill to amend the street railway act, and Mr. Tait a bill to amend the Ontario election act.

The House then went into committee and passed Mr. Conmee's bill to enable Nelson Schnarr to practise as a dentist, Mr. Tooley's bill confirming the agreement between the London Street Railway Company and London West, Mr. Kerns' bill to legalize by-law 214 of the County of Halton, and Mr. E. F. Clarke's bill to enable the executors of John Smith to mortgage certain lands in Toronto. The bill regarding Nelson Schnarr was slightly amended.

ERGOTISM IN CATTLE.

Mr. Rorke asked:—Has the Government been apprized of a disease among cattle in the southeastern portion of the County of Grey, pronounced by some veterinaries as ergotism? If so, is it the intention of the Government to inquire into the cause and effect of the disease, and supply to farmers every available information as to the best preventive methods and remedial treatment?

Hon. Mr. Dryden said in reply:—The Department of Agriculture has been notified of a new disease among cattle in the County of Grey. Upon receiving the information the department immediately communicated with Dr. Andrew Smith, one of the Dominion inspectors for contagious diseases. Under his authority the district has been visited and the affected animals examined; the conclusion being that the disease is not contagious, but arises from

