

Mr. Whitney asked:—Is it the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session legislation providing that, except as provided by the act respecting the Legislative Assembly, no person shall be appointed to an office in the gift of the Government of the Province, to which any salary or emolument is attached, while he is a member of the Legislature of Ontario, or until at least one year has elapsed since the dissolution of the Legislature of which he was a member?

Sir Oliver Mowat replied:—No member having ever been appointed to office by this Government, and no member having been appointed to any office except where it had been ascertained beforehand that the appointment was desired by the people, or that there were other public reasons for the appointment being made, it is not the intention of the Government to introduce during the present session legislation to the effect suggested in the question.

THE PREVENTION OF BRIBERY.

Mr. Whitney then asked whether the attention of the Government had been drawn to certain paragraphs, which he quoted, in the judgment of the trial Judges in the case of the Kingston election petition, stating that, though, owing to the early close of the case, no corrupt practice was proved to have been committed, yet there was reason to suppose that such practices had prevailed extensively, and that this circumstance and the fact of the limited powers of inquiry conferred upon the Judges at the trial of an election petition ought to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly. Mr. Whitney further asked: "Having regard to the statements that corrupt practices prevailed extensively at the said election, is it the intention of the Government to amend the law in the direction of increasing the certainty of proper punishment being imposed upon all persons guilty of bribery?"

"Is it the intention of the Government to comply with the recommendation of the Judges contained in paragraph six of the above judgment by submitting the matters referred to in said paragraph to the Legislative Assembly in any other way than by printing the said judgment in the Votes and Proceedings? If so, in what manner will the same be so submitted?"

Sir Oliver Mowat replied: "(1) The attention of the Government has been drawn to the paragraphs which appear in the judgment of the trial Judges in the case of the Kingston election petition, and which my hon. friend has mentioned.

"(2) The Government would be glad to discover any practicable means of effectually preventing or further diminishing bribery at elections. No Government in the world has discovered any means of extirpating such bribery. I believe that our law now is as efficient for this purpose, both in its legislative provisions and in the administration of them, as any law in any other country, and is in advance of most, if not all, others. Still, the Government will be glad to discover any practicable means not yet provided which would increase the efficiency of the law on the subject, and the certainty of the punishment of persons guilty. The Government is not at present prepared with any such measure.

"(3) The Government is not aware of any other way of usefully communicating to the Legislative Assembly the matters referred to except by the publication of what the learned Judges have said, and by any supplementary legislation which may hereafter be devised to remedy the evil.

"(4) No further answer can be made to the fourth question of the hon. member."

This concluded the business of the sitting, and the House adjourned at 3.35 p.m.

CHILD-SAVING IN ONTARIO.

The report submitted to the House by the Superintendent of Neglected and Dependent Children will be a valuable contribution to the literature of the day on the important question of child-saving. Mr. Kelso has given a good deal of thought to these matters, and has evidently sought to produce a volume that will be of permanent interest. The newer method of placing homeless and deserted children direct in family homes is fully dealt with, and facts given showing the great success that has attended this legislation during the two years in which it has been in force in Ontario. Those who are actively engaged in philanthropic work should apply for one of these reports.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Marter gives notice of motion

"That there be laid before this House a return of copies of all correspondence, documents and writings between any member of the Government or any person or persons and the Government in connection with the recent charge made by James Massie, late Warden of the Central Prison, against certain officials therein; (2) for copy of appointment and instructions to commissioners who investigated said charges; (3) for copy of all evidence taken at said investigation; (4) for copy of report of said commissioners."

Mr. Marter is also moving for an order "That there be laid before this House a return showing the names of all persons, firms or companies indebted to the Province since last return on account of timber dues, ground rent or bonuses for timber limits, the amount of indebtedness in each case, the balance, if any, due by such persons, firms or companies at the time of last return, and the total amount of such indebtedness on the 1st day of January, 1896."

Mr. Crawford will on Wednesday next inquire from the Ministry who are the shareholders of the Georgian Bay Ship Canal & Power Aqueduct Company, incorporated in 1894; how much stock is held by each and the amount paid thereon by each; who are the officers and directors of the company; what agreements have been made by the company with any municipality or municipalities; what part of the works of the company have been constructed, and what works are under contract to be constructed.

Mr. Marter will on Wednesday next inquire what was the average cost per year for each prisoner at the Central Prison for the years 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894 and 1895 for provisions, also for clothing, giving each of these items separately; also the average earnings for each of the same years of each prisoner.

Dr. McKay of Oxford has given notice of a bill to amend the municipal act so as to permit of elections being held at 1 o'clock instead of at noon, as at present. He has also given notice of a bill to amend the assessment act.

Dr. Meacham has given notice of an inquiry as to the estimated value of the stock at the Experimental Farm, Guelph, on Jan. 1, 1884 and 1895.

Dr. Ryerson has given notice of a bill respecting contractors and employees on public works.