

for legislation authorizing County Councils to... and compelling cities to provide proper market shelters, and providing that the Reeves of the several local municipalities shall compose County Councils, with a plurality of votes in proportion to their population.

Mr. McNaughton—From Bruce County Council, for an amendment to the assessment act in reference to tax sales.

Mr. Taylor—From license holders and electors in North Middlesex, opposing the passage of amendments to the liquor license act proposed by the temperance societies.

Mr. Reid—From Northumberland and Durham County Council, for legislation compelling cities to provide proper market shel-

Mr. [Name]—From Essex County Council, for amendments to the registry act, re-employment of Registrars; from [Name] of Windsor, for an act concerning the municipal debt and authorizing the issue of 30-year debentures to the amount of \$33,216.

THE FRANKING PRIVILEGE.

Mr. Matheson asked:—Has the Government received any notice from the Post-office Department limiting the franking privilege on Government and departmental reports and papers, hitherto granted, and if so to what extent?

Mr. Hardy replied that the Government was corresponding with the postoffice authorities at Ottawa upon the point. It did not appear to be quite plain what the limitation imposed was intended to be. He would probably be able at a later day to give a more specific answer to the question.

The next question, which stands in the name of Mr. Willoughby, was:—Did B. M. Britton, Q.C., referee under the drainage act, resign his office as such referee? If so, what is the date of his resignation and up to what date was he paid his salary?

The Premier replied that the resignation of Mr. Britton was dated on September 19. He had been paid his salary at the ordinary time, in the middle of the month, and he was, therefore, paid for the whole month of September.

MR. NOXON.

Mr. Whitney asked:—Is James Noxon still in the service of the Government as Inspector of Prisons or otherwise? Is he also in the service of the Government of Canada, and if so, in what capacity? At what date did he enter into the service of the Government of Canada? Has he received his salary from the Ontario Government since said date, and who has since said date performed his duties as Inspector of Prisons?

Mr. Davis replied:—Mr. Noxon is still in the service of the Government as Inspector of Prisons. He was by commission temporarily appointed by the Dominion Government to make a special examination into the affairs of Kingston Penitentiary, owing to his special knowledge relating to the management of public and penal institutions. He has served thirty-one days upon the commission, most of which time was during the three weeks' leave of absence allowed to public servants as an annual vacation. He has been in receipt of his salary from the Ontario Government, and has continued to perform his duties as Inspector of Prisons, excepting during his occasional absence on the commission. At the time of his appointment it was understood that an abatement should be made in his salary from the Province during the time of his absence, except as to the three weeks' vacation referred to.

MR. PRESTON'S CASE.

The leader of the Opposition also asked:—Was W. T. R. Preston, now Librarian of this House, a candidate for the representation of the electoral district of West Toronto in the House of Commons of Canada at the general election of June, 1896? If so, did he resign his position as Librarian, and on what date? Was any promise given, or understanding arrived at, with the said W. T. R. Preston, that, in the event of his defeat at said election, he should be re-appointed Librarian? Was he re-appointed Librarian, and if so, on what date?

The Premier replied:—Mr. Preston was a candidate. He resigned his position as Librarian on the 16th of June. No promise or understanding was arrived at, with him that, in the event of his defeat at the election, he should be re-appointed Librarian. He was re-appointed Librarian on the 30th June. The Government understood when he resigned that it was because of his nomination as a candidate and that he intended to contest the West Toronto election, and that he resigned for that purpose.

Mr. Whitney had a question on the paper concerning Mr. [Name], but it stood at the request of the Government.

Mr. Hardy submitted to the House the estimates for 1897. In reply to a question by Mr. Matheson, the Provincial Treasurer said that the budget would be presented to-morrow.

NOTICES OF MOTION.

Mr. Chapple—Bill to amend the municipal act, 1896.

Mr. [Name]—Bill to amend the election act.

Mr. Kerns—Inquiry of Ministry: Is it the intention of the Government during the present session to introduce legislation to establish a uniform system of keeping municipal accounts?

Mr. Whitney—Inquiry of Ministry: What amount has been paid by the Government in

connection with the Dominion-Provincial arbitration, year by year, and to whom.
Mr. Whitney—Order of the House for a return giving a summarized statement of the amounts paid by the Government of Ontario in connection with the Dominion-Provincial arbitration and to whom, year by year.
Mr. Garrow—Bill to amend the consolidated municipal act, 1892.