

Noxon said he thought the company, owing to loss sustained, wanted three per cent. deducted, but he hoped to collect the whole account. He denied emphatically that the company wanted the debt wiped out on account of services rendered the Government in the recent elections.

It also developed that among the other debtors to the Prison were Mr. W. T. R. Preston, former Librarian, \$144, since 1891, and Mr. George Wheeler of the Registrar-General's Department, \$665, since 1889, both for bricks bought from the Central. In answer to Mr. Harty, Mr. Noxon said these bricks were of an inferior grade which had been unsalable in the regular market. Another debtor was ex-Warden James Massie to the extent of \$81 for some old carpet, purchased in 1896. Col. Matheson expressed considerable indignation that accounts such as these remained unpaid for so long.

Mr. C. H. Sproule, Provincial Auditor, was examined briefly regarding the accounts of "Cap." John Sullivan and George Lawrence for the prevention of the export of logs from Ontario to the United States last summer. Sullivan was paid \$5 a day for 173 days, including Sundays, and Lawrence, who comes from Oshawa, \$2 a day. Mr. Sproule was unable to say why there was such a difference in wages, but said that was a matter of administration of the Crown Lands Department. He will appear again on Saturday with further information regarding the accounts.

THEIR SURPLUS POWER.

Cities With Electric Plants May Dispose of it—Toronto Legislation is Hit Hard.

Mr. Dickenson's milk bill went through the Municipal Committee yesterday morning in an amended form. Under the compromise arrived at a vendor of milk is to be entitled to a license to sell in any city on production of a certificate from the Board of Health of the township where his premises are situated. The city authorities may inspect the milk dairy, and in the event of the township inspector agreeing with them that the premises are insanitary the license may be suspended. The vendor is given the right of appeal from any such decision.

Dr. Bridgland's bill to enable municipalities who own their own electric plants and develop more energy than they require to dispose of their surplus energy to manufacturing industries met with opposition. The bill is designed to meet the case of Bracebridge, which develops electric energy from Ragged Rapids and has a surplus to dispose of. Mr. Pattullo pointed out that the bill was apparently a very simple one, but it would enable all municipalities to go to an unlimited extent into the business of developing electric energy for industrial purposes, and in this way they would be able to give bonuses to a startling amount. If this power were granted it would

prove to be the industrial graveyard of many Ontario towns.

Mr. W. D. McPherson opposed the bill, on the ground that it gave wider powers than were conferred by the Conmee act. Under that act municipalities were empowered to buy out electric plants that were engaged in street lighting. The present bill would enable a municipality to engage in every kind of electric enterprise, apart from street lighting, without buying out the plant of any company in the same line of business.

The Attorney-General said the point for the committee to consider was whether municipalities should be allowed to go beyond ordinary municipal matters and engage in commercial ventures. He did not know that they should prevent a municipality which developed more power than it required from disposing of the surplus in the locality.

Mr. Pattullo said the difficulty was to define what surplus meant.

The committee approved of the principle of the bill, but a clause will be drafted and submitted at the next meeting containing safeguards against municipalities embarking in large commercial enterprises.

The provisions in Mr. Foy's bill enabling the City of Toronto to purchase and develop light and heat in addition to engaging in the manufacture and sale, and exempting Toronto from the provisions of the Conmee law prohibiting municipalities from supplying water, gas and electric light, without first purchasing existing plants, were thrown out without much ceremony. The object of these provisions was to enable the city to get power from Niagara.

On a vote of 14 to 13 the committee threw out the clause to compel gas, water and light companies to supply consumers in any part of a municipality, which was a triumph for the Consumers' Gas Company.