

Composition of County Councils.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) introduced a bill providing that County Councils shall be composed of the Reeves of townships and villages and Mayors of towns within and not separated from the county, and to include also, where the population warrants such representatives, the Deputy Reeves in townships and the Reeves and Deputy Reeves in towns.

Taxation of Corporations.

Mr. Wardell (North Wentworth) introduced a bill to amend the assessment act by giving municipalities the power to impose a tax, at the current rate, on 80 per cent. of the gross earnings from local or provincial businesses supplying water, heat, light or power; on telephone, telegraph, express, street railways and electric railways; such tax to be in lieu of all taxes, rates or assessments of any nature, but existing or future contracts with municipalities as to assessment or taxation are not affected. The lands and buildings of the companies shall remain liable for assessment and taxation, but the personal properties, with all poles, wires, attachments, plants, machinery and so on, existing or erected on the lands or buildings of the company, or on any road, highway, etc., shall not be assessed. Provision is made for the obtaining by the assessors of all required information.

A Leading Question.

Mr. Whitney asked:—Is it proposed to allot or locate the lands to the several volunteers entitled thereto, under the act of last session, before the general elections?

Hon. Mr. Davis replied:—Not knowing

when the general election will be held, a specific answer to the question cannot be given. There is, however, every reason to believe locations will be allotted to volunteers entitled before the general election.

The Cost of Printing.

Hon. Mr. Gibson, replying to Mr. Miscampbell (East Simcoe), gave the following amounts paid by the Province for printing, binding, and printing-paper for the years 1898 to 1901, inclusive:—1898, \$139,630.69; 1899, \$96,619.35; 1900, \$77,253.03; 1901, \$79,028.26. The years 1898 and 1899 include the printing and binding of the consolidated statutes, \$34,600.05, and printing-paper, \$10,000.

Smallpox Expenditures.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, replying to Mr. Miscampbell, gave the following figures regarding smallpox expenditure from January 1, 1901, to February 1, 1902:—Expenditure by the Provincial Board of Health to end of 1901, \$23,809.36; expenditure reported by 84 municipalities, having 682 cases, to Nov. 30, 1901, \$149,744.81; calculated expenditures to end of 1901 in balance of 137 municipalities reporting cases, \$90,000; calculated expenditures for Jan., 1902, in 87 centres having 637 cases, \$140,000.

Boys From the Reformatory.

Hon. Mr. Stratton, replying to Mr. Thompson (Centre Simcoe), said that during 1899, 1900 and 1901 161 boys were discharged from the reformatory and returned to their parents; seven incorrigible boys were sent to the Central Prison, one to Kingston Penitentiary, and others were sent to various cities and towns.

The Pioneer Farm.

Hon. Mr. Dryden, replying to a question by Mr. Duff (West Simcoe), said that the Pioneer Farm at Dryden contains 305 acres, 200 of which are now cleared. Last year 175 acres were under cultivation, including 50 acres of pasture. It is expected that the balance will be cleared in 1902, except a portion to be left as a timber lot. The expenditure in 1897 was \$2,387, and the receipts \$430, the figures for last year being \$1,874.78 and \$631.06, respectively. The territory in which it is situated was a wilderness prior to 1896, and uninhabited, and it is not yet sufficiently developed, and lands have not changed hands often enough to establish a market value.

The Registration Act.

Dr. Barr (Dufferin) moved the second reading of his bill to amend the manhood suffrage registration act by extending its provisions so as to include towns other than county towns and incorporated villages.

Hon. Mr. Gibson replied that while he had no objection to the bill going to committee the Government was opposed to it. The measure was referred to the Legal Committee.

Mr. Wardell (North Wentworth) moved the second reading of Mr. Fallis' bill to give rural school boards the power to borrow money for purposes other than the payment of teachers' salaries.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt said he had only received one letter on the subject, and that fact would seem to indicate that there was no great desire for a change such as that proposed. The bill was referred to the Legal Committee.

February 14/02