

Davis thought that the principle of the bill was good, and Mr. St. John thought that there was no need for it. Hon. Mr. Hardy suggested that instead of insisting on the passing of the bill returns be called for, but Dr. McKay stood by his bill, and a long discussion resulted in the bill being read a second time, and referred to a special committee which will collect information upon the subject.

Mr. Wood moved the second reading of his bill to amend the act respecting mortgages and sales of personal property. It found no favor with Sir Oliver Mowat, Hon. J. M. Gibson, Messrs. Whitney or Howland, who referred to it briefly, but went to the Legal Committee pro forma.

Second readings were given Mr. Ryerson's bill to amend the assessment act, Mr. Whitney's respecting certain county drainage works, Mr. Ferguson's to amend the tile stone and timber drainage act, Mr. German's to amend the municipal act, Mr. Biggar's to amend the assessment act, Mr. Chapple's to amend the assessment act.

Upon the second reading of Mr. Marter's bill respecting municipal arbitrations, Mr. Marter explained that the court which the bill established was proposed at the instance of the Aldermen of the City of Toronto. Mr. Cleland pointed out that the bill stipulated that the arbitrator should be a barrister of ten years' standing, saying he thought that was drafted by a lawyer.

Mr. Whitney replied that the bill had been suggested by Aldermen who were not lawyers.

Mr. Crawford, speaking as one who had experience in Toronto, said he believed there was a strong feeling in favor of a practical man being made arbitrator.

Hon. Mr. Hardy, while not accepting the bill as a good one or one that ought to be passed, yet pointed out the great desirability, if a court were to be established, that its proceedings should be conducted with due regard to court procedure.

Hon. Mr. Gibson acknowledged the desirability of such a court as was proposed, but it was a different matter to establish throughout the Province a court to which real estate arbitrations must be referred.

The bill was read a second time and sent to the Municipal Committee.

Mr. Crawford's bill to provide for the inspection of boilers and the qualification of persons in charge of the same was read a second time and referred to a special committee.

Hon. Mr. Gibson said he sympathized with the general object of the bill, although he thought it went farther than it was advisable to go. The difficulty was to lay down the line between compulsory and permissive legislation in this direction.

Mr. Whitney agreed with the Provincial Secretary's remarks upon the desirability of securing the safety which inspection and certificates afford, but the trouble was that the bill went so far that it would paralyze a great number of small industries throughout the Province.

Messrs. Wood and Haycock also criticized certain of the provisions of the bill.

Mr. Meacham dropped his bill to amend the registry act, by which he sought to compel Registrars of deeds to certify the fees paid them by putting stamps upon every deed. Hon. Mr. Gibson did not think there was any call for the legislation, and thought that unless they were to pass every bill which any member might think embodied a good idea this bill should not pass.

Mr. Cleland's bill respecting the establishment of Houses of Refuge was found to involve a charge upon the revenue and had therefore to be dropped.

Mr. Howland's Toronto bill to amend the municipal act was read a second time.

Upon the Attorney-General's suggestion second readings were given almost all the private bills on the order paper, the purpose being to advance the business of the House.

The House adjourned at 6 o'clock.

AN INCREASE IN CRIME.

In his report upon the common gaols, prisons and reformatories of the Province Dr. Chamberlain gives some interesting figures as to the prevalence of crime in Ontario during the past year. He is unable, he states, to report a continued diminution in crime, such as occurred in 1893. There is an increase of 831 committals, although even with that there is a decrease as compared with the figures of 1892. Of the increase rather over half arises from committals for petty larceny, trespass and burglary. The number of males committed was 8,063, an increase of 883; the num-

ber of females 1,337, the total number being 9,400. Committals of boys and girls under 16 there are decreases of 110 and 3 respectively, the decrease in the number of boys being partially accounted for by many being sent to the Industrial School at Mimico instead of to gaol. The convictions in 1894 represented 60.93 per cent. of the committals, a decrease from 1893, when the proportion was 67.11. In the case of drunkenness there was a decrease of 378 in the number of committals. A comparison of the statistics for 1894 with those of the past twenty years shows a favorable condition in the present management of the gaols throughout the Province. The average cost per prisoner was a little less than fourteen cents per day.

The inspector draws attention once more to the bad practice of keeping friendless old people in the gaols, which he severely condemns, recommending the erection of suitable county industrial homes. The number of professional tramps, he reports, has greatly decreased, the strict discipline and compulsory work of the gaols discouraging these gentry. The details of the commitments show that there were 389 commitments for common assault and 135 for felonious assault, as against convictions to the number of 266 and 135 respectively; 97 commitments for wounding with intent and 47 convictions; 32 commitments for murder and 3 convictions; 37 for arson and 9 convictions; 100 for burglary and 61 convictions; 123 for fraud and 62 convictions; 229 for housebreaking and 159 convictions; 1,615 for larceny, and 987 convictions; 356 for trespass and 278 convictions; 2,274 for drunk and disorderly and 1,719 convictions; 2,125 for vagrancy and 1,211 convictions; the total being 9,450 commitments and 5,758 convictions.

Appended is the report of the Central Prison:—

The most noticeable feature in the report is the distinct increase in the number of committals to the prison and in the average daily population. The number of committals in 1892 and 1893 were 630, while during 1893 and 1894 they were 741, showing an increase of 111. For the year ending 30th September, 1894, the daily gross cost of maintenance for each inmate was 44.81, as compared with 51.39, the cost of the previous year, the reduction to be attributed in part to the larger average population and to the reduced expenditure for fuel and for the staple food supplies. The aggregate cost of maintenance for the year is \$61,129 17, against \$59,839 07 the year before, being an excess of \$1,290 10, while the average prison population is 59 greater than in the previous year. The net cost of maintenance per capita per annum is \$131 25, as compared with \$125 21 for 1893.

The manufacturing department had \$2,467 74 worth of stock on hand at the beginning of the year. Material to the value of \$155,487 53 was bought; repairs, etc., cost \$8,645 67; \$12,308 69 was allowed for labor and salaries; sales to the amount of \$155,727 04 were effected, and there is \$114,214 35 worth of stock on hand; thus the net gain for the year is \$11,031 76. In 1893 the net earnings were \$19,896 14.

A SEPARATE SCHOOL QUESTION.

Protestant and Catholic, Separate School and Public, were the punctuating words of the discussion of which the Private Bills Committee room was the scene this morning. The bill was one which came from Cornwall, and arose out of a dispute as to the proportion of the assessment of the big cotton mill's property which should be given to the Separate Schools. The Public School Board of the factory town appeared to oppose the bill, and were represented by Hon. S. H. Blake, Q.C., and J. A. Proctor, Toronto, assisted by Mr. D. B. McLennan, Chairman of the board, who was accompanied by Mr. Wm. Hodge, last year's Chairman, and Trustees D. Munro and C. J. Matice. On behalf of the bill there were Mr. A. R. Creelman, Q.C., of the McCarthy, Osler, Hoskin & Creelman firm, and Solicitor R. A. Pringle, Mayor Mulhern and Separate School Trustees McDonnell and Callaghan.

It appears that early last year a vote was taken in Cornwall upon by-laws extending to the cotton mills a bonus and exemption from taxes as an inducement to them to remain in operation in the town. It is claimed that "at the time said by-laws were before the Council of the Town of Cornwall it was distinctly understood that the school taxes of the said properties as set out in the said by-laws should be distributed in proportion to the assessment as between Public and Separate Schools in the Town of Cornwall." This under-