

School during the session of 1896-97 was 118. For the session of 1897-98 the number was 83. The total number of students who have attended the school since it was opened in November, 1894, to date is 499."

Wool to Central Prison.

In answer to Mr. Wardell, Hon. Mr. Davis stated:—Wool has been supplied to the Central Prison during the past three years by Wilson & Co., Robt. Berryman, John Hallam, Smith Woolstock Co., J. Hallam & Son and E. Leadlay & Co. The price paid for the wool ranged from 11 to 25 cents per pound, according to quality and the condition of the market at the time of purchase, all purchases being made by competition and the most favorable market prices secured in this way on all occasions. The various qualities of wool bought included both domestic and foreign selected fleece, pickings, tub-washed, clothing fleece, rejects, fine English wool, coarse English wool and Scotch wool. The purchases were made by the Warden and the Inspector, and there have been no disputes as to the price that purchases were made at.

Election Law Amendments.

Mr. Hoyle moved the second reading of the bill to amend the election law. It proposes to appoint the Clerks of incorporated towns and villages, as well as the Clerks of townships, deputy returning officers. In case of necessity the Assessor may act as substitute. No appointment is to be made from among non-residents of the municipality. Another provision seeks to make it clear that when a man is disqualified by reason of bribery from voting at the next general election the disqualification shall apply to any intervening bye-election.

Hon. Mr. Hardy said that some of the provisions were no doubt necessary. In fact, their enactment was contemplated by the Government. But others were objectionable. However, the bill might be allowed to go to the Municipal Committee.

Bills Introduced.

The following bills were introduced:—

To incorporate the Toronto Elevated Railway, and respecting the Toronto Street Railway—Mr. Mutrie.

To confirm a by-law of the Town of Owen Sound—Mr. Boyd.

To consolidate the acts relating to the St. Catharines waterworks.

To Destroy the Barberry.

Mr. Little's bill for the destruction of the barberry shrub provides that no person shall keep or leave under cultivation, or otherwise, in the Province, barberry shrubs within one-half mile of farm lands used for grain-producing, and gives the Minister of Agriculture power to destroy the same by fire, by duly qualified inspectors, who shall report to the Minister the value of the plant destroyed. Provision is also made for compensation to the owner of the shrubs, and a penalty of \$20, nor more than \$100, with 10 to 20 days in jail in default, for refusal to carry out the provisions of the bill.
