

Central Prison Brooms.

Hon. Mr. Stratton moved that the House ratify the agreement between the Inspector of Prisons and the H. A. Nelson Company respecting the manufacture of brooms at the Central Prison. He explained that it was simply desired to renew for a period of five years an agreement already in existence, with a provision that the patents on the machinery now in use should at the expiration of that time revert to the Province. The brooms made at the prison were, he said, largely exported, and did not enter to any extent in competition with private firms. The motion carried.

To Improve Highways.

The Premier moved the second reading of his bill for the improvement of public highways, which proposes an expenditure of \$1,000,000 at the rate of \$100,000 a year for ten years. The bill, which has already been published in full in *The Globe*, was explained in some detail by Mr. Ross. During the course of his remarks he said that the municipalities of the Province expended about \$4,000,000 annually on highways, that sum including the cash value of statute labor. The latter had been done away with in a number of places, the farmers paying the equivalent into the funds of the municipalities which undertook the work. This system was attended with better results, and he would be glad if it were adopted throughout the Province. Under the act he hoped a continuity of good roads would be secured in many counties. The proportion of money to be given from the Provincial funds was one-third of the total cost of the work in the municipality, but would not exceed the appropriation to which the municipality was entitled. The average total amount received by counties would be \$25,000 and by townships \$2,500. The basis of appropriation would be in proportion to the area of the counties. Townships which had during the last three years received grants from the colonization funds would not come within the act, and money would not be paid for construction or repairs not approved of by the Engineer of the Public Works Department. Municipalities might expend part or the whole of the amount they were entitled to for the purchase of toll roads, or for the freeing of roads from tolls, or for the purchase of roadmaking machinery. He proposed to submit the bill to a select committee, which should consider it before the third reading. No objection was made to the measure, but a short discussion took place as to the probable effect of some of its terms, in which Messrs. Whitney, Carnegie, Hoyle, Morrison and Col. Matheson took part. The bill was afterwards referred to the following committee:—Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Hon. Mr. Latchford, Messrs. Pattullo, Carpenter, Gross, Hill, Pettypiece, Taylor, Richardson, Caldwell, Russell, Marter, Matheson, Barr, Little, Kidd, Lucas, Beatty (Leeds).

Educational Acts.

Hon. Mr. Harcourt moved the second reading of his bill to consolidate and amend the act respecting the Educa-

tion Department. This includes all the amendments to the act of the last three years. The Minister of Education said that the consolidation was necessary, as the copies of the original act were about exhausted, and there was a great demand for one that should include the amendments. The bill includes the amendment of last session regarding the Educational Council of twelve members, whose function is to assist the Minister in conducting examinations prescribed by the Education Department, and the examinations for matriculation into the university. This Mr. Harcourt briefly referred to, and also stated that he proposed to ask the House during the session to make it easy for teachers who had qualified in other Provinces or in England to obtain situations in Ontario.

The Opposition Claim.

Mr. Whitney expressed the opinion that the Educational Council was in a small measure an adoption of the Opposition's policy of a consultative coun-

The House adjourned at 10.05.

West Huron Case.

The finding of the election Judges in the West Huron election case, which resulted in the unseating of Hon. Mr. Garrow, was received by the Speaker yesterday. The trial Judges certify that no corrupt practices were proven to have been committed by or with the knowledge or consent of the candidates. They report that there was no reason to believe that corrupt practices extensively prevailed. The following persons were proven to have been guilty of bribery:—Walter Vanstone, J. T. Linklater, "Cap" Sullivan, John McLeod, John Rogers, Alfred Marriott, Alexander McGregor, John Whyte, Leander Morden and Theophilus Finnen. The decision of the Court of Appeal, upholding the finding of the trial Judges, is appended.

The Public Accounts Committee met yesterday for organization, and on motion of Mr. Reid (Addington) and Mr. Dickenson, Mr. Charlton was re-elected Chairman.

Smallpox at Sudbury.

The Council of Sudbury has sent to the Provincial Secretary's Department a copy of a unanimous resolution passed by that body expressing their hearty approval of the prompt way in which the Hon. Mr. Stratton acted in the recent smallpox outbreak in Sudbury and the surrounding districts. The Council also expressed their confidence in Dr. Hodgetts, who had been sent up by the Provincial Secretary to act as the district health officer.

Population Flows Cityward.

To outward appearance very dry, the annual report of the Bureau of Industries on municipal statistics, issued yesterday for 1899, contains much interesting information. The total population as returned by the municipalities was 2,010,748, compared with 2,001,350 in 1898. The total assessment was \$816,765,473, on which \$12,535,284 taxes was imposed for all purposes, compared with an assessment of \$809,184,833 and taxation of \$12,222,966 the previous year. The rate of taxation per head