

has been almost greater this winter than could be supplied. Care must be taken next summer to secure a large quantity of suitable wood, so that this ready-money branch of business may be extended as far as the requirements of the public demand.

LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANCE.

The Committee has taken in hand the task of giving employment and christian education to young vagrants, of reforming young criminals, labouring to the utmost of its power to make the most dangerous and expensive part of the community into good citizens. What assistance does it get from the Government? Little or none. The Town Council indeed has for three years voted a grant of \$100, and at the Session before last of the Local Parliament an Act was passed giving power to the Stipendiary Magistrate to sentence young offenders to the School for such a term as he saw fit. Under this Act four were sentenced, one of them for six months. It may be stated here that such a sentence is an absurdity. Our School is not a prison but a home. It is not intended to punish but to reform the young who have been brought up in bad habits and led into sin by evil counsel and evil example and surroundings. We do not pretend to work miracles. And it would be a miracle if a permanent change could be wrought in six months on such characters as are sent us. In the first six months of their stay, and from their knowing that they would have to stay only so long, they would be more apt to impart their evil to the other boys than to get any good from the home. Two years is the very shortest term that should be allowed. However, the Act referred to was disallowed at Ottawa on the ground that it was incompetent for the Local House to pass it. It must be a Dominion Act it seems, and the sooner then that we get one from the right quarter the better. All modern legislation in Britain and America on this subject is far in advance of our present position. The work is not left to a few private individuals, tho' voluntary institutions are especially encouraged and subsidized on the one simple condition that they are to be open to government inspection. In London the police are now allowed to arrest any juvenile vagrant, and send him or her at once to a certified institution, and those so sent, are thereafter paid for by government. In Glasgow, there is a special city tax of so much on the pound to keep up their institution. And so on all over Britain. So is it too in the States. Thus the State of New York gave in successive annual appropriations the magnificent sum of \$300,000 to build the institution on Randall's Island, the total cost of which was about \$500,000.