

# STILL THE BUDGET.

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Opposition Still Whittling  
Away at the Surplus.

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MR. MARTER'S EFFORT.

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He Revives a Number of  
Old Scandals.

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MR. GIBSON'S EFFECTIVE REPLY

Parliament Buildings, Dec. 16, 1897.

Mr. Middleton of Hamilton presented to the Legislature to-day a batch of petitions from Toronto, Hamilton and St. Catharines business men for legislation against the departmental store. He followed this up by introducing a bill to authorize city or town Councils to impose a special tax upon any departmental store carrying on more than three distinct classes of business. The tax may be uniform in respect to each additional distinct class of business, or it may be graded in such a manner as may seem proper. The by-law to be effective must be carried by a two-thirds vote of the Council. This is a renewal of the fight against the departmental store which was begun last session, but which met with poor success.

## Mining Legislation.

Mr. Gibson introduced a bill to amend the mining law. The measure does not change any provisions of the mining law which have been already subjected to discussion; it simply affects those clauses not coming under the general heading of mining divisions. The bill has been framed in view of the experiences of the Bureau of Mining during the last two or three months in the dis-