

legislation, adjourned to-day to meet again on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 1898. Mr. Dryden's bill to check the spread of that most destructive of all fruit tree pests, the San Jose scale, was discussed. The principle of the measure was almost unanimously approved, its chief critic being Mr. Hiscott, who represents the fruit-growing county of Lincoln. The Premier's bill to define the personal expenditures of a candidate was given its second reading. Mr. St. John, upon a question of privilege, made the claim that he had been obstructed in his endeavor to prove before the Public Accounts Committee that diseased pork from the Humber piggery had been sold to Toronto butchers. The Provincial Secretary brought in a bill to remove doubts as to legality of the sale of patent medicines in original packages by druggists and others. Mr. Hardy introduced a bill adapting the provisions of the manhood franchise registration act to towns.

The following bills were read a first time :—

Mr. St. John—To enable Louis J. Riggs to practise dentistry.

Mr. Carnegie—To amend the Ontario game protection act, also to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Davis—To amend the Ontario companies act.

Mr. Auld—To amend the municipal act.

Mr. Middleton—Respecting the Cataract Power Company of Hamilton, limited; also respecting the debenture debt of the Town of Toronto Junction.

The Premier brought in a bill, the object of which is to adapt the manhood suffrage registration act to county towns.

Again the Piggery.

Upon the orders of the day being called, Mr. St. John, rising to a question of privilege, said it was well known to the members of the House and to the country that the Attorney-General had stated that he had called Parliament together at an early date in order to give the members of the Opposition an opportunity to make good upon the floor of Parliament, where they would meet the Government, the charges which they had been making in the country. It was also stated that the most ample opportunity would be given the members of the Opposition to prove these charges. It was stated that the charges were without foundation, and that the most ample opportunity would be given to prove them. The matter of the Humber piggery had been under investigation in the Public Accounts Committee, and he was compelled to say on behalf of himself and other members of the Opposition that they had not been given those opportunities to substantiate their charges which they had been promised by the Government. The action of members of the Government and their supporters in that committee had not been consistent with their promises and their challenge, and not only had he not been allowed to

prove his charges, but the Government had insisted upon calling evidence for their defence before the charges had been made.

Hon. Mr. Hardy rose to call the attention of the Speaker to the fact that any discussion of the proceedings of a committee is out of order until the report of the committee is presented to the House. Neither was he aware that the House could rebuke the action of the committee as to the precedence which should be given to witnesses or the order in which they should be called. There is nothing in the rules of the House to say that one witness should be called before another. The committee must be allowed to direct the practice in such cases. His hon. friend, if he desired, might ask by resolution that the evidence already taken at the committee might be laid on the table, and might then have the opportunity which he desires to bring the matter before the House. In the meantime he was clearly out of order.

Mr. Speaker pointed out to Mr. St. John that he had allowed him to bring up a question of privilege, but that no discussion of the action of the committee could take place at this stage. The remarks of the hon. gentleman were, therefore, out of order.

San Jose Scale.

Mr. Dryden moved the second reading of his bill to prevent the spread of the San Jose scale. He emphasized the necessity of immediate action to stamp out this dangerous pest, which has worked such destruction among the orchards of the United States. Not only did it threaten fruit trees, but all the trees of the forest, except pine and cedar. The bill, he said, had met with almost universal approval on the part of those engaged in fruit culture, the only criticism being that it was not stringent enough. He approved of incorporating into the measure the principle of compensation, that an encouragement might be offered to the owners of orchards to co-operate with the authorities in stamping out the pest.

Mr. Hiscott, while professing to be anxious to assist the Minister of Agriculture in his effort to check the spread of the San Jose scale, criticized the bill because it made no provision for a proper inspection of orchards. He did not think the burning of infected trees was necessary; spraying was all that was necessary. He also found fault with the proposal to place within the discretion of the Minister of Agriculture the payment of compensation.

Mr. Kerns recognized the gravity of the situation and the necessity for vigorous action. The bill was a move in the right direction, but it did not go far enough. The importation of foreign trees and shrubs as well as fruit should be stopped.

Dr. Willoughby expressed the opinion that the act would be more effectually enforced if the responsibility therefor were placed upon the municipalities. He opposed the application of the principle of compensation to the measure.

Mr. Harcourt, who represents a constituency in which there are the two largest nurseries in Canada and in which is located one of the greatest fruit-growing townships in the coun-