

DEPARTMENTAL STORES

Mr. Middleton Withdraws
His Bill.

AN INQUIRY TO BE MADE.

A Measure of Relief For
Toronto Junction.

INTEREST RATE CUT DOWN.

Modification of the Toronto &
York Radial Ry. Scheme.

Continuation of the Evidence in the Pig-
gery Investigation—Liberal Caucus—
A Day at the Legislature.

Parliament Buildings, Jan. 7.

The House had a brief session this afternoon, adjourning at 5 o'clock. A large number of public and private bills were advanced a stage, and the debate upon Mr. Middleton's bill respecting departmental stores was resumed and brought to a conclusion by the withdrawal of the bill. This course was adopted by the mover in accordance with a suggestion by Hon. Mr. Hardy, who pointed out the desirability, in view of the magnitude of the interests involved and its far-reaching effects upon the business of the Province, of fully ascertaining all the facts before taking action, and suggested

store carried would also operate against the smooth working of the bill. The fact that departmental stores are not confined to Ontario, but extend to the neighboring Province, must also be borne in mind, and care taken that business is not driven away from Ontario, and such a measure ought therefore to emanate from Ottawa. The effects of competition from the mercantile departmental combinations was not the only evil that was being experienced in the country, but the country lawyers were also feeling keenly the competition from the great legal departmentals which were now operating in the big cities.

Select Committee Proposed.

Mr. Hardy admitted the great importance of the bill, which differs from those introduced into some of the American Legislatures, where the question had been discussed a great deal, and the details had been gone into to a very large extent. A bill had gone through the Senate of the State of Illinois, but had been thrown out in the Legislature by a narrow majority. There was a great deal of force in the remarks of the hon. member for Frontenac (Mr. Haycock), and there were also forcible arguments advanced in favor of the bill. He pointed out that the bill did not profess to prohibit any store from keeping a variety of articles, but that the proportion of taxation should have some regard to the number of departments or classes of goods carried,

that a select committee might be appointed during the early days of next session to take evidence and bring in a report upon the question. This morning the House will sit at 11 o'clock, and notice has been given of the intention to hold morning sessions after Monday next.

First Readings.

The following bills were introduced and received first readings:—

Mr. Dana—Bill to amend the municipal waterworks act.

Mr. German—Bill to amend the assessment act.

Mr. German—Bill to amend the municipal act.

Mr. Hobbs—Bill to amend the act relating to cemeteries.

Third Readings.

The following bills were given third readings:—

Respecting the incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Ottawa—Mr. Matheson.

Respecting the City of Ottawa—Mr. O'Keefe.

To prevent gambling and games of chance at agricultural exhibitions—Mr. Dryden.

Respecting water powers—Mr. Gibson (Hamilton).

Respecting the Sydenham Glass Company of Wallaceburg, Limited—Mr. Pardo.

Respecting the Town of Walkerton—Mr. Truax.

Respecting the City of Toronto—Mr. Crawford.

To amend the act relating to Victoria University—Mr. Davis.

Respecting the Village of Huntsville.—Mr. Middleton.

Respecting the City of St. Thomas and the St. Thomas Street Railway Company—Mr. Macnish.