

To confirm by-law No. 586 of the Town of Berlin—Mr. Robertson.

To amend the act incorporating the Sisters of Loretto—Mr. Harty.

The Hon. Mr. Davis moved the ratification of orders in Council dated 15th December, 1897, placing the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie; Hotel Dieu Hospital, Cornwall; General Hospital, Rat Portage; the Sanatorium for Consumptives, Gravenhurst; St. Joseph Hospital, Sudbury, in schedule A of the charity aid act from October 1, 1896, and the Berlin Orphanage under schedule C.

The motion carried.

The following bills were passed through the committee stage:—

To amend the act respecting the public service of Ontario—The Attorney-General.

To make further provision respecting maternity boarding houses and the protection of infant children—Mr. Davis.

To amend the Surrogate Courts act—The Attorney-General.

#### Departmental Stores.

The debate upon Mr. Middleton's bill respecting departmental stores was resumed by Mr. Haycock, who pointed out that the scope of the ordinary drug store would be limited and curtailed by this bill, and that there are hardly any stores in the country that would not be affected by it. The difficulty of classifying the various lines of articles and determining the number of distinct classes of goods which any

which was a very different thing from actually prohibiting the sale of more than a certain number of lines. The doctrine of applying a varying rate of taxation to these departmental stores is being somewhat generally discussed and better understood. The departmental stores are not ordinary businesses, but reach out throughout the entire Province. At the present time he did not desire to express an opinion upon the question. An association had been formed which proposes to deal with the question by distributing literature in reference to the matter, and by other means. The public generally, however, were not perhaps as well acquainted with all the details as might be necessary to deal with the matter. In view of this fact it might perhaps be advisable to appoint a special committee in the early days of next session in order to hear evidence, to give both parties a chance to be heard, and to bring in a report upon which any legislation which might be found necessary could be based. It is impossible to deal with an important question like this off-hand. The true facts must be ascertained before action could be taken. Another mode of dealing with the question would be by a royal commission, but his own idea is that a select committee would be preferable. In view of all these facts he expressed the hope that the mover would allow the bill to stand over for another session.

#### The Bill Withdrawn,

Mr. Middleton said that the general feeling of the country was that the departmental stores were injurious to the trade of the country. As to Mr. Haycock's argument that legislation would interfere with the liberty of men to carry on whatever business they chose, Mr. Middleton pointed out that auctioneers, lawyers and those engaged in many other occupations were restricted by legislation. In Toronto the departmental stores had injured both the retail and wholesale houses and had compelled many of them to go out of business. The defence of the departmental stores by the press he attributed to the influence of their heavy advertising. He dwelt upon the dangers of the departmental store owing to the absence of firewalls and the great risk of fire. He thought that three lines would be enough for a store to carry. Mr. Middleton said that he would be glad if some record would be placed on the minutes of the House, that the matter would be referred to a commission at the next session, and withdrew the bill.

Mr. Crawford suspected that Mr. Middleton was interested in departmental stores, because the only thing he had done was to give them some cheap advertising. There was practically only one large departmental store in the country and it was located in Toronto. The greatest and best men in business and the professions would force themselves to the front. There was only one A. T. Stewart in New York and only one Timothy Eaton in Toronto. There was only one successful departmental store in Ontario. His argument was that it was unwise to attempt to restrict the enterprise of business men or limit the freedom of the masses who patronized departmental stores. He approved of the suggestion of the Attorney-General.

The bill was withdrawn. The House went into Committee of Supply and completed the revision of the main estimates.

#### Still the Hoggery.

In the Public Accounts Committee yesterday the caretaker of the hoggery, Mr. Isaiah Warner, was again on the stand, and gave some additional information respecting the number of hogs under his charge and the number that were burned. A vigorous cross-examination by Mr. St. John failed to shake his evidence that the hogs that were dressed and shipped to the Central Prison were fit for food and free from disease. He was also positive that he took the hogs as soon as he noticed they were sick and put them outside, away from the well hogs.

The next witness was Thos. Smith, who was present at the killing on Monday and said he saw spots on some of the hogs, and also inspected the entrails of two hogs, from which he concluded there was something wrong. It was no secret that there was cholera at the piggery, as the children in the neighborhood knew all about it on Saturday.

Wm. Newton, who hauled the dressed hogs to the Central Prison, is a wholesale butcher, hauling on an average five head of cattle a week. He would not swear all the hogs he hauled were