

was unsatisfactory, but said there was some overcrowding, which could not be prevented. The Street Railway Company had an exclusive franchise, and any interference with it would weaken the confidence of British investors in Canadian securities. Mr. Curry, on behalf of the Electric Light Company, claimed that the promoters of this enterprise were asking for larger powers in the bill than they had given notice of. He also objected to certain provisions permitting the sale of electricity. Mr. Royce said the Township of York was affected and desired to have an opportunity of expressing its views.

A bill authorizing the construction of a steam railway from Ottawa to a point near Morrisburg was allowed to go through.

Speaker's At-home.

The Speaker's chambers in the Legislature were the scene of a merry gathering last evening on the occasion of Mr. Evanturel's annual at-home to the members. The Premier and his colleagues, together with most of the members of the House, and several score of representative citizens, were present, and greatly enjoyed the Speaker's hospitality. Mr. Evanturel presided over the function with his accustomed polished courtesy, and moved among the throng, exchanging pleasant words and conversation with all. Refreshments were provided, and a capital programme of vocal and instrumental selections was rendered. The gathering broke up at a late hour after an evening of great pleasure.

Departmental Stores.

A deputation of some twenty retail merchants of the Province waited upon the Government yesterday afternoon and asked for the Government support of a bill to be introduced by Mr. Conmee in regard to departmental stores. The bill will require a license to be taken out and a fee paid for every branch of business conducted by a departmental store. The speakers were James Conmee, M.P.P.; W. B. Rogers, President of the Toronto association; E. M. Trowern, Secretary, and John Hargreaves, Secretary of the Provincial association. The Government promised a consideration of the request made.
