

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—There is now every probability that the present session of Parliament will prove a short one, as the public business is well advanced.

The Intercolonial Railway has been very thoroughly discussed during the past week, and one cause of the large deficit was shown to be the amounts paid the Canadian Pacific for the use of passenger cars and sleepers. It is now definitely announced that there will be a large reduction in the staff of employees in order to cut down expenses, and it seems a pity that economy has to be practised in this direction, as it will, in many instances, cause serious distress. Still necessity knows no law, and the Government is forced to retrench where, if they did not place duty before popularity, they would prefer not to interfere.

The Prince Edward Island tunnel question was brought up by Mr. Perry in moving for reports and correspondence and led to some discussion, which will doubtless be renewed when the papers are submitted. The debate on the budget has been continued, Mr. McMullen making the most important speech on the Opposition side and coming out squarely for unrestricted reciprocity. The duty on binder twine was vigorously discussed, Mr. Davin—Conservative—calling on the Government to abolish it in the interest of the farmer. Mr. Davies attacked Mr. Stairs on the ground that cordage was sold cheaper for export than for home consumption. He quoted letters showing that cordage sold for export by the combine was two cents less per pound than when sold for consumption in Canada.

Mr. Stairs' explanation that an inferior quality was manufactured for export, thus making the difference in the price, was received by the cheers of the House.

Mr. Gordon has introduced a bill to place further restrictions upon the immigration of Chinese into the Dominion.

On Monday Mr. Borden asked what steps had been taken to secure for Canada a continuation of the present arrangement, ending June 30th, with Spain, by which Canadian products, notably potatoes, fish, and lumber, are admitted to the Spanish West Indies upon the same terms as the products of the United States. He was informed by Mr. Foster that Sir Charles Tupper and Sir John Wolf had been given full power to carry on the negotiations.

Mr. Tupper has given notice of a resolution proposing that a fee of two cents be charged for every case of lobsters packed for inspection.

Mr. Weldon in a few forcible remarks advocated the placing of the management of the Intercolonial in the hands of a commission, and his ideas are certainly sound.

There was no session of Parliament on Friday last.

A powerful delegation waited on the Government to urge the passage of the bill to restrict the importations of lobsters from the United States, and there was also a delegation from Montreal favoring a speedy settlement of the difficulties with Newfoundland.

It is reported that Premier Abbott is to be knighted.

LOCAL.—Mr. Cahan having named three members of the house, Messrs Joseph McPerson and A. J. McDonald of Cape Breton and John A. Fraser of Victoria, as being implicated in certain irregularities—asked for a special committee to investigate his charges. Premier Fielding demurred and after a lengthy debate the matter was referred to the committee of privileges and election of which the Attorney General is chairman. Pending the charges the named members withdrew from the house and the committee are proceeding with the enquiry.

A large number of bills have been introduced, some of the more important being:—A bill to abolish all exemptions from rates and taxes on real and personal property and the owners thereof in the City of Halifax. Introduced by the Premier.

The Minor's Protection Act of 1892 introduced by Mr. Cahan—and aimed to prevent the sale of tobacco to minors under sixteen years of age.

A number of clauses of the Mines Consolidation Act were also read and passed and Mr. Cahan reminded the Hon Commissioner of Works and Mines that in dealing with the mines consolidation bill it was necessary that the house should have the information in relation to the coal royalties that had been asked for.

Hon Mr. Church said the information would be brought down before the blank in the bill was filled up.

On Monday the financial returns for the year were laid on the table of the house by Hon Mr. Fielding and the various items lucidly explained. There has been an increase in the estimated expenditure and a decrease in the estimated revenue and a consequent deficit. The estimated revenue was \$673,222.39, the actual revenue was \$661,541.32. The falling off was due chiefly to the decrease in the items of mines royalty. The estimate had been \$185,000 receipts \$169,287.92. The receipts from Crown Lands were short \$1,973. These two items mainly made up the deficiency. The estimated expenditure for the year 1891 was \$671,423.78 and the actual expenditure \$692,538.97.

The increase was in the following items:—Agricultural estimates \$16,000; expenditure \$20,398.84. This increase mainly due to importation of sheep and the credit for the amount realized on sale of same will largely reduce it.

Victoria General Hospital, estimated expenditure \$30,000, actual \$35,679. For Packets and Ferries \$31,188 estimated expenditure, \$34,625.91 actual.

Current interest—estimated \$10,000, actual \$17,000.

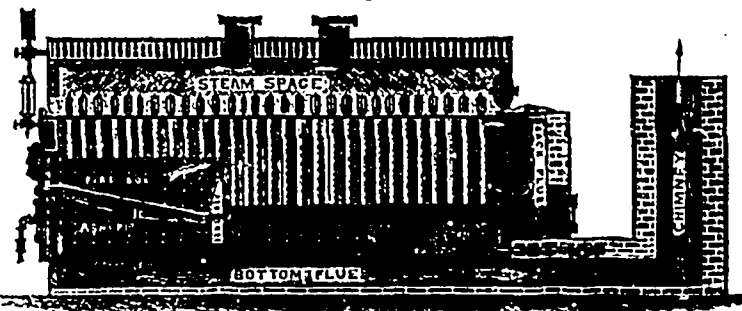
On the general account there was a balance against the province on the year's operations of \$30,997.65 and some departmental balances yet to be considered would make the deficit larger. In the Charities department there was a deficit, and this would indicate that the province must make more liberal provision for the charitable institutions.

In view of the deficit here shown it would become absolutely necessary in order that the province might maintain the high credit it had always enjoyed that the Government should make both ends meet either by a reduction of the expenditure or by providing some additional means of revenue, to which matters the attention of the house would be called during the session.

The Premier had borrowed from the National Provincial Bank of England on Nova Scotia treasury bills £150,000 sterling at the rate of 4 3-8 per cent with broker's commission of 1-8 per cent. These bills mature on July 15th next, by which time it is expected the Provincial debentures will be floated at a low rate of interest.

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NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Subscribers remitting Money, either direct to the office, or through Agents, will find a receipt for the amount inclosed in their next paper. All remittances should be made payable to A. Milne Fraser.

The Legislature of P. E. Island has commenced work.

The favorite steamer *Halifax* has resumed her weekly trips to Boston.

The Board of Health has dropped the idea of appointing a sanitary engineer.

A trade paper, to be called the *Maritime Grocer*, is shortly to be published in Halifax.

Hon. Charles Young, Judge of Probate, Charlottetown, P. E. I., died on Saturday night of la grippe.

Premier Abbott and Lieut. Governor Angers of Quebec are to be knighted on the Queen's birthday.

A reduction of five cents per pound has been made on parcels posted between Canada and Great Britain.

Mr. Michael Sullivan, the popular janitor of the Post Office and Customs House, died of pneumonia on Tuesday.

The C. P. R. route has so pleased the Admiralty that another shipment of sailors is to be sent to Vancouver that way during next month.

It is proposed to establish a Folk-Lore club in Montreal as a branch of the American Folk-Lore Society. This is a rich field for research.

The Y. P. S. C. E. of Fort Massey Church are giving a concert this evening which promises to be enjoyable. A good programme has been prepared.

"Politics Considered as a Fine Art," is the title of a lecture announced to have been delivered by Attorney-General Longley at the Church of England Institute last evening.

It is announced that the long expected carettes will begin running on May 1st. The route as mapped out is excellent, and Hollis and Granville streeters will appreciate the service.

Hon. D. L. Hannington, leader of the New Brunswick Opposition, has been given a judgeship in the Supreme Court of New Brunswick. A. A. Stockton will undertake the leadership.

The steamer *Wilhelm Oelssner*, which grounded on Thrum Cap shoals last week, is now in the dry dock. She will need a good many repairs, which will probably take about a month to effect.

On Monday evening next Hattie Bernard Chase, a soubrette who has excellent recommendations, will open a season at the Academy of Music. "Uncle's Darling," a play in which a number of animals are introduced, will be put on.

When you buy your spring medicine you should get the best, and that is Hood's Sarsaparilla. It thoroughly purifies the blood.