

PARLIAMENTARY.

In the Commons on Monday.

Mr. HARRISON—Whether it is the intention of the Government to establish a Court of Admiralty Jurisdiction for the Western part of the Dominion, or to confer Admiralty Jurisdiction upon existing courts?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD said the matter was important; the Government was sensible of it, and had taken it into serious deliberation.

Mr. CAMERON (Inverness)—Whether it is the intention of Government to discontinue the services of the Drill Sergeants who were engaged by the Nova Scotia Government for the purpose of instructing the militia of that Province previous to Confederation; and if so, whether any provision will be made for them after their dismissal from the public services?

Sir GEORGE E. CARTIER said that twenty-two were employed under authority of the old law of the Province, but under the present militia law of the Dominion that number would not be required; the whole matter, therefore, both as to number and pay, was under consideration.

After a debate on the Intercolonial Railway, Assimilation of Currency and the Civil Service.

Mr. MCKENZIE moved an address for copy of Col. McDougall's letter, resigning the office of Adjutant General, &c.

Mr. MCKENZIE said that public rumour assigned the resignation to a disagreement between the late Adjutant General and the Government in connection with a Court of Enquiry. He did not know what truth there was in it, but whatever the cause, he thought it was to be regretted that so able and efficient an officer had seen fit to resign.

Hon. Mr. CARTIER said there could be no objection to the production of the papers; and he could regret with the mover that the late Adjutant General had resigned.

After Recess.

Some discussion arose on the question to go into the Committee on the Bill declaring 1st of July, or Dominion Day, a legal holiday.

Mr. LEVISCONTE said he thought it somewhat hard to make Nova Scotians celebrate as a holiday a day on which they thought a grievous wrong had been done them.

A lively discussion ensued and finally ended by Mr. McConkey withdrawing the Bill.

In the Commons on Tuesday.

Hon. Mr. HOLTON gave notice that he would on Thursday next submit certain resolutions to the House respecting the disestablishment of the Irish Church. (Laughter.)

Upon Sir J. A. Macdonald's motion for the second reading of the Insolvency Bill a lengthy discussion arose after which the Committee reported, the Bill was ordered for a third reading and the House adjourned.

On Wednesday the Senate was principally occupied with divorce matters. In the Commons.

Hon. Mr. LANGEVIN laid on the table returns to addresses respecting instructions given to Mr. Raye in the survey of Bay Verte Canal, and correspondence and orders in Council relating to the resignation of Adjutant General McDougall.

Mr. OLIVER moved for a Select Committee to enquire into matters respecting the salary of His Excellency the Governor General. He said there was a strong feeling in the country that the delegates to London

had exceeded their powers in fixing in the Confederation Act the salary at ten thousand pounds, and at the last election candidates had to pledge themselves to vote in favor of the reduction to a standard more suited to the country. The people had supposed that under Confederation there would be more restraint upon extravagance, that the taxes would be less, but experience of Confederation had shown them the utter fallacy of their anticipations. The salary, he contended, was altogether too extravagant, and in view of the heavy taxes borne by the people, and the heavy expenditure to which we were committed for public works, it should be cut down. He then referred to the despatch from England giving the reasons for disallowing the Act—reducing the salary of last year, and contended that the reasons were not well founded. Referring to the Act of Confederation, he said the clause fixed the salary at ten thousand pounds until the Parliament of Canada should order otherwise, which amounted to an invitation to regulate the matter. He referred to the salaries paid by other colonies, and contended that there the salaries of Governors were much less than paid here.

This gave rise to a long discussion which was postponed after recess.

On the moving of the third reading of the Bill to confirm and give effect to a certain agreement made between the Government and the Great Western Railway Co.

Hon. Mr. ROSE read a statement, showing that we got the full amount of the original debt, and that the difference allowed the Great Western Railway Company was \$677,988.

Mr. ROSE then moved the third reading of the Bill.

The motion being put the amendment was declared lost, and the yeas and nays being called, there appeared for it, 22; and against it, 112. The Bill was then read a third time and passed.

On Thursday the time of the House was taken up by a long discussion on the Governor General's salary.

The Hon. Joseph Howe, President of the Council, on entering was warmly received by the members.

SKETCHES OF THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR.

BY JOSEPH MACRAE.

TOBACCO SPITTING IN THE SOUTH.

Among the many things for which I admired the Southern people, tobacco chewing and tobacco spitting was not one. This practice, at first so disgusting to travellers from this country, prevails more or less all over the continent, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and from Canada to the Mexican Gulf. Happily it is disappearing in New England, and from amongst the classes of highest refinement even in the South. But the extent to which it still prevails in some parts of the South and West would scarcely be credited. You see people chewing and spitting in the streets, in the stores, in the hotels, specially around the stove, and in every ferryboat, steamboat, and railway car. Even in New England I have seen the floor of a railway car traversed with heavy splashes of tobacco juice, which had been projected with inadequate force in the direction of some distant spittoon. At other times, filthy with puddles of the same fluid, gradually thickening and expanding between the feet of some assiduous chewers. I remember the intense and almost malignant gratification with which I beheld a man

letting fall his clean copy of "Harper's Monthly" into the puddle he had himself made.

It is not only the commoner classes that indulge in this offensive habit. I remember one of the most eminent ministers in South Carolina, with whom I had a warm discussion at his own fireside on the subject of slavery, pulling a knife out of one pocket, a cake of tobacco out of another, cutting a plug for himself, and beginning to chew and spit vigorously, as if to work off the extra excitement, and keep himself cool enough for argument. I remember the Governor of another Southern State explaining to me the strange relation in which he stood to the Military Department, and nailing down each statement with an emphatic squirt into the adjacent spittoon. I remember still more vividly—the incongruity was so ludicrous to one unaccustomed to the fashion of the country—a Southern poet reading me some of his verses with a large plug of tobacco in his mouth, and every now and then, when his mouth became too full stopping in the middle of some beautiful line to squirt another mouthful of tobacco-juice towards the grate. In a Court of Justice I have seen the officer give a squirt, and call up the next witness; the witness take up the Bible, and give a squirt before kissing it; and the May or squiring in the spittoon at his feet before proceeding to put the man upon his oath. All this is so much a thing of custom that the people themselves are almost unconscious of it, and probably will not believe how conspicuous it is to a stranger. It seems to them no more offensive than smoking appears to us, or snuffing did to our grandfathers.

It is a partial concession to our own view of the practice that it is considered desirable to have the expectorated juice discharged into spittoons and carried forth from the sight of men. In many of the railway cars, placards are stuck up requesting particularly that gentlemen will spit in the spittoon. On one line the check-tickets which passengers get to stick in their hats contain at the bottom this juicy joke:—

Those who expect to rate as gentlemen will not expectorate on the floor!

Spittoons are everywhere. I saw them in the President's Reception Room—though the President himself I understand does not chew; I found them covering the floor of both Houses of Congress, and the floors of all the State Houses throughout the country. I found them in steamboat-saloons and cabins, in railway-cars, in stores, offices, private houses, and even in places of public worship. I was only surprised that the national principle had not introduced one, with a chewed-up plug of tobacco in it, under the beak of the American eagle, with the view of fixing its nationality.

The increasing refinement of the country, however, is setting its face against this mode of using tobacco, and we may therefore hope to see it gradually disappear.

GOING ABOUT ARMED.

Another practice, less common but far more characteristic, is the practice of carrying arms. There is scarcely such a thing heard of in New England or the settled Northern States, but in some parts of the South and South-West it seemed to me that almost everybody carried some murderous weapon about with him. I remember one day in Alabama getting into conversation with the cars with a frank, pleasant looking gentleman who sat opposite, and expressing my surprise at this practice.

"I guess," said he, "it's safer. I always