

Lord Grimthorpe (Edmund Beckett) is probably the most noted clock maker in England. He designed the "Big Ben" clock at Westminster, and has now constructed the biggest that ever left England for the post office at Sydney.

A deputation called upon Mr. Goschen, Chancellor of the Exchequer, a few days ago, for the purpose of laying before him their arguments in favor of the establishment of a universal rate of penny postage to all parts of the British Empire. In reply, Mr. Goschen said it would be impossible to lower the postal rates. The government had already lost £27,866 in four months by the reduction made in colonial postage.

The friends of Imperial Federation are delighted at the statement of the Dominion Government reviewing the general question of a reduction of letter postage. Mr. Henniker Heaton says he submitted a memo. to the Ottawa Government proving that a two cent rate would promote the Anglo-Canadian trade without a loss to the treasury, while he believes that Canada's adoption of that rate would lead public opinion here to compel the British Government to follow suit.

### PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

**DOMINION.**—The Minister of Marine informed the House that hereafter the fishing bounty cheques will be distributed previous to March in each year.

The Postmaster General intimated that the Government was considering the question of establishing a two cent rate of postage. It is hoped that the decision will be in the affirmative.

A large number of prohibition petitions have been presented during the past week, and many more are expected.

The jurisdiction in regard to the Admiralty Court, until last year under the control of the Imperial Parliament, was by an act then passed transferred to the colonies. The Minister of Justice has therefore introduced an act vesting in the Exchequer Court the business heretofore transacted in the Admiralty Courts. It is proposed, until other provision is made, to establish Admiralty divisions, one for each province. A case in Admiralty will hereafter be tried in the Supreme Court, with an appeal to the Exchequer Court and from thence to the Supreme Court of Canada.

What has been the subject of much private discussion since the opening of Parliament, namely the Tarte-McGreevy expose, has been referred to the Committee on Privileges and Elections for investigation. In his indictment the member for Montmorency accuses not only McGreevy with corruption, but also Sir Hector Langevin, the Minister of Public Works. The charges are many and of the gravest character, and if one tenth of them are true it will be impossible for McGreevy to retain his seat. Sir Hector affirmed his innocence, and said that he neither did nor caused to be done any of the things of which he was accused. It is the general impression that the charges will fall so far as the Minister is concerned. It is only fair to state that McGreevy pleaded innocent to the indictment, and charged his accusers with conspiring to punish him because he refused to carry out their plans. As the committee is composed of the leading members of the bar on both sides, a full investigation may be expected.

Thanks to the Minister of Justice we may soon hope to have a codification of the criminal law of Canada. The bill introduced by him is said to be of a very comprehensive and voluminous character, both statute and common law being consolidated in accord with the British system. One very important change to be made is that the distinction between felonies and misdemeanors will be abolished.

The much discussed tunnel question was before the House, and the Minister of Marine intimated that on receiving the report of Sir Douglass Fox the Government would decide whether or not the tunnel would be built.

**PROVINCIAL.**—Mr. Hemeon made a strong appeal to the Legislature to pass the bill introduced by him giving females who possessed the required property gratification, the right to vote in local elections. He referred to Bright, Longfellow, Spencer and many other eminent men who had favored the enfranchisement of women, and directed the attention of the members to the fact that some of the most illustrious characters in history were of that sex. The legislators, however, refused to be convinced, and the bill was defeated by a vote of 22 to 13.

A resolution was passed expressing regret at the death of the late Thos. B. Akins, who held for many years the position of Commissioner of Records, and placing upon record recognition of his eminent learning and research and of the great services which his assiduous devotion to the records of our Provincial history has rendered to the students of Nova Scotian history.

The report of the Secretary of Agriculture was laid on the table. The amount paid agricultural societies last year was \$6,444; for county exhibitions \$1,781; exhibition buildings \$800; improvements and repairs at the school at Truro \$1,967 and for stock bonuses \$230. It contains much information of value to farmers and stock breeders, and we would advise them to secure a copy.

A lengthy discussion took place on the bill to amend the Liquor License Act of 1886. A proposal to place the appointment of a license inspector in the hands of the Government was voted down. Hereafter the license inspector is to be elected annually as is the case of the other civic officials.

The Provincial Secretary presented the estimates for the coming year. The revenue for the coming year was estimated at \$673,222.39. Among the items making up this amount the chief was the Dominion Subsidy, \$320,000. Then there was the allowance for Government and Legislature \$60,000, interest on Baring Bros.' deposit \$12,653.33 and the interest on the debt account \$40,169.06, making in all \$432,822.39 that would be received from the Dominion Treasury. From royalties and fees from the Mines Department the Government hoped to receive \$185,000. The balance was

made up of small items. The expenditure for the year was estimated at \$671,523.78. The only item in which there has been any material change is the amount for steamship subsidies, which has been cut down from \$43,316 to \$31,188. The Government asked the Legislature for an appropriation of \$50,000 for needed public works. Victoria General Hospital is to have a nurses' home erected this year at a cost of \$7,000.

The Government has decided to withdraw the usual grants to the Infants' Home and the House of the Guardian Angel, the reason therefor being that while these institutions were of a very worthy character there were a number of others which might advance equal claims to a Government grant. A year ago these institutions were informed that the grants would not be continued.

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