

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—Canada has not yet a sufficient population to stand a two cent letter rate, but sooner or later our postage regulations will be level to those of Great Britain, but the United States.

The correspondence between the Governments of Canada and Newfoundland is somewhat interesting reading and proves pretty conclusively that Newfoundland having pocketed the coin for fishing licenses has no inclination to pool with Canada and divide as agreed upon.

The report of the negotiations between Canada and the United States is satisfactory as far as it goes, but it just stops short of the very matter in which the public are most deeply interested. Seal fisheries, Alaska boundaries and the observance of the golden rule with respect to wreckage are all important matters, but beside reciprocity in trade these sink into insignificance and all the world wonders why the negotiation of a great trade treaty was given the go-by.

Since writing the foregoing the Minister of Finance has made his budget speech which is so to speak the focus of the sessional debates. From it we learn that Canada's financial position is healthy, that the public debt has increased but slightly while the rate of interest has decreased. But from the budget speech we learn that the Canadian Commissioners did discuss at Washington trade relations with the United States, and that from these discussions they are convinced that no reciprocity in natural products will be considered, and that the broader unrestricted reciprocity will involve the raising of our tariff wall to the same level as that of the United States, discrimination against the mother country and a falling off of the Canadian revenue. This declaration of the Finance Minister is one of the most serious that has ever been made upon the floors of Parliament, and we confess that when its true inwardness is fully digested by the people of Canada they will require more than ordinary pluck, enterprise and fortitude to enable them to battle with the immediate future.

LOCAL.—Among the private and local bills at present before the Legislature are several which have more than an individual interest. Several companies for the mining of gold are being incorporated. An Act of incorporation is also being secured by the Newport Plaster, Mining and Manufacturing Company. The other Acts refer chiefly to the incorporation of cemeteries and water companies. Almost every village in the Province is piping for a water supply, and paradoxical as it may seem, with the advent of a supply of pure water comes a wide-spread desire to lay out and beautify certain spots for the dead. An Act has been introduced for the purpose of preventing persons committing fraud by the execution of secret bills of sale. The Legislature has been asked to incorporate the Church Hospital Association of the diocese of Nova Scotia. Petitions are daily presented praying for a change in the Act for the collection of debts which will expedite the collection of small debts.

The Municipalities are frequently called upon to pay damages to persons who have received injury on account of the condition of the roads and bridges. To prevent unnecessary cost, all such cases it is proposed hereafter to settle by arbitration.

Last week the Provincial Secretary by resolution called on Mr. Cahan, leader of the opposition, to specify his charges against the supporters of the Government, and required him to table his evidence with respect to the acts of fraud which Mr. Cahan stated had been alleged to have been committed with respect to the expenditures of the road monies. Over this resolution the battle waxed warm. The Provincial Secretary claimed that Mr. Cahan having made general charges of corruption it was his duty to specify the corruptions and show evidence of the corruption. Mr. Cahan claimed that as a member of the Legislature he had the right to have the charges made by him as well as the evidence upon which such charges were based examined before a select committee. The battle was fought out on purely party grounds and parliamentary practise was quoted on both sides to prove diametrically opposite views. The resolution of the Provincial Secretary was supported by a vote of 26 and opposed by a vote of 10 members of the house. Mr. Cahan subsequently, while protesting it to be his privilege to use his own judgment with respect to specifying the charges, decided to bring the matter to a head by naming Joseph McPherson, A. J. McDonald, of Cape Breton, and John A. Fraser, of Victoria, three supporters of the Government, as being implicated in certain irregularities with respect to the expenditure of road monies in the counties named. The public will watch with interest the outcome of the enquiry upon these specific charges.

Nearly every one needs a good spring medicine, and Hood's Sarsaparilla is undoubtedly the best. Try it this season.

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 Commercial Cable Co. shows a profit for last year of \$1,085,324.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Rifle Association was held at Ottawa on the 16th.

The Warden, published at Arichat, comes to us much enlarged and improved in appearance.

Louis Cyr, the Canadian strong man, has returned to Montreal after having a good time in Europe.

The barque *Sylvan* was wrecked on Trinity Ledge, near Yarmouth, on Sunday night. Five of the crew were lost. The barque was owned by Adams McDougall, Maitland.

Lloyd's bonded warehouses in St. John, N. B., was partially burned on Monday. There was considerable loss on goods.

An accident happened to a C. P. R. locomotive and Pullman car at Richmond on Friday. The damage amounts to \$10,000.

The strike on the C. P. R. is over, and the points of difference between the company and the men are to be referred to arbitration.

Mrs. Joseph Niler, of North Range, Digby, gave birth to four children last week. They are all boys and weigh 23 pounds 4 ounces.

The German steamer *Wilhelm Oelsner* went ashore on Thrum Cap shoals on Wednesday, but was got off with the assistance of tugs in the afternoon.

At the board of health meeting on Tuesday evening a lively discussion took place over the merits of different disinfectants, and it was decided not to include a list of the same.

The Halifax Board of Trade listened on Wednesday to the arguments of the Merchant's Tax Reform Association. The matter is to be brought before the City Council again.

A. C. Bell, of New Glasgow, recently shipped a valuable consignment of horses to Independence, Iowa, where they will be trained by C. A. Thompson, one of the most successful trainers of the west.

Messrs D. M. Ferry & Co., Windsor, Ontario, have our thanks for an assorted lot of garden seeds of which we shall make good use. Ferry's beautiful seed annual was received and noticed some weeks ago.

A ghastly find was made on Archibald's farm near Tiuro on Friday last in the shape of a human hand severed at the wrist joint. It was not much decayed, and there is no solution of the mystery of where it came from.

Thomas Manning, reported missing from the deep water terminus, Halifax, was drowned. Diver Defries found the unfortunate man's body on Thursday of last week. He must have fallen from a gang-way between a steamer and the wharf.

The New Brunswick government has been coquetting with direct taxation and introduced a bill with several clauses which would not go down. As a result it was obliged to drop the clauses relating to provincial fees on liquor licenses, taxation of marine insurance, express companies and telegraph companies. The two latter will probably be introduced in amended form.

By some annoying blunder of the Colonial Office, Canada's offer of a *modus vivendi* to Newfoundland, had not reached St. John's up to the time of going to press. The matter was cabled to London nearly three weeks ago, and the proposals must have been sent from there to Nfld. by mail, which would account for the delay. Lord Knutsford must be very economical.

The letter-carriers of the Dominion have presented through Mr. W. D. MacPherson, of Toronto, a petition to the Postmaster-General asking that the maximum salary of letter-carriers be increased from \$600 to \$750 per annum, to be attained as at present by eight years service. Sir Adolphe Caron said he could not grant the request without conferring with his colleagues.

The splendid custom house building at St. John, N. B., which cost the government \$380,000, was destroyed by fire on Saturday night. It appears to be time for some means to be taken to prevent the possibility of such conflagrations. There were other alarms of fire during the same evening and the fire department was out all the time. A high wind was blowing, and it is something to be thankful for that the calamity of 1877 was not repeated.

We have received from the publishers the 1st. No. of Vol. IV., of *The Canadian Poultry Journal and Pigeon Fancier*, issued semi monthly at Beeton, Ont. The *Journal* is neatly gotten up, and illustrated with a splendid frontispiece. The reading matter is of vital interest to all keepers of poultry, and especially to the farmer whose "hens don't pay." To those desirous of obtaining practical information in reference to poultry, no better investment can be made, we think, than a dollar spent in a subscription to *The Canadian Poultry Journal*. Send stamp for sample copy.

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