

working of railroad transportation from an academic point of view will find its usefulness on the Board. As to these qualifications, he has no superior in the Dominion. At the time of his appointment, Mr. McLean was Associate Professor of Political Science in the University of Toronto.

We deem it to be regretted that there are but two lawyers on the Board. It must not be lost sight of that this Board is a court, and an important one. There are not only questions of common sense to be settled, but most important points of law and as to the admission of evidence. Such being the case it does not seem reasonable to throw too much of the work on the one legal member of the Board whose "opinion upon a question of law shall prevail." The work of the Board is much in the limelight, and the wisdom or otherwise of the new appointments will soon be known.

A RURAL CONSTABULARY.

No one conversant with the conditions which prevail in the rural parts of Ontario, as regards the protection of life and property, can fail to realize the necessity for some better system of police than that now existing. It would be more accurate to say the necessity for creating a system were none now exists, for our rural constabulary can no longer be relied upon as in any degree competent for the duty they are called upon to discharge. Speaking of the rural parts of Ontario we include the villages and small towns not large enough to maintain an effective force of their own, and what applies to Ontario will apply more or less to the other Eastern provinces. There was a time in the history of this country when no householder ever thought of locking his doors at night—when tramps were unknown—when theft of any kind was of rare occurrence—and when, though drinking was more common, and more cases of fighting and of assault came before the magistrates, there was not that spirit of rowdiness now so frequently complained of.

This state of things exists no longer. Greater population,