

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—The party tranquility which has characterized the transactions in the House of Commons during the past week is like to the calm before the storm, and yet a political storm under present conditions would be wholly and totally inoperative, ineffective and barren of results. This the Opposition feel to be the case, and the supporters of the Government are content to look forward to a brief and probably uneventful session.

Some new regulations have been enacted with respect to the fees to be paid for the examination of undocked vessels, etc.

A charge of \$50 per season is to be exacted as a license for packing lobsters and a further specific tax levied upon each case of lobsters packed.

The Newfoundland question in all its bearings has been brought into prominence by the pertinent questions of Mr. White, the member for Shelburne. From the authoritative answers which these questions have received it would appear that the Government is now seriously considering the advisability of giving Newfoundland a dose of its own medicine. Retaliation all along the line would teach that wayward colony that the jug-handled trade that is now being carried on in Canada is not quite satisfactory to Canadians, and that reciprocal trade is the only common basis upon which the people of both countries can unite. It further appears that Newfoundland and Canada entered into a little agreement embodying the following provisions:—Canada was to issue licenses to American fishermen which would give them the right to buy bait and fish in Newfoundland waters, and Newfoundland was to issue and sell similar licenses which should hold good in Canadian waters. At the close of the season Canada and Newfoundland were to pool the receipts and make an equal division of the same. But Newfoundland has never been willing to make an accounting, and Canada is therefore not in a position to make a divvy with her. A hazy suspicion exists that Newfoundland having sold the greater number of licenses holds the major portion of the receipts and has a natural aversion to allow the coin to slip from her grasp. Governments as well as individuals often display strong traits of human nature. Newfoundland has raised no end of a pow-wow about Canadian fishermen selling bait to the inhabitants of St. Pierre, but as the allegations are of a very general character, and as no particular case has been either stated or proved, this noisy assertion carries with it little force and is unworthy of a country like the ancient and honored colony of Newfoundland. Canada has always been ready to second the effort of Newfoundland by enabling the colony to have tried in our own Canadian courts any violation of the bond under which Canadian fishermen obtain privileges in Newfoundland waters. This is surely as much as can be expected of Canada, and it will require not a small amount of Harvey sauce to make palatable to Canadians the question as viewed from a Newfoundland standpoint. To cap the climax Newfoundland pretends that these restrictions upon Canadian fishermen were not imposed until after Canada had interfered with the Bond-Blair treaty, but the truth seems to be that Newfoundland was pursuing her present unneighborly course a full year before that treaty was heard of.

Heretofore vessels of eighty tons register and under have not been called upon to pay pilotage dues, and now as our bankers are larger than they were in former years pilotage dues are to be remitted on all vessels of 120 tons register and under.

An act is under consideration allowing the Governor-General-in-Council to issue annual licenses to American fishermen without the same having to come each year before parliament.

LOCAL.—As matters now stand a man must needs be a Philadelphia lawyer to understand the liquor license laws. Amendments and amendments have so changed the original that the skeleton would scarce be recognized by its framer. But a remedy is now proposed, the liquor license legislation is to be consolidated, and in its incorporated capacity it will be more available for reference.

Every one knows that Tom, Dick and Harry are very genial, worthy fellows, but every one knows that when they come to do their statute labor they are cezzed with a fit of laziness and do little more than put in an appearance, while they enjoy the ease and luxury of a legally forced holiday. Fully 50 per cent. of the statute labor is worse than wasted, and that which is done well the country pays a double price for. Apparently the individual conscience is not often smitten when public duties are shirked, and the Government would have better roads at less cost if they would abolish statute labor and pay a day's wages for a day's work. The movement is in the air, but as yet has taken no definite form.

Apparently some of our public men appear to think that in dealing with the question of the franchise of widows and spinsters they have the right to indulge in flippant gallantry, so one might think in listening to the debate in the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia. To adduce as a logical reason why such women should not have the right of the franchise that it would tend to render them less cultured, less refined, that it would lessen their influence in the home and hinder them in the training of children, is worthy of a Don Quixote. Widows and spinsters are entitled to enjoy all the privileges of citizenship, but if for the present they are debarred by the law from their choice of representatives in the legislature, there will come a time when the action of the House of Assembly in dismissing this question will be regarded as one of the strongest indications of the red tape futility of the age; but for the present session at least the question has been buried.

Since the abolition of imprisonment for debt, country shopkeepers have found it a difficult matter to collect small debts, and it is probable that the legislature will be called upon to amend the law so as to bring little debtors well within its scope.

Mr. Cahan has asked for a budget of information with respect to the returns from the coal mines. The questions indicate that he rather suspects

favoritism upon the part of the Government, but the true inwardness of the enquiry has not yet appeared.

Some changes are proposed in the municipal assessments which are thought to be beneficial. Municipal assessment is very mortal in its makeup; it is ever changing.

There seems to be some difference of opinion about allowing certain officers of the Salvation Army to solemnize marriage, but it is probable that before many weeks they will have the legal right to do so.

The inhabitants of Liscombe are getting tired of a six mile tramp to Marie Joseph in order to deposit their ballots, and they are now petitioning the legislature to save them loss of temper and shoeleather by making Liscombe a polling section. Distant polling booths may have done for the Gaddites, but for the Liscombites, never!

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 Frazer.

The city council has voted against tax-reform by 10 to 8.

A most successful reception was held at Acadia College on Saturday last.

Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, took his seat in the House on Monday.

Hon. J. A. Chapleau, who has been in the South for his health, has returned home.

Rev. J. W. Lockyer is receiving contributions for a cottage hospital at Cow Bay, C. B.

It is reported that the Cornwallis Valley Railway has been transferred to the W. & A. Railway.

The Church Hospital is applying to the legislature for incorporation as the "Church Hospital Association." C. C. Blackadar is president.

Hon. C. H. Tupper has introduced a bill in parliament embodying regulations for the lobster packing business which are seriously objected to by lobster packers.

George Dixon of Upper Sackville, N. B., was accidentally killed by being caught on a revolving shaft in Fawcett's grist mill, Moncton, on Tuesday. No blame was attached to anyone by the coroner's jury.

Thomas Manning, an employee at the deep water terminus, has been missing since Saturday night. A diver has been examining the bottom of the harbor in the vicinity, but no traces of the man have been found.

Our personals were crowded out last week, or we should certainly have not neglected to mention that we had had a pleasant visit from Mr. M. J. Keating, the well-informed Boston correspondent of the Halifax Chronicle.

The storm of last Friday did considerable damage in various places. At Yarmouth it was accompanied by lightning, which struck and destroyed by fire the Tabernacle Church at that place. The Baptist Church at Port Maitland, 11 miles distant, was also destroyed.

A meet of the ratepayers of wards four and five was held on Tuesday evening to discuss the I. C. Railway extension. They declared unanimously in favor of the extension to Cornwallis Street only and passed resolutions to that effect which are to be brought to the attention of parliament and the city council. The Government will be called upon to spend some money in railway improvements in Halifax.

The exhibition of calisthenic exercises at the Ladies College on Tuesday evening given by the pupils was very successful and the audience, which consisted principally of the parents of the pupils, was well pleased with the attainments of the young ladies. The elocution recital at the college this evening will probably be an enjoyable entertainment, if we may judge from former occasions.

The scythe of death has been gathering in the sheaves very plentifully of late. On Friday last, Miss Eliza Wells died at the Home for Aged Ladies at the advanced age of 93 years, and on the next day Mr. George E. Morton also died, at the age of 81 years. Mr. Morris Levy, of the firm of Levy & Michaels, died on Sunday in the 45th year of his age. His remains were removed to New York for burial.

The list of Conservative victories goes on steadily increasing. On 17th South Perth, Ont., elected W. Pridham, defeating the Liberal candidate who was elected twelve months ago by 177 majority, and the Liberal candidate in Montmorency, Que. retired, allowing Mr. Turcotte to be elected by acclamation. In Monck the Liberal majority of 220 of last year was on Saturday changed to a 200 majority for Arthur Boyle.

The charities committee met on Tuesday and dealt with several important matters. A bill of fare for the poor's asylum was reported by a special committee from which it would appear that the inmates will have plenty to eat. One item we think is not adequate, and that is the provision that children under six years of age should be allowed half a pint of milk daily. A healthy youngster requires much more than this—as any family man or physician is well aware.

The trip of the sailors across the continent by C. P. Railway some time ago has given satisfaction to the naval authorities in England. President Van Horne has received a letter from Admiral Sir George W. Watson, dated at Bermuda, expressing the satisfaction of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty over the success of the experiment, and asking Mr. Van Horne to thank individually, in the name of the Admiralty, the particular gentlemen who contributed so largely to the comfort of officers and men. These gentlemen are Mr. D. E. Brown, assistant general freight and pas-