

withdraws from the ordinary courts a very large volume of business, and it is hard to see where a line is to be drawn which would prevent all civil business from being withdrawn from the courts referred to in s. 96 of the B. N. A. Act and transferred to new tribunals which are neither Superior or County Courts, and presided over by judges appointed and paid by the Province. This, in effect, was what was attempted to be done by the Province of Quebec; but the Provincial Legislation was disallowed as being a violation of the B. N. A. Act: see 21 Ont., p. 172-3.

*THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DOMINION RAILWAY
BOARD.*

In a recent number of a legal contemporary there is an article criticising a ruling of the Board in reference to an application by the City of Toronto to change some rates imposed by the Bell Telephone Company. The writer of the article referred to finds it "exceedingly difficult to understand" how the decision was arrived at. He does not say, however, whether he heard the evidence and the arguments before the Board or the reasons given for the result arrived at. Being ourselves in the same position we do not pretend to say whether the critic or the Board was in the right of it. We do, however, propose to say something as to other observations in the article referred to.

The writer very properly eulogises the good work done by the late Judge Mabee, though it is scarcely fair to the eminent men who preceded him to say that the high position attained by this tribunal was due to *his* Chairmanship; nor, as the writer appears to hint, that it partly attained this eminence by giving decisions oftenest adverse to corporations. It will be seen, however, that these encomiums are really for the purpose of drawing a comparison between the previous Chairman of the Board and the present one, to the disadvantage of the latter. And so the writer thinks "it would be a pity if (by Mr. Drayton's action on the application referred to) the standard set up by