

## PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

**DOMINION**—Nothing of great importance transpired during last week's session of Parliament.

There was a long discussion over the Prince Edward Island subway, which ended in smoke, and a day was devoted to the binder twine duty. The debate lasted until long after midnight, when the proposal to place binder twine on the free list was voted down by 100 to 80. The principal speeches were made by Mr. Muloch, J. F. Staire, Mr. Foster, and Doctor Cameron, of Inverness.

On Tuesday, Mr. Laurier rose to a question of privilege, and charged that Sir Hector Langevin had not brought down all the papers relating to the Kingston graving dock. The order of the House had been defied. A contract had been awarded to one Bancroft, but Bancroft's tender was in Michael Connolly's handwriting. He knew Connolly's handwriting well, having had to examine many of the letters. It thus appeared that the contract had been awarded on a fictitious tender, and a gross fraud perpetrated. Sir Hector promised to produce the missing papers.

Mr. Tarte asked Sir Hector if he had ever seen Bancroft or his deposit check.

Sir Hector declined to give any further information.

Sir Richard Cartwright asked that the list of shareholders of the Hudson Bay Railway be produced, so that Parliament might know who were being subsidized.

Mr. Montague then resumed his speech on the Budget, scoring some good points for the Government, and was followed by Mr. Charlton in opposition.

Sir Hector Langevin produced some further papers relative to the Kingston graving dock contract, and the House adjourned.

In the Senate a debate occurred on Mr. Power's bill providing that any Roman Catholic girl over 16 years old, confined in any prison in the Province, may be transferred by direction of the Provincial Secretary to the reformatory for women established at Halifax by the Good Shepherd sisters. Mr. Miller opposed the bill on the ground that it was contrary to the spirit of the laws in force in the other provinces and likely to cause religious discussions. The bill was opposed by Messrs. Prowse and Allan and supported by Messrs. Girard, Scott and others, and was read a second time without division.

The investigation of the Tarte-McGreavy scandal before the committee of Privileges and Elections has been enlivened by Mr. Osler's cross-examination of Mr. O. M. Murphy, which has not yet been concluded. Mr. Murphy's unsavory record was pretty well known before, and in drawing the facts from his own lips that he was a defaulter and absconder from justice in New York, Mr. Osler has succeeded in killing two birds with one stone. He has proved Murphy a scoundrel of the first water, and further, that he is a man that Sir Hector and the Department of Public Works should never have had any dealings with. It now seems that Sir Hector will retire from the Cabinet and be appointed Lieut.-Governor of Quebec, to be succeeded by Mr. Angers, the present incumbent.

On Wednesday the sawdust question was brought up by Kaulbach and other members, who pointed out the injustice of applying the restriction to the LaHave River while the Ottawa River and other streams were exempted. Kaulbach, Mills, Flint and Forbes advanced telling arguments in favor of exempting the LaHave, claiming that the sawdust was no injury to the fish, but Minister of Marine Tupper, while admitting that the enforcement of the Act was unpopular with the lumber interest, still thought he was doing the right thing for the fishing industry. He also stated that Rogers had at one time claimed that sawdust was injurious to the fish, but had changed his opinion when trying to dispose of his fishway to the large lumber firms.

Further and startling revelations were made by Murphy, and before the public accounts committee some unsavory facts in regard to the I. C. R. and the Department of the Interior were elicited.

## OPENING OF THE NOVA SCOTIA CIGAR MANFG CO., (Ltd.)

In response to a very neatly gotten up invitation to be present at the public opening of The Nova Scotia Cigar Manufacturing Company, (Ltd), we wended our way to the factory, Nos. 69 to 75 Buckingham street, at 3 p. m. on Wednesday last.

The spacious premises formerly occupied by the O'Mullins as a grocery and liquor store have been secured and fitted up with every facility for the business of cigar manufacturing. By a curious coincidence the O'Mullins opened their business July 4th, 1863, and the new factory, in which they are largely interested, Robert O'Mullin being president, was started July 4th, 1891, just 28 years after. If the new business is as profitable as the old the shareholders will have every reason to be satisfied with their investment.

In the roomy office to the right of the factory entrance we found quite a company assembled including the president, Chas. W. Hayward, vice do. E. J. Quirk, treasurer, L. T. Briand, secretary, a number of the directors and shareholders, besides several guests, among them Speaker Power. Percy J. A. Lear, the pushing manager, was also on hand ready to show and explain everything.

We sampled the third cigar turned out from the factory, and although wanting age it smoked well and was of very fine flavor. It was a strong No. 8 grade, the poorest brand turned out by the company, and a very superior article for the price it is to be sold at.

Few smokers in Halifax know the number of operations that the raw tobacco undergoes until it is turned out the perfect weed in which they delight.

Tobaccos have to be selected for the "filler," the "binder" and the "wrapper." The filler is the choicest Havannab, the best wrappers come from Connecticut, and the binder is a strong tobacco grown in Wisconsin.

The tobacco is first soaked to prevent its tearing when in the hands of the strippers. It is then stripped of its stems and sent to the dry room. From the dry room it goes to the cigar makers, and is put together, rolled into shape and pressed. It is now a cigar, and sent with hundreds of others to the packing room, where they are sorted according to color, packed in boxes, again pressed and stored for a time in the dry room, when the cigars are ready for the market.

Manager Lear showed a party of us through the building. The large basement is devoted to the storing of the tobacco, and it is also there soaked in a wooden trough. On the first floor to the rear of the office is the stripping room, and here a number of women and girls are employed in stripping the tobacco. Across the hall is a large room where the cigars are made. A wide table runs down the centre, and around this are seated some fifteen operators. Each man has before him a tray, open in front very similar to a butler's tray, and on this is laid the different tobaccos used in the cigar. An oblong block of hard wood with a nickel plated cutter attached to one end is directly before him. On this he deftly rolls the cigar into shape, cuts off the end and presses into a wooden mould the exact shape of the cigar. The moulds hold a dozen or more cigars, and when filled are placed in a powerful press. The operators acquire great dexterity and make from 250 to 450 cigars daily, according to experience.

On the upper floor is the dry room, heated by a base burner and hot as Tophet. In front is the packing room where the cigars are sorted, packed into boxes, labelled and pressed.

Across the hall is a large store room, and here the bald heads of the party were noticed to linger o'er long watching five good-looking girls making or putting the finishing touches on the soothing weed.

This finished the inspection of the factory, and after repairing to the office and drinking success to the enterprise in sparkling champagne, we departed well pleased with our visit.

Strange to say, this is the first cigar factory started in Halifax, and if the Company stick to their method of using only the best material in their manufacture, their success is assured, as there is a crying demand for good cigars.

The officers and shareholders include a number of large wholesale and retail dealers in cigars, and an immediate trade is thus assured for the full capacity of the works. As the factory will give constant employment to some 30 or 40 hands, besides keeping no small amount of capital in the city, it is a most important addition to our industrial institutions, and we wish it success.

Manager Lear is the "right man in the right place," and his well known ability as a salesman is a warning to Montreal and St. John drummers that their Nova Scotian and New Brunswick trade is in jeopardy.

## 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.

Acadia College is to be enlarged.

Hamilton has now over 50,000 inhabitants.

The millmen's strike in New Brunswick continues.

Crop prospects in the Maritime Provinces are excellent.

It is proposed to build an electric street railway in Montreal.

The catch of fish in Lake Winnipeg this year is larger than ever before.

It is said that vessels carry coal from Oswego to Kingston for 25 cents a ton.

Summer tourists are flocking to Nova Scotia from Boston and other points.

Archbishop Tache, of Winnipeg, is so ill that it is feared he cannot recover.

H. M. S. flagship *Warspite* has arrived at Victoria, B. C., and will dock for repairs.

The Halifax Fire Insurance company has declared a half yearly dividend of five per cent.

Lady Macdonald will, as a peeress, take the title of "Baroness Macdonald of Earncliffe."

The retail grocers association at a recent meeting in Halifax decided to keep up the prices of sugar.

The Labrador expedition, under command of Prof. Lee, sailed from Halifax on Friday evening last.

It is proposed to tender Mr. Mercier a monster demonstration upon his return to Montreal from Europe.

St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Aylesford, celebrated its centenary on Tuesday last with appropriate services.

La Grippe is causing a large number of deaths in Labrador, and a piteous appeal is made for help from outside.

One car of an express train left the track near St. John, N. B., on Saturday, the passengers being badly shaken up.

A petition has been filed against the return to Parliament of Hugh Macdonell, Conservative member elect for Algoma.

Count Mercier has received 300 decorations and titles from the Pope to be distributed among papal zouaves in Canada.

Staples, the Amherst seducer, was acquitted on the technical ground that his age had not been proved. A breach of promise suit has been commenced against him by a new party.