PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—One of the most important Acts of the session is the Redistribution Bill, the discussion upon which was both lively and interesting. According to the British North America Act, the Province of Quebec enjoys a representation of 65 members, and the other provinces are represented to a greater or less extent as their populations are proportionately greater or less than that of Quebec. Under these circumstances the redistribution of parliamentary seats, based upon the census of 1891, gives to Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island a decreased representation, while the representation of the provinces west of Quebec remains pretty much as before. Nova Scotia having lost one member, the Redistribution Bill provides that the counties of Queens and Shelburne shall unite in electing one representative. In New Brunswick the city and county of St. John lose one member, while the Counties of Sunbury and Queens unite in sending one representative. In Prince Edward Island the county of Kings loses one member, while the counties of Queens and Prince are divided into east and west ridings, sending one member for each riding. The parliamentary contingent from the Maritime Provinces contains at present 43 members as follows:—Nova Scotia 21, New Brunswick 16, Prince Edward Island 6. After the next general election the Maritime Provinces will be represented by 39 members as follows:—Nova Scotia 20, New Brunswick 14, Prince Edward Island 5 In the Province of Quebec the cities of Montreal and Hochelaga are to have three additional members, and the county of Ottawa one, with the reduction of four members in other parts of the Province. Toronto and Algoma are each to have an additional member, while the combination of other constitutencies will bring down the representation to the same as at present. In Manitaba and British Columbia no changes are to be made. The Redistribution Bill has stirred the political warhorses in the ranks of the Opposition, and the cry of gerrymandering has again been raised. Without expressing any opinion as to what has been done in the Upper Provinces, our readers can judge for themselves as to the effect of the gerrymandering in the Maritime Provinces. The cry, so far as we are concerned, is without foundation.

The railway mail clerks are seeking Government insurance, which, considering their responsible positions and liability to accident, deserves to be considered by the Government. Their application for an increase in salaries has been made too late to be attended to this year.

The Opposition has found a weak point in the armor of the Government, and every Opposition lance has been levelled at it. A report of the informal discussion upon reciprocity which took place in Washington has been forwarded to the British Government, while the members of the House of Commons have received no definite statement of what took place. The Government shields itself behind the informal character of the conference, but the Opposition claims that the report should have been submitted to Parliament before a copy had been transmitted to London.

Much anxiety respecting the termination and the probable extension of the treaty between Canada and the Spanish West Indies has been evinced, and the Government has given assurances that the matter is likely to be speedily settled. The how of its settling is most important to our Nova Scotian shippers.

The spirited debate which took place on Monday last upon the resolution of Mr. McCarthy called forth some of the best speaking talent of the Commons. Mr. McCarthy strongly favored the appointment of a Canadian representative at Washington who should be attached to the British Embassy, and who would be in a position to guard the interests of Canada. Some of the speakers favored a Canadian agent in Washington rather than a Canadian attached to the British Embassy, while other speakers, notably Sir John Thompson, pronounced in favor of Canadian agents in American cities, similar to the American consular agents in this province. The debate was adjourned at the instance of Sir John Thompson in order that the government might take the question into consideration.

Mr. Watson, of Manitoba, made a strong appeal for the abolition of the duty upon binder twine. He said that the duty of 25 per cent. upon this twine was unfair to the farmers of the country, who were paying $400 000 into the coffers of the cordage company. The supporters of the government claimed that without this duty the binder twine would not be manufactured in Canada, and that the farmers were paying no more for it at present than they would have to do were there no duty. Mr. Watson's motion was lost on division after a very exhaustive debate.

LOCAL.—As an offset to the bill increasing the royalty upon coal from 7½ to 10 cents per ton the Local Government has passed a measure authorizing the owners of coal leases to cancel their leases within twelve months of the date upon which this Act was passed; upon which new leases will be issued to hold good until 1906, containing a guarantee that no increase in royalty will be made during the life of the lease; and it is further set forth that the said leases will be renewed for an additional term of twenty years with a royalty not exceeding 12½ cents per ton. This last act removes that element of uncertainty which the increase in the royalties has created in the minds of investors, but the validity of the original Act still remains unsettled.

Mayor Thomas has brought an action against the Speaker of the House of Assembly, the Sergeant-at-Arms, the keeper of the County jail and the twenty-five members of the House through and by whom he was committed and detained in the County jail of Halifax. The Mayor has placed his damages at $50,000, living at the rate of $25,000 a day, and the House of Assembly, in order to protect its officials, the majority of its members and the keeper of the County jail, passed a bill of indemnity declaring that all who took part in imprisoning Mayor Thomas should be held harmless for their action in so doing.

Two important city bills, which have created more or less excitement in Halifax, were quashed in their passage through the Legislature. The non-exemption bill, which left the City of Halifax free to tax churches, religious and benevolent institutions, etc., was thrown out, while the bill providing for the purchase of a new cemetery was withdrawn.

One of the most interesting matters for the consideration of the legislators is that of the estimated receipts and expenditures for the current year. These are as follows:—

REVENUE.	
Dom. subsidy, etc.	$432,816
Mines; royalty, etc.	210,000
Crown lands	12,000
Marriage licenses, etc.	8,000
Royal Gazette	250
Private bills	1,000
Succession duties	5 000
Postal subsidy W. C. R.	3.500
Do. W. & A. R.	14,000
Total	$689,316

EXPENDITURE.	
Agriculture	$ 16,000
Criminal prosecution	3.500
Education	215,000
Crown lands	6,000
Legislative expenses	47,500
Local works	15 000
Hospital for insane	18,000
Mines	14 000
Miscellaneous	15,000
Victoria General Hospital maintenance	30,000
Public printing	9,000
Steamboats, packets and ferries	23,454
Salaries	21,650
Transient poor	5.000
Roads and bridges	76,214
Provincial Engineer's office	9,000
Legislative Library	1,700
W. C. R. (interest on bonds)	13,500
W. & A. R. do.	14.500
Debenture interest	91,270
Medical College	800
Miners' relief fund	1,658
Election lists, Sheriffs courts	500
Discount and exchange English loan..$29,545.75	
Interest, current bank accounts in Nova Scotia..$5,000.00	
	34 545
Total	$683 792

The House of Asssembly was prorogued on Saturday with the usual ceremony.

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