PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—The work of the Session in the House of Commons is proceeding apace, and an early adjournment is now confidently looked for. The bill introduced by Hon. C. H. Tupper for the preventing of the netting of salmon in tidal waters evoked much sharp criticism, its opponents declaring that the measure was uncalled for, and would prove a hardship to fishermen in the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Tupper held that it is the duty of the Government to protect our salmon fisheries, and this could not be done effectively so long as the netting of them in tidal waters was allowed.

Halifaxians will shortly have to pay two cents on each drop letter, it being provided in the bill recently adopted by the Commons, that the old rate of one cent per drop letter be charged in towns where carriers were not employed for the delivery of letters, but that two cents should be charged when such carriers were employed. Invitations, cards for "At Homes," notices, bills, etc., will hereafter have to be made out upon post cards by prudent and saving individuals, as the two cent. rate is an extravagance that

can only be indulged in by the upper ten.

Sir Richard Cartwright, who is recognised as an able financier, soverely condemns the Government for the late issue of bonds bearing three per cent. per annum, and stated that in his judgment the conditions upon which these bonds were placed upon the market are most unfavorable to Canada. The Hon. Mr. Poster, in replying, said that Sir Richard displayed an unwarrantable degree of pessimism, as he regarded the loan secured by the issue of these bonds as having been placed upon more satisfactory conditions than any hitherto secured by the Government of the Dominion.

The Cape Breton members had a field day in the House over the building of the C. B. railway, more particularly over the route selected by the Government, and the construction of the bridge over the Grand Narrows. The discussion over the choice of the route at this stage appears somewhat lato; and while every well-wisher of the different sections of Cape Broton would like to see projected railways under construction, it is most important that the Sydneys as the termini of the Island railway should have the best possible connection with Hawkesbury and Mulgrave that is obtainable; and if the building of the bridge will further this end, the proposal for its construction should not meet with opposition from Cape Bretonians, even though they do not secure direct advantages.

Members in the House of Commons complain that the chamber is badly ventilated. Perhaps this accounts for the sleepiness of some of the debates, but there are some passages at arms which might lead an outsider to the conclusion that a reservoir of ozone was available on particular occasions. Immediate steps are to be taken to enlarge the chamber and have it ventilated

after the most improved method.

Our net debt on March 31st was \$234,870,000. This is a pretty good round sum for five millions of people to shoulder, but after all it is only \$47 per head of the population, while the debt of France is about \$120 per head, beside our debt represents great national works, such as railways, cauals, etc., and we have a great undeveloped country at our back, while the debt of France is the outcome of long protracted wars, and the area of the country is no greater than that of the Province of British Columbia

Four divorce bills have been granted by the parliament, after having evoked much discussion in the Senate Divorces are unfortunately on the increase in Canada, but as yet our record in this respect is good as compared with many of the American States and the sacredness of the marriage tie in the Dominion has so far never been seriously questioned.

Steamship subsidies are to receive the attention of the house during the closing days of the session, and it is probable that appropriatious will be made for subsidizing a fast Atlantic line and two Pacific lines, connecting British Columbia and China, and British Columbia and Australia.

PROVINCIAL.-The question of imprisonment for debt has again been under discussion in the House of Assembly, and judging from the speeches upon this subject, the views of our legislators have greatly broadened since Mr. NacCoy first had the courage of his convictions by introducing into the Legislature a bill for the abolition of imprisonment for debt. The Attorney General, who, in our estimation is showing indications of a riper statesmanship than we have hitherto been wont to accord him, pointed out in speaking on the bill before the House, that of 383 persons imprisoned for debt, 241 continued in jail for a longer or shorter time, while 142 were placed on the jail limits. This disgraceful state of affairs is a represent to the Province of Nova Scotia, and no honest man could for a moment wish to see it prolonged. Poverty is not a crime, neither is sickness, neither is misfortune of any kind, and yet under the law of the land any man is liable to be shut up within the prison walls as a sufferer from these causes. A man borrows of few hundred dollars to build a cottage, by accident the building is destroyed by fire, and if unable to settle with his creditor he is thrown into jail. A man is attacked by severe sickness, and for three months is incapable of providing for his family, when he rises from his sick bed he finds that debts have been incurred, which if not paid off will render him liable to imprisonment. The fair-minded man will never take advantage of a man in distress, but our law permits close-fisted unscrupulous creditors to oppress and humiliate honest debtors, in total disregard of the fact that no where in the world is a man in as poor a position to discharge a debt as when shut up in a debtors jail. For the sake of our good name as Nova Scotians, let such a law be effaced from our Statutes.

What should we have done without a Sunday bill to talk about? and how thankful we should be that after the talk, both in and out of the legislative halls, the question should have been so dextrously shelved beyond the reach of ecciesiastical or other politicians. Instead of a new Sunday bill

tinction between that servile labor performed by a street car driver, in carrying people to and fro in the city, and that servile labor which every servant man and maid in the province is called upon to perform on fifty two Sundays of each year.

The government has determined to feel the pulse of the public as to the expediency of encouraging higher education. It is proposed to provide a number of scholarships, each having an annual value of \$200, being tenabla for two years, and open to competitive competition in the several educational districts into which the bill divides the Province. There are some other features of this measure which need consideration, but for the present the government will be satisfied to ascertain whether the heart-throb of the pub lic is in sympathy with the measure, and whether the outlay of six or eight thousand dollars per annum, would under the circumstances be justifiable. The question is a grave one and there are certainly two ways of looking at it. It might be found that the same sum would be sufficient to establish a school of mineralogy, for which there is great necessity and ample room in Nova Scotia.

The following is the estimated revenue and expenditure of the current year laid upon the table of the House of Assembly by Hon. Mr. Fielding. REVENUE.

Subsidy\$320 000 00

١	Allowance for Government and Legislature	60	000	uo
۱	Interest on Baring Brothers deposit (1881) \$253,066.66, at 5	i		
Ì			653	33
١	per cent	. 40	212	74
١		\$432	866	07
i	Mines Royalties			
l	Fees, Mines Department	•	600	00
١	Crown Lands		500	00
ı	Foes, Provincial Secretary's office and marriage licenses	. 7	500	00
1	Royal Gazette	. 2	500	00
	Private bills		800	00
	Postal Subsidy, W. C. Railway		500	00
	Postal Subsidy, W. and A. Railway	14	500	00
	Deduction from Inverness road grant, under act of 1888		500	00
	Sale of gold specimens		900	00
	Interest	3	000	
		\$641	166	
•	EXPENDITURE.—HEADS OF SERVICE.	•		

1	Ş	641	166	07	ī
l	Expenditure.—Heads of Service.				
l	Agriculture	\$ 16	000	O	()
ŀ	Criminal prosecutions	2	500	0	0
ļ	Education	212	000	0	0
l	Crown Lands	7	000	0	0
١	Legislative expenses	40	000	0	Û
l	Local works	39	617		-
١	Hospital for Insane	12	000		
1	Mines	15	000		
ı	Miscellaneous	16	000		
١	Victoria General Hospital (maintenance)	20	000		
1	Public printing	. 9	000		
ĺ	Steamboats, Packets and Ferries	40	976	()	11)
١	Salaries	. 18	450		
. 1	Transient poor	. 6	000) (10
1	Roads and Bridges\$140 000 00)			
	Less bridge interest				
١.			3 230		-
	Special roads	•	80		
ı	Provincial Engineer's office	. :	00 0	0 ((11)
3	Legislative Library	.]	1 90		
3	Hospital for Insano bonds maturing	- 4	1 00	0 (00
)	W. C. Railway, (interest on guaranteed bonds)	1:	3 50	0	00
7	W. C. Railway, (interest on guaranteed bonds)	. 1.	4 50	0	00
•	Interest on current account		4 00	0	(10
•	Debonturo interest	. 5	8 GG		
,	Victoria General Hospital, (construction)	l	0 00		
3	Inverness road service (1878)		2 80		
Ð	Claim of L. P. Fairbanks	••	2 18	(1)	(11)
•	1				
f	1	\$68	4 11	4	25
P	Surplus, 1888	s 4	4 55	il	13
ú	Estimated revenue 1889	64	1 10	36	07
d				_	_
1	1	SGS	5 7	17	20

MINING.

Estimated expenditure 1889...... 684 114 25

Estimated surplus on the two years......\$ 1 602 95

South Rawdon District .- As a result of 22 days work in March, the Gould Northup mine yielded 208 ozs, of gold valued at about \$4,000. This is the second largest brick yet secured for one month's crushing.

AMENDMENTS TO THE MINING ACT.

The important amendments to the Mining Act introduced by the Comthould Sunday birl virtually stand-intact, with this exception, that an appeal missioner of Mines, which have passed both Houses of Parliament, reflect may be made from the decision of the Megistrate to the Supreme Court, and great credit on the Department of Mines as the changes are all of a probere it is hoped the cum judicial and will be able to make that nice dissipation nature and remove most of the objectionable features of the old act.

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