## PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.--Looking down from the Press gallery one cannot fail to be impressed with the bright, intelligent faces of the gentlemen occupying the front benches on either side of the house. They are brainy men, men skilled in debate, forcible in argument, severe in criticism, sharp in rotort and quick in repartee. These are the giant intellects in Canada's political arena. These are the Salisburys, Gladstones, Balfours and Morleys of Canada, and sesuredly they are men of weight in this broad land. Behind these brighter stars sit the rank and file of the respective parties, many being noticeably men with well-shapen heads and keen bright eyes.

To-day we listen to the presentation of petition upon petition from the labor organizations of the land. These seek a remedy for strikes and lockouts by the establishment of boards of arbitration, which b ards are to have power to settle the difficulties between employers and employed and oil the wheels of industry so as to lessen the friction between capital and labor. These labor organizations also demand that like Great Britain the Governments shall own and control all telegraph lines, and that as in France the railways of the country should be owned and operate 1 by the Government.

[Several French railways are operated by companies, but after a shorter or longer term of years all such railways become the property of the Government, and hence the French Government practically own all the railways, even if they do not at present operate the same.]

A brief discussion over the returns of the Intercolonial Railway proves this road not to be a paying one, and yet the section between Halifax and St. John is one of the best paying bits of railway on the continent. It is that long curved line from Moneton to Levis that causes the deficit.

Mills and Thompson had a slight misunderstanding as to the printing of the London voters' list, but after some explanations the matter was let drop.

The Opposition has produced a genius who asks the Government to bring down copies of all Government contracts from 1867 to date, but on being informed that this would involve years of labor, the number of the contracts running up into the hundreds of thousands, he was apparently satisfied, but we may expect to hear from him again before many days. Genius cannot flicker under a bushel.

We have heard of marriage licenses, liquor licenses, etc., but lobster licenses would be new even to Solomon. It has been found impossible to collect fines for violation of the laws for the protection of the 1-bster fisheries, and the cart before the horse not having worked well, it is proposed to reverse matters and charge a fee for all licenses to catch lobsters within the season. Any license is liable to be cancelled upon violation of the Act.

Canada and the United States having shaken hands over misfortune, mutual concessions are to be made with respect to the towage of wrecks, salvage, etc. This is a move in the right direction.

Heretofore the Departments of Marine and Fisheries have been conducted separately, each having a deputy minister. It is now proposed to consolidate the departments under one deputy head. Retrenchment is a grateful sounding word to those who believe in economy.

PROVINCIAL .- The hotel registers of the past week pretty well indicate by the registration of M's. P. P. and Hons. ----, etc., that legislative activity was again about to be renewed, and on Thursday, during a blinding -, etc., that legislative snowstorm, the legislative halls were formally occupied by the Provincial representatives and the Speech of His Honor the Lieut.-Governor was delivered. This speech, undergoing condensation, would read as follows : -We deeply regret the untimely death of the Dake of Clarence and Avondale. The Dominion Government has made no answer to our demand for the refund of money expended upon railways: The Wardens of the Counties met in Halifax and discussed with the Government amendments to the Municipal Act: The Exhibition was a success, and the surplus receipts were especially gratifying; the exhibit of imported sheep was a most interesting feature: The School of Agriculture is doing good work and its graduates are aiding in disseminating knowledge upon agricultural matters: The nurses' home in connection with the Victoria General Hospital has been completed: The country is congratulated upon the completion of the missing railway link between Annapolis and Digby. Measures are promised with respect to education, and mines and minerals. The address in reply to the speech was moved by Mr. Wm. Roche, who referred in feeling terms to the roofless condition of many homes into which the rain had fallon. Mr. Roche's postical references were not quite apropos, but he meant right and must be forgiven. The speaker declaimed all knowledge of highbred sheep, but was emphatic in his approval of the erection of the nurses' home, one of the great advantages of which was to his mind the lessening of the danger of the nurses carrying infectious diseases far and wide. Mr. Tupper seconded the address in a capital speech, keeping well to the subject in hand and letting  $\alpha f^{r}$  no political skyrockets. Mr. Cahan discharged his duties as leader of the Opposition satisfactorily. All that was creditable was attributed to the Dominion Government or to the Opposition in the Provincial Parliament, while all that was discreditable was attributed to Mr. Fielding and his supporters. He premised a measure increasing the royalty upon coal and condemned the measure in advance. The only point in which he took distinct issue with the Government was as to the advisability of seeking a refund of the moneys expended by the Province upon railways. Hon. Mr. Fielding replied in happy terms, expressing his pleasure at the moderate tone of the remarks and picking up the gauntlet thrown down by the leader of the Opposition as to the refund of Provincial railway moneys. Speeches were made by the Hon. Atty.-General and Messre. Forrest, Webster and Smith, all of which were pleasant to listen to, although well colored politically. The address in reply having been adopted, the house prepared itself for settling down to the hard work of the session.

Hon. Mr. Fielding named the members of the standing committees of

the house. We omit the full list, giving only the name of each committee with that of the chairman :-Privileges and rules of the House-Hon Mr. Longley ; Education-Hon Mr. Fielding ; Public Accounts-Hon Mr. Johnson ; Grown Lands-Hon Mr. Molsaac ; Mines and Minerals-Hon Mr. McNeil ; Agriculture-Mr. McKinnon , Temperance-Hon Mr. Mc-Isaac ; Law Amendments-Hon Mr. Longley ; Humane Institutions-Dr. Bethune ; Railways-Mr. Matheson ; Contingencies-Hon Mr. Fielding ; Private and Local Bills-Mr. Laurence ; Reporting and Printing-Hon Mr. Church. A petition has been presented to sub-idize steamship communication between Wolfvule, Kingsport and Parsboro. An Act is to be introduced for the incorporation of villages. 10,000 members of the Sulvation Army in Nova Sectia petition to allow the matriage ceremony to be solemnized by certain army officials. A movement has been made towards securing to widows and spinsters privileges of the Provincial franchise.

A ratiling debate took place over a series of resolutions introduced by Mr. Caban asking for a committee to investigate charges against the Government, the department of public works and some of the supporters of the Governmeut. Mr. Cahan alleges that fraud has been committed in the expenditure of public monies, and that the government and its supporters are implicated. The Government refused to appoint this committee until Mr. Cahan has named the members implicated and specified the charges against each. The discussion was one of the most spirited that has ever occurred in the oarly days of the session. The Governmentary practice and that Mr. Cahan is actuated by political rather than patriotic motives. Whether this be true or not it is plainly the duty of the Government to have an enquiry made as to the truth of these charges. Otherwise the public will be prone to believe that wrong doing was being cloaked by parliamentary usage.

