

PARLIAMENTARY REVIEW.

DOMINION.—Col. O'Brien brought forward on the 26th his resolution for disallowing the Quebec Jesuits' Estate Bill. It was worded with dignity and moderation, and rightly dwelt on the value to the national existence of the Dominion of the prerogative of disallowance. The principle, however, of non-interference with Provincial Legislation so commended itself to the House that, after a two days' debate, Col. O'Brien's resolution was negatived by 188 to 13. The question, therefore, of course, was in no way a party one, and the large majority undoubtedly adopted a decision of common sense.

It goes without saying that two or three of the opposition leaders should say some dirty things about "backing down," which is however always to be expected when a Government does a conspicuously right thing, as in the case of the *modus vivendi*. In answer to the enquiry of the Hon. A. G. Jones, Sir John Macdonald stated that the *modus vivendi* would be continued as had been reported in the newspapers. The Government had in this matter desired to be in accord with that of Newfoundland, which was favorable to that policy. We entirely approve of this decision. Things worked well and smoothly under the *modus* last year, and its continuance will tend to obviate any irritation, which is a great desideratum.

The Senate threw out Mr. Kirkpatrick's bill for reciprocity in wrecking by a majority of eight.

There was a sharp debate in the Senate on Friday on the management of the Intercolonial, and several senators went for the officials in a lively way.

At a meeting of the public accounts committee, Mr. Mulock made an attempt to investigate the militia clothing scandal. Mr. Clarke Wallace, a Tory member, created a sensation by saying that if the opinion of the militia force of the country was taken in regard to the present minister of militia, the decision would be unanimous against him. Witnesses testified that the clothing furnished to the militia was of an inferior quality.

On Monday, Mr. Eisenhower started a debate on the sawdust question, accusing the Government of favoritism in administering the law, which was of course repudiated by Mr. Tupper. No decision was arrived at, Mr. Tupper admitting that it was as yet altogether a moot question. Mr. Eisenhower's suggestion of a commission to investigate the matter was objected to on account of the enormous expense attendant on visiting all the rivers in the various provinces, yet is difficult to see how the vexed question is to be settled without some such investigation.

Sir John A. Macdonald then announced, in feeling terms, the death of Hon. John H. Pope, Minister of Railways, and the House adjourned on that account.

A discussion on Tuesday on the vote for Immigration elicited the usual amount of cavil at some of the agencies, but also the fact that much progress has been accomplished in counteracting the systematized efforts of American Agents, backed up as they are by unlimited expenditure. Much has, it is claimed, been done to turn the stream of immigration to Dakota towards our own N. W.

A vote of \$40,000 for dredging in the Maritime Provinces was reached among the river and harbor items, and Mr. Tupper consented to reduce the estimate for the Montreal and Quebec harbor and river police to the amount received from the tax levied on shipping for that service.

PROVINCIAL.—The Provincial Assembly, like the Dominion Parliament, has had its long debate. The Franchise Bill has been a god-send to the Provincial members, whose powers of talking whole columns about nothing command our wonder and admiration. We cannot, however, congratulate the Houses on the result. The whole question has been approached in a niggling spirit, and our legislators seem to plume themselves on the minuteness of the steps by which they persuade themselves to "slowly (very slowly) broaden down from precedent to precedent" towards manhood suffrage, to which probably some of them owe a grudge from its having been in existence when Confederation was carried. As the franchise now stands, with all the self complacency of the House with what it has done, it would seem that a considerable number of miners and fishermen will be debarred from it.

We are glad to see that owners of city property are to be made to keep their cellar hatchways, etc., level with the sidewalks. It is to be hoped the legislation will be promptly enforced. The state of Ellis street in this respect is disgraceful.

On Monday the Franchise Bill came up for its final reading, no doubt to the intense gratification of verbose members. "The subject is worn the ad-bare, and the number of amendments proposed and divisions insisted on seems to have been an entirely useless waste of time. Among others put and lost was one for the enfranchisement of widows, and spinsters over 21 years of age. Perhaps next year the House will take another nibble at it and concede to another dozen or two of Nova Scotians the rights of citizenship in their native Province.

On Tuesday there was some discussion of the proposed stringent new Sunday Bill. We unhesitatingly condemn paternal legislation in almost all its phases, and when it is promoted in the supposed service of religion we have always observed that it is at the prompting of pharisaism. The finger of the priest or the minister is scarcely ever discerned in secular legislation without perceptible effects of injustice and inefficiency. We recommend to our legislators the perusal of Macaulay's Essay on "Gladstone's Church and State." The Provincial Government, however, has always displayed commendable firmness and liberality on questions of this nature, and we have a good deal of confidence in the spirit and common sense of Mr. Fielding in such matters.

The Government also deserves credit for the introduction of a bill for the

establishment of a system of insurance for mining operatives. The proposed scheme, which, however, is not compulsory, is that the companies shall contribute one-fourth, and the operatives the balance. The Government proposes to meet its portion of the obligation by setting apart three-tenths of a cent per ton of the present coal royalty, and we are favorably impressed with the sense of justice, apparent in the allusion in the preamble, to the claim of the miners to beneficent legislation on account of the large sum derived by the Province from the royalties on minerals.

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MINING.

The agitation in favor of the establishment of an Official Assay Office has evidently had the desired effect, and there now seems little doubt but that both the Dominion and Local Governments will grant the sums necessary to carry the project into operation.

We trust that in fitting up the new Assay Office, provision may be made for actual working tests of quartz. To do this it would be necessary to put up say a five stamp mill in some suitable locality where arrangements could be made to secure the necessary steam power. If this should be done gold miners all over the province could send such quantities of quartz as would give a fair average of the yield of leads, and in a few days have the actual value accurately determined by the only sure test, a working one. There would then be no groping in the dark as at present, and gold mining could be pursued with a certainty of results that would tend to its greater stability. By all means let there be a working stamp mill in connection with the Official Assay Office.

CARIBOU.—Mr. Henry Archibald has sold out his interest in a property in this district to his partners.

Mr. Wadsworth, manager of the Lake Lode Company, has taken over the Caspary mill and mine and under his careful supervision good returns may be expected from both properties.

LAKE CATCHA.—We are informed that the Oxford Gold Mining Company have joined with John Anderson in draining Lake Catcha, and have now about completed operations that will lower the water some eight feet. If practical men are not very much at fault, some very rich leads will be opened up in the now accessible bed of the lake.

The Graves mine at the head of East Chezzabook Harbor is reported shut down.

We gladly note that the press throughout the Province is unanimous in expressing the highest opinion of Mr. R. G. Leckie, the late manager of the Cumberland Coal and Railway Co. It is rumored that Mr. Leckie is to have the management of the Acadia Mines. As a manager Mr. Leckie has earned an enviable record, and any company securing his services is to be congratulated.