

Committee in London meet with universal acceptance in Canada, and are at once accepted as final and satisfactory by the most embittered politicians here. Yet Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH, who in one sentence deplores the virulence of party spirit in Canada and points out the fatal results to which as a people it is conducting us, in another stands alone in advocating the demolition of a principal, if not the sole, means of allaying this burning strife!

THE MARITIME BANK.

THIS little Bank is making desperate efforts to overcome the bad results of falling into foolish hands, and seems determined at all hazards to live. By one fell swoop, by the aid of an Act of Parliament, the following has been accomplished (*vide Report*):—"On Monday, 2nd June instant, your Directors accordingly cancelled the 6,860 shares then existing, and distributed 2,470 new shares *pro rata* amongst the shareholders, less 62, the fractional share aggregating that number of full shares. The result is that the old Profit and Loss account or impaired capital of \$399,000 disappears from the books and a surplus of \$40,000 remains to form a Rest or reserve fund." The cleverest thing of the age, with \$40,000 surplus as a Rest! The men who could accomplish this clever feat deserve success, and as the shareholders have acquiesced we have nothing further to say than to hope after all its trials the Maritime will soon prosper. St. John wants such a bank.

THE TELEPHONE TOURNAMENT.

SUCH is the jocular designation given to a series of experiments to determine the cheapest and most effective form of telephone, and the one best adapted to the Canadian Government service. These tests are now being conducted by their Superintendent, Mr. GISBORNE. The specialties to be determined are:—Clearness of articulation; Loudness of speech; Simplicity of adjustment; Minimum of induction; Cheapness of construction, including cost price of sale, without royalty or rentals. Over a dozen different patents have already been tested competitively; but it will be some weeks yet before Mr. GISBORNE'S Report will be submitted to the Government. When made it will without doubt be a reliable and valuable addition to our knowledge regarding the most effective method of transmitting speech to a distance. It may not be generally known to the public that Canada is an open field for all inventors of improved telephonic apparatus, and that it will shortly be decided in the Supreme Court of the United States whether or not a like liberty exists in that country. Meanwhile, however, an injunction to restrain the Drawbaugh patentees from constructing and working telephone lines in the United States has been refused by the lower Courts there.

ANOTHER EXTRADITION MUDDLE.

NEW YORK has its legal difficulties in a pending extradition case as has Quebec in that of ENO. The defendant in the first-named place is one TULLY, a defaulting official of the Preston (Eng.) Banking Co., who last Fall left the Bank carrying with him over £15,000 sterling of the funds of that institution. The prisoner, however, insists that his name is J. S. RICHARDSON. He is further charged with forgery in connection with the same establishment. An English gentleman named TOULMIN, a director of the plundered bank, met TULLY on Broadway some two or three weeks since, and, recognising him, had him arrested. The prisoner was taken before Justice FORD, but as the alleged offence was committed 3,000 miles outside the jurisdiction of the New York Courts the Justice decided not to commit the prisoner, and discharged him. TULLY was rearrested and lodged in Ludlow Street gaol on a charge of having brought stolen money into the country. This charge seems to have been merely a pretext for holding him. The assistance of the British Consul was requisitioned, but as he had no authority to act in the absence of instructions from the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the prisoner was again discharged because nothing could be proved against him. By this time he had been in a United States prison fourteen days on the bare word of an alien who had not been in the country a month. A cablegram was received by the British Consul at New York who at once swore out an affidavit charging TULLY with forgery, and he was again arrested. At the examination TOULMIN swore that he was a director in the Preston Bank, and that TULLY was the sub-manager. Furthermore, that he had known TULLY twenty-five years, and was certain he was the man. A Mr. HINCKSMAN, another director of the bank, and a cotton spinner at Tyeham, England, who happened also to be in New York, swore that he had known TULLY twenty-five years, and that he had committed forgery. TULLY was then taken back to Ludlow Street gaol, where he now remains. The noticeable point about this case is that though persons of good reputation and indisputable character fully recognise the accused as a forger and defaulter, and that their statement is endorsed to a certain extent by a cablegram to the British Consul, yet the necessary legal machinery even to hold the accused lawfully appears to be absent. There is no leaning apparent on the part of the authorities towards the accused, but simply the constitutional means for his detention seem to be wanting. The incident will have its value in directing attention to another weak spot in the existing extradition treaty, which, it is now understood, is engaging the attention of the Governments interested with a view to its radical amendment. We trust that, while they are about it, they will liberalise it to the fullest extent possible. In doing so they may be certain beforehand of the endorsement of all the peoples interested.

UNDERGROUND ELECTRICAL CONDUCTORS.

IN our issue of last week was an interesting article upon the above subject by an eminent American electrician which appeared in the *Electrical Review* of London, and in which he states "that when two insulated wires are laid parallel for a distance of only a few hundred feet the induction between them is so great that it is difficult to tell whether the wires are actually crossed (or in contact) or not." In the *Electrical Review* of 31st May last the editor remarks that so far as underground telephone wires are concerned "it would be useless to repeat the scientific objections to their adoption." We have, however, lately visited our own Capital of Ottawa, where the Departmental Buildings are connected by several underground cables of over 3,000 feet in length each, containing twenty insulated wires, and we ascertained that when twelve miles of such wires are connected up in series not only was speech transmitted as readily and as clearly as if through half a mile of overhead or aerial wires, but that when two sets of telephones were worked in parallel circuits within the same cable, or a Morse telegraph or magneto-bell was at the same time worked through a parallel circuit, not the least sound from induction was apparent in any of the telephone instruments. This remarkable and highly satisfactory result is due to the invention of Mr. GISBORNE, Superintendent of the Government Telegraph Service, and was fully and clearly explained by him at the meeting of the Royal Society of Canada last month. We give a summary of Mr. GISBORNE'S interesting and important paper in our reading columns.

THE SAVINGS BANKS.—The Government Savings' Banks returns for April show deposits during the month of \$499,262 and withdrawals \$511,515. The balance at the credit of depositors on 30th April was \$15,238,293. There was thus \$12,254 more drawn out than deposited—an unusual incident of late. Dissected by Provinces, it appears that the Toronto Savings' Banks received \$4,861 more than it paid out to depositors; Manitoba depositors withdrew \$2,000 more than was deposited; Nova Scotia depositors withdrew \$13,000 more than was deposited; New Brunswick depositors withdrew \$6,036 more than was deposited; and that British Columbia depositors paid in \$2,000 more than was withdrawn. In the cities of Toronto, Halifax, and St. John the deposits were \$19,891 more than the withdrawals of the month.

THE directors of the Bank of British North America will, it is understood, recommend at the forthcoming meeting an interim dividend for the half-year ending June 30th of 80s. per share, or at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum, payable tax free on July 4th.