

of the Commissioners during the period of their last visit—"I find "there are now about 7,000 men employed over the entire line, "which is as large a number as the labor market can supply without "causing a serious disturbance and rise of wages." He would state further that the Commissioners expect that on 11 sections, embracing 238 miles of the road, the track will be ready for laying by the close of next year. The remaining 12 sections are all under contract. The plan adopted by the Government for constructing the road by a mixed Commission has proved eminently successful.

He would say a few words on the question of immigration. It was the avowed policy of all parties to encourage immigration, but the Brownites endeavored to convey the idea that the Government was not sincere. Now he (Sir Francis Hincks) held as strongly as any individual the opinion that the prosperity of the country depended on a vigorous prosecution of public improvements and of immigration. He knew that his friend and colleague, the Minister of Agriculture, was as devoted and as zealous an advocate for immigration as any one that could be named, and the Government was sparing no effort to supply the demand for labor. Still he (Sir F. Hincks) must point out that the real difficulty was the apathy of the people themselves. Every effort had been made by the Ontario Government to induce the municipal corporations who had the means of rendering most important service to the cause, by taking a little trouble without any risk, but the result had been most unsatisfactory. The apathy on the subject was almost inconceivable. Of one thing, however, they might be assured. There was no division of opinion among the members of the Dominion Government on the subjects of immigration and public improvements. He felt that he had occupied too much time in discussing all these subjects; but he must say a few words in conclusion—he would remind them that he had asked their suffrages as a loyal supporter of Sir John Macdonald's Government, and he felt that he had redeemed his pledges; he was happy to be able to assure them that his honorable and learned friend, the First Minister, had been providentially restored to them, with his powerful intellect in full vigour (loud cheers). In the distressing circumstances in which, for a time, Sir John Macdonald's illness had placed them, he was happy to think that no man under similar circumstances had ever received a more loyal support from colleagues than had Sir John.

The Government might be abused by an Ontario faction, which was subservient to an unscrupulous and domineering politician, but the