

By the mode which has been adopted in letting the contracts by public tender, and awarding the contracts to responsible persons who tendered at the lowest prices, the work has been constructed on exceedingly cheap terms, and the contractors have been enabled to carry on their works at the low prices at which they took them, mainly from the course which has been pursued of employing the labor which the locality was able itself to afford, and by not attempting to force the construction too rapidly, so as to necessitate a large importation of foreign labor, and a consequent great increase in the price of wages.

The bridge works and rails have been contracted for upon exceedingly favorable terms, and so long has been the rise in the price of both iron and steel, since the contracts were made, that if those contracts had to be made again, they could not be entered into except at a large addition to the prices which are now to be paid.

There is no doubt that whatever that whilst the whole work is being executed in the most thorough and substantial manner, and the materials upon it will be of the very best and most permanent character, the cost of the work will be exceedingly moderate, and be much less per mile than has been the case in similar works of equal magnitude upon this continent up to the present time.

AGRICULTURE IN MANITOBA.

A blue-book, the first of its kind in Manitoba—has been published, containing a large amount of useful information to any one desirous of obtaining some reliable accounts of the new province. It is in reality (says the Canadian correspondent of the Scotsman) the substance of answers to questions addressed by a Committee of the Legislature there, to persons supposed from their position to be able to furnish, valuable information on the points in question. We are told the advance of agriculture has been satisfactory, and as a stock-raising country the province is held in high esteem. Horses left at liberty thrive well without any care, roaming through the woods or swamps all winter. Horned cattle and sheep must be housed and fed during five or six months, according as the winter proves short or long. Oxen are now selling there at from \$80 to \$100 a yoke, and cows at \$50 each. The breed is the original

stock imported by Lord Selkirk. The Indian pony, whose progenitors were brought to the continent by the Spaniards, has become acclimated, but is greatly degenerated, though hardy and useful. With respect to the manufacture of butter and cheese in the province, we are informed that butter is made by all, but cheese by but a few Scotch settlers only.

Hearth and Home.

WOMEN AND WINE.

Woman has never been associated with wine without disgrace and disaster. The toast and the bacchanal that, with musical alliteration, couple these two words, spring from the hot lips of sensuality, and are burdened with shame. A man who can sing of wine and women in the same breath, is one whose presence is disgrace, and whose touch is pollution. A man who can forget mother and sister, or wife and daughter, and wantonly engage in a revel in which the name of woman is invoked to heighten the pleasures of the intoxicating cup, is, beyond controversy, and without mitigation, a beast. "Dost thou think, because thou art virtuous, there shall be no more cakes and ale?" Ay, cakes and ale, if you will, but let it be cakes and ale. Let not the name by which we call the pure and precious ones at home be brought to illuminate a degrading feast.

One of the worst foes that women has ever had to encounter, wine stands at the head. The appetite for strong drink in man has spoiled the lives of more women—ruined more hopes for them, scattered more fortunes for them, brought to them more shame, sorrow, and hardship—than any other evil that lives. The country numbers tens of thousands—nay, hundreds of thousands—of women who are widows to-day, and sit in hopeless weeds, because their husbands have been slain by strong drink. There are hundreds of thousands of homes, scattered all over the land, in which women live lives of torture, going through all the changes of suffering that lie between the extremes of fear and despair, because those whom they love, love wine better than they do the women they have sworn to love. There are women by thousands who dread to hear at the door the step that once thrilled them with pleasure, because that step has learned to reel