

We have long been of the opinion that these Provinces have made a great mistake in building their railways by means of Provincial liabilities. We have acted in this matter contrary to the general practice in Great Britain, the United States, or Canada. The general practice in these countries is, to afford facilities to companies by whom the principal part of their railways are constructed, and managed.—We have pursued the opposite course, the result of which has put these Provinces in debt beyond redemption. If companies will not build our railroads after being guaranteed, say the interest on one-fourth the capital required, it is, because they consider them unsafe investments.

Canada has got twelve hundred miles of railway, besides the Victoria Bridge, constructed by a company. It is true, through some mismanagement, and the non-paying qualities of these vast works, the company is involved in a temporary difficulty : but the works are constructed, and the country has the benefit of them, while the Province of Canada, is only liable for about one-fourth the cost of their construction. In place of being liable for twelve million pounds, it is only liable for about one-fourth this sum.

Railways we require ; and if we are desirous of keeping pace with other countries, we should do all in our power to induce companies to construct them ; but to involve ourselves to such an extent as to prevent the general developement of the resources of the country, is not good policy.

Public Holidays.

Days set apart for public humiliation to the God of Providence, have been of old ; and were, no doubt, intended for this end. But as time rolled on, Holidays, Thanksgiving days, and Saints days, became almost as numerous as the days of the year.

By some, these days are devoted to public and private devotion ; by others, partly to devotional exercises, and partly to amusements, feasting, &c., and by a very large proportion, these days are devoted to labor, feasting and frolicking ; and by not a few, these holidays, thanksgiving days, &c., are devoted to drunkenness, gambling and a full exercise of the worst habits and passions of our race. Such was the case in respect to the observance of the recent thanksgiving days ordered by the governments of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. Some, a very few, observed them in a becoming manner ; others paid no attention to them, but attended to their daily avocations as usual ; others went a frolicking ; and a very large proportion of the population was not aware that such a day was ordered to be kept, till long after the day was past ; and there is no doubt, that there are very many in both Provinces, that have not heard of these days yet : so they cannot be