

well acquainted; but are too apathetic to take the necessary action. It might be uncharitable to charge that having obtained the money they will do nothing until it has all been expended, but *appearances are against them*. Conclusions of a most serious character will doubtless be arrived at, when it is borne in mind that about *half of the obligations which Mr. Mercier proposed to cover by the money borrowed are not of a pressing character*. Among those indicated as peremptory are:—

Balance of subsidies granted to certain railway companies before 1866.....	\$ 579,732.25
Payment of the first 35 cents of the money subsidies in conversion of the Land Grant.....	1,084,328.50
Also for the payment of the first 35 cents of the same subsidies.....	464,100.00

How much of this, it may be asked, has been called for since the bill was passed, and for how much of it will demands ever be made upon the country, at any rate for years to come?

Two millions of dollars for the Government to play with and divert from its contemplated uses, is a very large amount, and its diversion may or may not, constitute an act if not of civil, at least of political criminality. If the accountant or manager of many a joint stock or private business enterprises were to obtain money under unwarranted pretences and devote it to foreign objects, his usefulness would soon be declared to have gone, and he would be compelled to make way for a more honest and straightforward successor. On the subject of the lack or necessity of the money for these objects, there has only to be quoted the declaration of Mr. Treasurer Shehyn, who, in his last financial statement, said that *of the amount of money grants voted to railways (and as given above) \$579,732 were not due, while \$1,004,320 were not yet due of the land grants to be converted into cash. Moreover there were \$464,100 in land subsidies which might be turned into cash which had not yet been earned.* Here we have no less than \$2,148,180 of the cash for which the Government were more than ordinarily anxious to obtain possession officially declared as not required for the present. Although the above sums would not in the ordinary course of events be required for some years to come, *the Government have deliberately saddled the province with an annual interest of \$85,924.*