

ground for making any such allowance upon a subject of pure finance, a mere pounds, shillings, and pence question. It appears, however, that greater carelessness, if possible, has been shown in considering this part of Major Robinson's report, than any other portion of it.

Major Robinson simply proposes to create £2,000,000. of paper currency upon the basis of a loan of £3,000,000., and the 2,000,000 of acres of land given gratuitously by the colonies, (and which he supposes to be equal in value to £2,000,000. of money), as a security. The £2,000,000. of floating currency thus created would only be put in circulation by the payment of the workmen employed in the construction of the line, and the amount would consequently be in proportion to the amount of work executed.

Suppose, for example, that the whole two millions were paid away to workmen for the execution of the works, and to parties for the supply of materials; that the best paying portions of the line were thus constructed, and also the portion passing through and giving value to the allotments of land; and further that the whole of the paper-money was exchanged for the land, and the paper-money cancelled. There would then remain no property invested in the portion of the railway constructed, and consequently no dividend to pay.

But how do the Commissioners of Railways view this subject? They "understand," for they do not profess to know much about the matter—they only "understand that paper is at present extensively used in the currency of the three provinces," and they consider that any advantages derivable from this source, or from an increase in the amount, "may be obtained independently of the construction of the railway."

But why may not these advantages be derived in connection with the *additional* advantage of a railway? Why may not one advantage be made conducive to the production of another advantage?

The Commissioners of Railways state that "the returns to be expected from any proposed application of these additional resources should be as carefully considered as the return from the employment of capital under any other circumstances."

This is by no means the case; the two millions expended, as above explained, require no *returns* to be carefully con-