

THE BYSTANDER.

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OPPOSITION estimates of the value of the lands in the North-West, and of the sacrifice made by the Government to the cupidity of the Company, will be checked by the Company's circular inviting immigration. The land, which we were told was worth, at least, \$5, is offered at \$2.50 per acre, with a rebate to the amount of \$1.25 for every acre brought under cultivation within three to five years following the date of purchase, according to the nature and extent of the other improvements made. This looks like liberal dealing, and there can be no rational doubt that to deal liberally and content the people is the policy of the Company. That it is a very serious thing to make such vast grants, and to create such a power as the Company in the North-West, has never been denied or dissembled in these pages. But the choice lay between this and the continuation of the system of Government construction, with its attendant contract-mongering and jobbery of all kinds, of which we had seen enough to be convinced that we must get rid of it almost at any price. That the organizers of the Company are honourable, nobody pretends seriously to doubt. In the fury of debate, Sir Richard Cartwright threw out an insinuation that the Minister of Railways had received a bribe from them; but had there been any ground for such a belief, the Opposition would not have failed to bring the charge formally before the country, since they must have known that if it were proved or even supported by evidence sufficient