

situation, may have had something to do with the disappointment, as well as misdirected legislation. But the regulations and other arrangements of a Government, whether good or bad, are, as a matter of course, decried by the Opposition, whose disparaging descriptions scare away settlers. Nor can a Government, obliged daily to show a front to the criticism of its enemies, afford to play a long game by making the temporary sacrifices for the sake of future profit, which commercial policy often dictates. A company will be at liberty to give away land, if it thinks fit, to induce settlement ; it will have no criticism to encounter, except that of commercial rivals, which everybody understands. The same frenzy of party-hatred which proclaims with premature glee the disastrous failure of the Minister as an event inspiring to all true Canadians, will do its best to make the Minister fail. It used to be said that the students of two rival hospitals in England reciprocally attended surgical operations for the purpose of joggling the operator's arm.

Irrespectively of party detraction, everybody knows that a Government is the worst of commercial managers ; it is undertaking a work for which it is not adapted, and which it never performs with the hearty and vigilant interest inspired by private gain. But the maladministration is the least part of the evil. Upon a great commercial enterprise carried on by a Government, with large expenditure and a multitude of contracts, jobbery, speculation and roguery of all kinds attend as certainly as pestilence upon miasma. We are getting, through the facts elicited by the Pacific Railway Commission, a glimpse of the gulf into which we were being drawn. Happy as is the escape of the country from economical disaster, her escape from political corruption is not less a cause for rejoicing. Had the Company to which the Road is to be transferred been a set of needy adventurers, political mischief of another kind would have been in store for us ; the government and the legislature would then have been constantly exposed to the machinations of a gigantic lobby ; but, fortunately, notwithstanding