

is made happy in securing the prize of becoming the summer port of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Parliament increases the subsidy of last session to a road between Montreal and Quebec; and it will be authorized to apply the \$10,500,000 so provided, to acquiring the North Shore Railway, with a view of transferring it to the Canadian Pacific by lease or otherwise, subject to the obligations which the Government will assume in its acquisition.

For some days the Government has refused to receive the current duties on whiskey, a distinct intimation that an increase of duties is intended. The tobacco men too are expecting another call; but as no one knows what the increase will be, trade meanwhile is blindfolded. This delay should be brought to an end as soon as possible.

THE NORTH WEST.

Whatever may be its condition to-day, the North West is the hope of Canada. But while this hope is cherished, we cannot turn it into current cash; the attempt to discount the future of the North West has, from a pecuniary point of view, been fruitful of disaster, and the end is not yet.

The crushing of the Halfbreed insurrection and the termination of the Indian trouble, signalized by the surrender of Big Bear, clear the way for a fresh start. So long as a feeling of insecurity existed, the inflow of population was averted; people would not voluntarily rush upon danger, the extent and even the nature of which was more or less unknown. With the re-establishment of order, the militia is to be withdrawn, but the country is not to be left defenceless; the number of the Mounted Police is to be increased to a thousand. There is no danger of the recurrence of a Halfbreed insurrection, and the Indians only rose in arms as the auxiliaries of the Halfbreeds. It is possible, though not probable, that some of the Indians concerned in the massacre of Frog Lake may escape across the frontier; but even in that case they would not be able to hatch future mischief. Cattle stealing and horse stealing may occasionally be resources of the Indians when pressed by hunger. The ranches will have to be looked after, and individual settlers will probably not be in more danger than settlers have been at all times, in other parts of the country, when settlements were young and the number of Indians great, relatively to that of white people.

During the present season, the emigration to the North-West will be very small. Timid persons will wait a while to see whether the trouble which appears to be over is really past, without danger of revival. Of the intending emigrants, who would have gone from Europe to the North-West this year, but for these troubles, some have probably gone elsewhere, and some may have waited the restoration of order before starting. Many who had prepared to go last spring, would find it necessary to go somewhere; others who had not actually pulled up stakes, could wait till another

year. It is much to have succeeded in restoring order by the middle of the summer; but the remainder of the emigration season may be expected to pass in comparative inaction. Should quiet be preserved during the winter, as is probable, a complete restoration of confidence by next spring may be looked for. Then the tide of emigration into the North-West may be expected to recommence, cautiously and not rapidly at first, but with increasing swell as it rolls on.

This insurrection, deplorable as it is, will not have been in vain. There was a tendency to use revolutionary language in a careless way, as fools play with fire in the presence of an open barrel of gunpowder. The agitation started in the neighborhood of Prince Albert was the precursor of the rifle-pits at Batoche. White people thought they could use a revolutionary license with impunity; by this time they are undeceived, and though they may escape, some of their dupes are likely to expiate their crimes on the gallows. The line between legitimate constitutional agitation and a course of conduct which leads to open insurrection may be difficult to trace. All who gave any countenance to Jackson's private circular in favor of a movement for separation of the North-West from Canada put themselves on the wrong side of it. The mere fact of requesting Riel to come from Montana to start a new agitation in Canada was not criminal; folly of a very dense kind it was, for Riel had before played a despicable part. Riel, at first, after his return, professed great moderation, and a desire not even to embarrass the government; but as he, at the same time opened communication with Big Bear, this may have been a blind. Using treasonable language became a habit with many, and it was culpably encouraged by the press. Even after the troops had been called into the field to put down the insurrection, a Toronto paper published a sketch of a preposterous Bill of Rights, with the threat of one of its supporters made at a public meeting, that if the demands which the Bill of Rights contained, and some of which were utterly unreasonable, were not granted its promoters would "put themselves behind their Winchesters." People who talk in that way require to be looked after; and the complaisant reporting of a treasonable speech is the sort of encouragement by which, in the East, the turbulent spirits of the West were egged on. We mention these things to show the necessity of more caution in future. Threats of rebellion are not likely long to prove harmless; there is always a danger that they will be followed by action as indiscreet as the words themselves. The talk of secession is a kindred folly. Jackson assumed that the North-West could walk out of the Confederation whenever it chose to do so; others have talked as heedlessly about the secession of other parts of the Dominion. Jackson's folly bids fair to land him on the gallows; the wild talk of other people may not prove equally fatal to themselves, but it is only one degree less criminal, since it tends to disseminate utterly false notions of what it is possible to do. The tragic ending of the loose talk first indulged in by

persons in the neighborhood of Prince Albert teaches a stern lesson, a lesson which many had much need to learn; and we can only hope that it will not soon be forgotten. It has been taught at the cost of much blood and treasure; but dearly as it has been purchased it may be worth, in future security from a similar danger, all that it has cost.

The political folly which bids fair to conduct some of its professors to the gallows, was preceded by a financial craze, of which the effects are seen in many forms. Things in the North West are just now at a low ebb. Even the old Hudson Bay Company passes the dividend. In its land department, more than half of what is owing to it is overdue. But the chief cause of its bad position, for the moment, is a decline in the value of furs. This is an incident against which it would have been impossible to guard. The company did well to make sales of land when it could; and if the unpaid balances are large, the company may complacently reflect that it is in no worse position than it would have been if it had not made the sales. A deposit it must always have got, and sometimes a second or third instalment. The mortgages afford security. The present position of the company is gloomy, but its assets may turn out well in the future. This may possibly be true of the North-West Co., and some others out of which foolish people expected to make sudden fortunes, but which wise people always regarded with distrust. Some of the speculative land companies which purchased from the Government will soon be asking favors, of one kind or another, to which they are certainly not entitled.

Business in the North-West will depend in future, as in the past, mainly on immigration. With immigration and a consequent increase of production, legitimate business will certainly expand. Now that peace is restored, the Government will be called upon to pay the rebellion losses. In such cases there is generally some difficulty in distinguishing between innocent and culpable claimants; and people who are beyond doubt entitled to compensation are apt to make most unconscionable claims. When it is a question of obtaining compensation out of the public treasury, conscience becomes elastic, and in this case there is danger that each claimant will help the others by bold statements of the enormous damage done. But it may be possible to apply to the claims some test, to which the claimants may not give forethought. In any case the total amount of the bill for compensation will be large. A claimant who alleges that he has suffered in his property for his loyalty, can apply a strong leverage of agitation to put money into his pocket; and he is unlucky indeed if political partisanship cannot paint him as a martyr of the martyrs. These claims must be sifted, in some way that may be found possible, and then they must be paid.

Next year the North-West ought to take a new start on the road to prosperity, which, in spite of the gloom that over-spreads the present, she is destined to attain.