

Jobbery on the Intercolonial Railway.

During the late session of Parliament, the Public Accounts Committee brought to light some scandalous jobbery in connection with the contract for section 16 on the Intercolonial Railway, which was given to Messrs. King & Gough through favouritism, the Commissioners having recommended Messrs. Brooks & Ryan, who were contractors of experience, while the firm who obtained had none whatever.

It has been proved beyond a doubt that in order to give the contractors a chance to make money, large reductions were made in the work as originally detailed in the specifications—grades were lowered, masonry and fences dispensed with—and other changes made which, according to the engineer's estimate, reduced the cost of construction \$100,000. But even with all these reductions the work was so far behind that in March last it was taken out of the hands of the contractors. At this time the actual work done was measured, and according to the contract price was found to amount to \$102,000, while the contractors had received \$164,000 for it.

The Corn Corner in Chicago. New York, Aug. 1.—A special from Chicago gives details of the excitement on the Board of Trade there yesterday, consequent upon a successful corner made in the corn market yesterday. Prices opened at 67c and fell to 63c, then to 62c, when there was a lull, dealers wishing to see the day's receipts. Prices went to 64c, and when it became known that the corner had contracted for the shipment of 1,021,500 bushels, there was great confusion and uproar. Prices went to 66c, then to 70c, and then to 80c. Large quantities were sold at this price amidst great excitement.

Meanwhile Immigration. The visit of Mr. Wm. Hespeler, in 1872, to the Russo-German Mennonites living on the shores of the Black Sea, combined with the exertions of the Dominion agent, Mr. Jacob E. Klotz, have already resulted in a very large number of those most desirable settlers having arrived in Quebec, and others being on their way to Canada. The agents for the Allen Line at Hamburg, Messrs. Falk & Co., at the beginning of June last received deposits from those Mennonites securing the passage for about 1,300 souls, or 250 families, to Quebec.

THE PROVINCIAL LOAN.—Some of the Opposition organs are endeavouring to persuade their readers that the sale of Municipal debentures lately made in London by the Provincial Treasurer was the result of the Government being obliged to borrow money in the London market. This is very wide of the truth. The Government did not require to sell these debentures, which they received from the different Municipalities by way of payment of their indebtedness to the Municipal Loan Fund, but acting on the principle that the relations of debtor and creditor between such and the Government should be dissolved as soon as possible, they were disposed of in preference to holding them till they were redeemed, while negotiating their sale. The Government is in no way responsible for them beyond guaranteeing their validity and legality. Municipalities alone are responsible for their payment. The course adopted is far preferable to that of holding them till they would be redeemed, and frees the Government from any more connection with the Municipalities, which will now—save their credit—be obliged to redeem them as they become due—a step which some might have been slow to take had the Government retained the debentures in their hands.

Formosa. The island of Formosa, to which Dr. Fraser is being sent by the C. P. Church, and which has been partly conquered by the Japanese, is the most wonderful of the almost unknown tropical lands. It is situated off the eastern coast of China, and contains from three to four millions of inhabitants, among whom are many cannibals. In 1867, Admiral Bell, of the U. S. Navy, attempted to punish two Formosans for piracy practiced upon the coast of the American ship Zouze, which had been wrecked upon the coast, and a British commander gave the inhabitants a dose of shot and shell for the same offence. The recent Japanese expedition was undertaken to avenge the murder of several islanders who were cast ashore on Formosa in December, 1871. The people of Formosa are divided into tribes, some of which owe nominal allegiance to China. Great Britain will not be pleased with the announcement that Germany is preparing to send a colony there.

Canada's Liquor Traffic. From the report of the Select Committee of the Senate respecting a Prohibitory Liquor Law, we gather that during the last session 633 petitions were presented from Ontario, with 302,090 signatures. Out of 7,877 persons committed to gaol in Ontario during 1872-3, 5,444 were addicted to the use of intoxicating liquors. In the Province of Quebec, for 1872-3, 2,946 out of 4,021 who were sent to gaol were also intemperate. The revenue derived from the liquor traffic in Canada for 1873, was \$3,210,000.25. In 1873, 91,432,558 lbs. of grain were consumed in the manufacture of spirituous liquors in Canada. The Recorder of Montreal furnishes a statement that 7,753 persons were arrested in 1873 in that city for drunkenness and offences growing out of drunkenness; of this large number 1,017 were females. The above statement shows an increase of 15 per cent. in crime, and 23 per cent. in drunkenness. In the city of Toronto, in 1873, 2,328 males and 624 females were arrested for being drunk and disorderly; the increase in drunk and disorderly being 27 per cent. The same ratio holds good for all the cities and most of the large towns in Canada, and presents a fearful picture. It is shown by magisterial reports that fully one half of the crimes committed are brought about by the influence of intoxicating liquors.

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