

give effect to the North-western policy ; a policy on which, as we believe, Nature by severing from each other the territories assumed to be conterminous, and linking each of them to the region on the south of it, has inexorably put her veto. As a set-off we have the balance of the land, vast in extent, and much of it, no doubt, excellent in quality, by which Sir John Macdonald appears to believe that we shall eventually be fully recouped. On this point there is no certainty. That a tract of raw land, remote from existing markets, cannot be expected to do much more than provide roads and other things necessary to open it for settlement, is the impression which, we confess, we have formed, but which we can only submit to the verdict of more practical judges. Of this we feel sure, that the imagination of the public has been too much excited by eloquent descriptions of the fruitfulness of the soil, which, after all, is only one element of the question. It is the more necessary to bear this in mind, because the Opposition, for controversial purposes, has been led to exaggerate the value of the land, that it might charge the Government with throwing away the public property, and has thus committed itself to an estimate to which the Government, when pressed in debate, will, of course, triumphantly appeal. On such occasions as the present the nation feels the benefit of the party system which leaves it without unprejudiced advisers.

The value of land, whatever it may be, is more likely to be realized in the hands of a private company than in those of the Government. The failure of this year's immigration to verify the sanguine calculations of Sir John Macdonald, and the still more sanguine calculations of the *Globe*, is confidently ascribed by the opponents of the Government to the impolicy of the land regulations. We have never ventured, amidst the conflict of testimony and the cross-fire of recrimination, to form an opinion on that subject, though it seemed to us that the regulations were unfavourable to close neighbourhood, which is a great consideration in settling a new country. Perhaps the severity of the climate and the remoteness of the