

Minister is compelled to have recourse to inflation. An exodus to the United States is going on from all the Provinces. As many as 300 persons went from St. John in one week, and 400 from Montreal. An inquiry made by the London *Advertiser* shows that numbers are leaving Ontario, and most of them for the States. You may call those who have a regard for their material interests "political hogs," and taunt them with "caring for nothing but a full trough," but this will not keep starving men from seeking bread. From Quebec we hear that merchants still complain of the lack of business; that masses of money are lying idle in the banks for want of investments; that the poorer classes are on the verge of destitution; that families have subsisted through the winter on potatoes; that 3000 French Canadians have been in the receipt of organized relief; that every one seems compelled to retrench; that the value of real property has frightfully shrunk; and that the number of houses and stores to let is alarming. Yet these people are contributing out of their penury to the construction of a railway through the Rocky Mountains for an Imperial object of the most visionary kind. Their present representatives, it is true, vote for that object. But they were not elected on this issue. They were elected on the issue of N. P. It is safe to say that if the Government were to go to the country now, on the issue of economy and retrenchment, with regard to railways aid generally, it would certainly lose many seats and most likely be defeated.

Our humble plea for oblivion of party on this question had the misfortune to appear to one of our contemporaries a Ministerial trick "learned in Stadacona Hall." Our own impression is that there is not much to be learned in Stadacona Hall beyond the lessons taught by the example of a statesman who knows how to lay politics aside in his social hour, and is large minded enough to bear with opinions different from his own. Our grounds for making the appeal were, first, that the leaders of both parties are pretty much in the same boat, all of them having taken upon themselves more or less the responsibility of