

THE BYSTANDER.

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IT is always something to have your strongest man at the head of affairs, whatever his political sentiments may be. Like a powerful horse, if he gets you into a scrape, he pulls you through. Sir John Macdonald got us into a scrape, and something worse than a scrape, when he bound us to build the Pacific Railway in ten years; perhaps it may be found that he has now pulled us through as well as the circumstances of so bad a case permit. The favourable condition of the money market, combined with the well-known skill of our negotiator, and the inducements which he had to exert his utmost powers, are enough to assure us that our interests have not been thrown away; and there can be no doubt that any good, or even tolerable, arrangement which rids the country of the danger and uncertainty of this portentous undertaking will be welcomed by the mass of our people with the strongest sense of relief. Though the exact terms are not yet known, it appears to be understood that the Company is to receive twenty-five millions of dollars and twenty-five millions of acres of land, besides the lines already constructed at an estimated cost of thirty-one millions. The Company undertakes to run as well as construct the road. Including the sops to British Columbia and the excess of Government expenditure in the North-west, for general purposes, over the receipts from import duties, Canada will have sunk some sixty millions in the attempt to