

of the many difficulties with which judges have to contend, and it will require from them the greatest care and caution to make just awards. In some cases it would be a much safer plan to give all articles of a certain degree of excellence, prizes of equal value, especially in cases where the gradation in merit between the articles is necessarily very slight—this will avoid many difficulties and is the safer plan. It would have been a good plan if special medals had been offered for beauty of design and for excellence in fine arts as applied to manufactures; this has always been overlooked in Canada and we can see the bad effect it has had upon our manufactures, by noticing their heaviness and want of beauty. For these qualities we have only to see French or American manufactures in which we find utility and beauty united in the highest degree. By thus stimulating efforts and study in this direction—valuable as the present Exhibition is proving in many respects—a sensible and immediate effort would have been perceived in the improvement of taste and a great impulse would have been given to the arts of design. We are aware that Rome was not built in a day, and therefore can wait patiently. We may predict for our Montreal Exhibition a great success, and that it may be fully appreciated is our sincere wish. The thanks of the public are due to those who have so generously subscribed, and also to those who have devoted their time and abilities gratuitously for the benefit of others.

The Horticultural Exhibition has taken place, and has been a decided success in every particular. It was held in the Victoria Rink, and the show of flowers and fruit was magnificent, eclipsing in every way the efforts of past years. We had much pleasure in examining the collections of hardy grapes for outdoor culture, and would desire to call attention to these. It is the case that fruit grown in Northern climates excels in quality Southern fruit—at least this appears to be the case with Canadian fruit. The island of Montreal has the finest apples and melons and other fruit, with the exception of peaches, to be procured on this continent. The outdoor cultivation of grapes has been neglected in the past and it is a pity, as there is no doubt they would succeed admirably—due attention being paid to the kind of grape to be planted. We also noticed the pears which were good—there are only two or three sorts of pears with which any success can be obtained in Lower Canada and these require a sheltered position, but it is such a luscious fruit that it amply repays trouble. The varieties of apples shown were very numerous and of great beauty in appearance. We noticed very few of the Pomme Grise; is this apple, as has been stated, dying out? It is without exception, in our opinion the finest winter apple grown at is such a good keeping apple that we can not afford to lose it. The show of flowers was very pretty though the blooms especially the geraniums were dropping off; the ferns were “lovely” and prettily arranged. The vegetables were of good size, the usual mammoth pumpkin being present, and huge squashes lay in solitary state. We were glad to notice that very few “patents” were exhibited, as a rule they are most incongruous and are merely advertisements. The Horticultural Society deserves our thanks and the exhibitors deserve our praise for the creditable and pleasing show made.

PACIFIC RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

“The *Times*, speaking of the Pacific Railway bargain says the definite settlement must await the assembling of the Dominion Parliament. It indicates at length the route taken by the railroad, and expresses the hope that the disbursement of the money expended on the construction of the Pacific Railroad during the next ten years will materially improve the position of all railway, land, and industrial undertakings throughout Canada.”

The above from the Toronto *Globe's* London despatch of 10th inst. gives the view of the great London paper on our Canadian railway affairs, and the people of this country may be quite as much disposed to be guided by its view as by the too greatly biassed one of the Toronto *Mail*, who thinks our curiosity is likely to be satisfied without a meeting of Parliament. One great danger to be provided against in the instalment of new and great proprietary interests, which can never be wholly consentaneous with those of the people, is that of the limiting tendency of such interests as regards popular or parliamentary government. “The rights of property are sacred” the *Witness* tells us. They are at any rate the outgrowth of human law, and have to be recognized, and not too frequently changed or tampered with. As we are not all brokers, we can afford to say that we ought to be the more careful how we establish them, and to be sensible of the fact that is occurring, when the country is being suited with a new constitution, as is now the case with us. We presume there is still manhood enough in the country to determine that Parliament shall discuss the bearing of the negotiations and the bargain to which it has to set its seal.

We may rationally expect that some arrangement will be come to; but had we—and we advance the point for argument's sake only, knowing perfectly well that we have avoided the greater part of such obligations—adopted the other alternative and agreed to borrow for investment in the work a hundred million dollars (an amount of debt which we should not have been called upon to assume for several years, if at all), the interest at four per cent., and expenses, would, let us say, have been about equivalent in millions and parts

thereof to the number of the population, and this rough calculation will give a dollar per head in each year, and this again will amount to about a third of a cent for each head of the population per working day.

The sales of the lands, with a portion of the customs and excise duties of the great new territories to be developed between Lake Superior and the Rocky Mountains, and on the Pacific sea-board, and in the gold mining regions, increasing as the works proceeded, and permanently increasing till the debt was neutralized, would all have been in diminution of the dollar,—leaving for the present the profits on working the line out of calculation.

This third of a cent per head per day would have been a public investment of means certain in time to bring returns—and Canada could then have become somewhat less a tributary country than she is likely now to be—although the future tribute may chiefly take the form of railway income and land instalments transmitted to London—involving (and it should include no more) a certain absence of control over our freight and travel, local and across the continent, and the government of the line from the point of view of profit to incumbents whose good feelings, once installed, we shall have to cultivate, while we may take care that their powers shall not become infused with other departments of the State.

Readers will see that we have written hypothetically only. We are aware there was an alloy to all that fine gold, and that it was found in the temper of considerable sections of our people, who have been reared in colonial ideas, and taught to lean upon the worthy mother land for most things, and also in the views of many of their leaders with whom finance has been only a synonym for distrust and fear. With these logicians we had no desire to argue, and can hardly be said to be doing so now. New Zealand did unwisely, no doubt, to run into debt ten or twelve times as deeply as Canada has yet done, relative populations being considered, and that all for the government railways of those isolated islands in the Southern Ocean—but we are too much occupied in Canada to be scolding New Zealand just now.

The new capitalists are strong men, financially, and will doubtless do well with us, if they are properly arranged and dealt with, but our political happiness, as a people, in the years to come, which has a greater importance even than financial considerations, must greatly depend, in most large national developments, upon our hitting the true mean of self-assertion, as regards the outside world. In all the years it will not become us to forget that expansion and progress are especial attributes of Christian populations in newer regions of the earth, and also that such communities should certainly at some day, however distant, become the owners of their own highways. *Civis.*

PROGRESS IN LIFE.

Every one desires to rise in life, and this desire may be said to be the chief cause or mainspring of all human progress and activity. It makes the world enthusiastic, energetic, industrious and powerful. Without it the world would lose much, and it is therefore to be recognised and stimulated as a legitimate and necessary desire. There are many paths through life, each having different attractions, and presenting different temptations and rewards. Some desire to rise by means of money; they desire to be rich and powerful, to hold large balances and wield large influences gratifying to their vanity, as the possession of wealth succeeds in obtaining the homage and flattery of many minds. Some desire to be popular, to have a large circle of friends, to be respected, admired, and perhaps loved. Others desire to gain a reputation for learning, to become celebrated as naturalists, geologists, ministers of religion, and in other branches of learning, while some desire to be celebrated as mechanical engineers, or even as agriculturists. It is a grand and beneficent thing that there are so many channels open, and it is a grander thing when a person is so happy as to find and follow that channel best suited to his bent of mind.

Now, while it is allowed that all the useful members of society are endeavouring to rise in life through some of these channels, a great and radical difference will be found in the means employed to do it and in the ultimate objects sought after, and the former will be found to depend greatly upon the latter. There are two principal causes why persons desire to rise in life,—one is, their own personal aggrandisement, or to gratify their own personal vanity; while the other is, that they may be enabled to benefit others. A person wants wealth for himself alone; he may desire to hoard it like a miser, or may desire to spend it on himself—may love it for its own sake (a sign of a narrow mind, which is made more powerful and overbearing in the gratification), or he may love it because it enables him to be luxurious or to make a great social display. And in all of these cases he never goes beyond his own petty selfish enjoyment in his plans and visions of future success. Charitable purposes in life, properly so-called, never enter into his mind, his motto being “each one for himself”; and he rather glories in the misfortunes of others, mentally accepting them as tributes to his superiority. Religion troubles him but little, and he even thinks it is better to be somewhat deformed in mind and less polished in manner and less kind in deed than it is to be without money. He says “money is character and power,” which aphorism can hardly be disputed; but the use or management of money shows what that character or power is worth in judging of the