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The Journal of Commerce

FINANCE AND INSURANCE REVIEW.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 24, 1882

THE PUBLIC DEBT.

In his admirable defence of party Government, the late lord Russell could not but admit the unfairness of the critcisms which the heated partizans of one party unscrupulously launched against their opponents. It seems hardly credible that in the case of the Dominion debt, contracted for objects for which the

present Government is certainly not less responsible than its predecessor, an effort should be made by the press in the interest of that Government to damage the Mackenzie Government, because during its incumbency it made provision for carving on the enterprizes which were commenced by its predecessors. It would be perfectly fair to criticize the conduct of a Government which had obtained the consent of Parliament to the construction of a public work, chargeable to capital account, which sound policy should have caused to be rejected. There may have been such works undertaken on the