

NOT PARTY, BUT THE PEOPLE.

THE BYSTANDER.

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NO one can doubt that Sir John Macdonald is a skilful negotiator, or that he has done his best in the Pacific Railway negotiation; the people therefore have every reason for giving a candid consideration to the result of his efforts. Nor can it be imagined that the Prime Minister really intends to deprive the country of perfect freedom of deliberation, whatever light expressions he may have used in the flush of triumph. Taking a land grant of twenty-five millions of acres, well situated, at the lowest assignable value, this, added to a subsidy of twenty-five millions of dollars, and roads already constructed at a cost of thirty-one millions, would make up something like a hundred and twenty millions of public money. A hundred and twenty millions of dollars compared with the aggregate wealth of Canada, are fully as much as ten times the sum would be compared with the aggregate wealth of England. What English Minister would dream of dealing with such a sum as two hundred and forty millions sterling of his own authority, or even by the mere vote of his party majority, without the full concurrence of the nation? There are some to whom speaking of the concurrence of the nation seems treason against the omnipotence of Parliament. They are afraid that we shall lapse into a system of plebiscites. But Parliament is elected on the issue which happens to be before the country at the time of the election; the present Parliament, was elected on the issue of the National