

weekly mail to a western island. Such a trifling matter was entirely overlooked by him, but the independence of the British House of Commons was inexorable in its demands, and he had to throw up his mail contract, and enter the field for a second competition, which, owing to the chivalry then and we suppose still pervading British politics he found unnecessary, and was allowed to be returned unopposed.

In Canada a member of Parliament may enter into a contract with the Government, in which millions of dollars are involved, retain his seat and vote, manipulate and scheme on questions brought before him in which his own pocket, and even his own financial resources to the last dollar he possesses are at stake. If there were any proof before us, that our legislators were more honest and less in need of checks placed upon them, than those in Great Britain, there would be some argument in favor of the present anomalous state of affairs. But unfortunately such is not the case, and although the ingenuity of the bulk of our M. P's is employed to keep many a job from the eyes and ears of the public, even when party dictates would call for their airing, enough oozes out to show the utter rottenness of our whole parliamentary system.

It is not necessary to get behind the parliamentary scenes, to discover the rottenness of our national political system, for outside general results show it up very clearly. When we see that it is next to an impossibility to get any Government subsidized scheme through the House of Commons and Senate, without having the names of M. P's, and in many cases Cabinet Ministers tacked on as promoters, we can in some measure realize the grinding system of "Backsheesh" systematically levied upon national progress by our Dominion legislators.

Nor is it necessary to rake like a mud lark through the Parliamentary scandals since Confederation to find out where men with "Honorable" attached to their names have made big profits through their official power, outside of the emoluments they received. When such men can be found, who twenty years ago entered the political arena with a rating commercially of less than five thousand dollars, but who to-day pose as millionaires, although their official income during the interval will not aggregate one-tenth

of their present wealth, we feel certain that the public services of such men have not been dictated by the purest patriotism, or that their efforts for their country's welfare have been of a very self-sacrificing character. A few such men can be found at the present day.

Twenty years ago, what is now Canada contained few, if any men who could be ranked as millionaires, and to-day the men who have reached that position by straight business tact or good fortune can be counted on the fingers of one hand. During the present decade, the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway will make more millionaires thrice over than existed in Canada at the date of confederation; and at the present rate of political rottenness, before the present century closes the millionaires made out of public funds in this Dominion will not be counted on the claws of a centipede much less the fingers of a hand.

The *Monetary Times* hints about a legislative remedy, perhaps next year, but wisely adds that we need not expect too much. With the present composition of our House of Commons, we should look for mighty little. To free Parliament from its present evil associations is a work of many years, and calls for the downfall of several ministries. To purge the British civic service, it was at one time found necessary to disfranchise every one connected with the Inland Revenue service and some other branches. Desperate measures may be necessary to purge Parliament also, and it is to be hoped that men with the courage to apply them will be found. The treatment to produce a cure may entail many a blister and other counter irritant, but let them be applied if they are required. Hitherto we have been treated only by the bleeding process, but people are beginning to kick against longer submission to that antiquated and prostrating treatment.

THE GRAIN OUTLOOK.

The feeling in grain circles at the present time is one of uncertainty, but through all the mist of uncertainty there stands out a kind of loom of upward prices. In Chicago last week the bear element met with a decided check, which was not to be wondered at, for that element has grown bold and reckless even to arrogance of late, and had reached that state of over confidence which usually precedes disappointment.

It seems now that the winter wheat crop is every day adding to the disappointment of those who have been calculating upon a liberal yield. The first lots have come to market, and while the quality is good, the yield from the threshing machine has been small enough to put a damper upon all bearish calculations. June therefore closed with slightly buoyant tendency, and July has opened with a feeling even firmer than buoyancy. Of course the labor troubles are still a strong bearish argument, but even this trouble seems much nearer to a solution than it was a month ago, and it is a well known and generally admitted fact that once labor troubles cease industrial affairs generally are very likely to recover rapidly, as they are just in such a state from which rapid recovery is very probable.

As yet no calculations can be made upon the spring wheat crop, as the present month is the time in which that crop is made or unmade. Taking the most favorable view of the situation an enormous crop cannot be expected, and there is every prospect of its falling far short of the yield in 1885. Last year the Northwest crop proved a heavy trump card in the hands of the bears, but this year its value will be much less. In a large proportion of Minnesota and Dakota droughts and other drawbacks have done bad work, and a short crop from these two states is a certainty under the most favorable circumstances. In Manitoba and the Northwest Territories matters are not going to be mended much.

Through this province, except in the Red River valley district, the yield promises to be good. But for thirty to forty miles on each side of the Red drought has done its work, and but little over half a crop need be expected from that valley. From the western limits of the province away into the territories the outlook all over does not average any better than in the Red River valley, and the only cheering calculation lies in the fact that the heavy yield will come from the districts most thickly settled and generally cultivated. One more good point stands out clear, and that is that we have nothing to fear from frost this year, and while our yield all over may not exceed a two-thirds or at best a three-fourths crop, we have every prospect of having a first-class sample of wheat at least.

The outlook all over certainly gives reason to hope for better prices, and once the political ferment in Great Britain settles down, and markets reach a natural state, we shall not be astonished if prices go up quite a little, although we do not look for fancy figures being reached.