

might otherwise be kept down. Interrogated by Mr. Blake, the Ministers at first differed from each other in opinion; but at last a pledge was given that the measure of the dividend should be the sum actually spent. This, however, will not prevent the people of the North-West from having to pay in their fares and freights for the construction of the unproductive sections of the line, and for the loss of working those sections when they are constructed. Of course it will not in any way relieve them of the effects of the monopoly clauses. On the subject generally, Mr. Blake's speeches cannot be said to have made an impression on the country in proportion to their unquestionable ability. The Agreement has been made, and we must keep it, provided it is kept by the Syndicate, which has so far been guilty of no default, but, on the contrary, is allowed to have done its work very well. We have obtained what we most desired, extrication from the slough of public corruption, into which, while the road was in the hands of the Government, we were evidently sinking. If the gains of the Company prove large, no harm will be done us; but whether they are likely to be large nobody can tell till the unproductive parts of the road have been completed and brought into operation. The golden side of the shield is turned to the London Stock Market, the silver side to the Opposition in the Canadian Parliament. Mere criticism, without a counter policy, is always ineffective. Why did not Mr. Blake, when his party was in power, boldly refuse to concur in an enterprise to which in his heart he was evidently opposed? The good sense of the country would have come round to him, and his feet would now be on firm ground. The leading journal of his party the other day strove to rally to him the allegiance of his followers by setting forth, in an eloquent editorial, the integrity of his character, the purity of his aims, his intellectual gifts and accomplishments, and his uniform excellence as a speaker. If resolution could have been added, the panegyric would have been complete. Is Mr. Blake young Canada? If he is, Young Canada has intelligence in large measure, but somewhat lacks determination.

The announcement that an alliance was being negotiated between the Canada Pacific and the Grand Trunk produced a thrill of alarm, like that which used to shoot through Europe when it