

not only not retained any drawback, but have actually paid out fifty thousand dollars over and above the value of the work done, this value being put at a large increase on the contract rates. And this at the same time that the contractors are coining money by using the property for which over seven millions of public money has been paid. But there is more yet, the Government borrowed from the banks at seven per centum, and taking commissions and money lying in the banks' hands into account, the actual percentage is sure to be nearer ten per cent. The case stands then :—The kind feelings that the Government entertained for their contractors made them pay over hundreds of thousands of dollars beyond what the contractors were entitled to, and because of the Government's kindness, the Province has to pay about ten per cent. for those hundreds of thousands. Beyond the million then already pledged there is another five hundred thousand of loss to fall upon the Province, in interest for borrowed money, in money passing into the contractors' pockets for traffic that should be returning something to the public funds, and in interest for the whole eight millions or more that will be lost before the contractors can be made to hand over the works. Owing to the way in which the late Government has managed matters, by keeping no drawbacks and allowing the contractors to run the lines for profit, the contractors will fight the public for extras and for continued possession of the lines with public money. And when the public get possession, the cost of gaining it will fall on the public funds because the contractors will take good care that they keep no property about them that can be touched. Thus it is quite possible the loss will swell to two millions before the public get possession of their property. The railway promises to be a mine of gold to contractors and lawyers for some years to come, but the public funds form the gold. The people have little idea what a fearful maw they have created owing to the rascally follies of the late Government. Let the Assembly, however, again give a majority for the late Government's support, and in a few years they will feel what such a maw can do in gorging public money. Place them back again, and let them lose a million a year besides what they spend, as they have been doing. Then, how many years will it be before bankruptcy is over the Province? Some may think a Province cannot become bankrupt, but why should not this Province become so just as well as a city like Chicago? Every dollar's worth of property is in pledge. The Province is already in the grasp of the pawn-broker. The people are paying about ten per cent. for borrowed money. There can be no repudiation under English rule. If the people choose to let their Governments pledge their property to the last dollar of its value, they must pay. If they do not look into these facts and punish the men who brought such a state of things to pass, they will surely feel the punishment that tax-gatherers can inflict.