

ernment to make known the conditions to the country, but otherwise its position is weak. It has thoroughly committed itself to a policy with regard to the general question identical with that of the Government; and, if it attempted to prevent the transfer of the construction to a company, it would have the whole country against it. In power, it accepted the undertaking and carried it on as a government work; while its organ persistently goaded on the country to the enterprise, and impugned the motives of those who were trying to bring the other side of the question before the people. Nor is any one, except the regular leaders of the Opposition, likely to make a stand; not one has done so at any stage of the affair. In whatever respects the Canadian Parliament may resemble that of England, it lacks the sturdy eccentricity of the Cross Benches. In the English Parliament, if public interests so great had been at stake, there would unquestionably have been found a man who, in defiance alike of majorities and of conventional opinion, would have fought his battle unflinchingly, and forced his view of the question on the consideration of the country.

—Amid the jubilant voices of 'the Hum,' it is to be hoped that a note of gentle warning will not grate too harshly on the public ear. The causes of commercial improvement and of the present rise, not to say inflation, of all stocks and securities, are two good harvests and the revival of the lumber trade, in connection with the general termination of the crisis in the United States and over the world at large. The cause is not increased taxation, however skilfully the new taxes may have been adjusted; and the tour which the Finance Minister has been making to see the happy fruits of his new Customs' duties in creating wealth, though gracious and politic, is not without its comic side. It would be a sad mistake, therefore, to suppose that a further increase of prosperity could be produced at will by a fresh increase of the taxes, or that it is desirable to maintain taxation at its present rate one moment beyond the actual