

an estimate based upon the mileage, and subject to the final details of the route. Mr. McCarthy, M.P., who introduced the bill, estimates the cost of the prairie section at \$20,000 a mile, and the mountain section \$50,000, or a total of \$17,000,000, and \$25,000,000 respectively. The eastern section, from Winnipeg to Moncton, will cost \$50,000,000 at \$30,000 a mile. In addition to this will be the cost of the various branch lines; but, on the other hand, it is claimed that the estimate is already much too large, actual construction being now in progress by the Canadian Northern at half the figure. Rolling stock for the whole line is named at \$20,000,000. While the policy adopted by the Government is a vigorous one, and, in most respects, favorable to public interests, there is an indefiniteness about the cost, engineering conditions, and even the route itself, which make a careful investigation desirable.

Costly as trancontinental railways thus are, they are as certainly profit-makers. The total net income of the Canadian Pacific for the year ended last June, was \$17,123,058, of which over \$9,000,000 was available for dividends. The splendid position now held by the C.P.R. in the world of finance is due in part to the able management of the road, but its first success is in the resources of the country which it has opened up, and this success will be repeated by the new line, opening up new districts from West to East.

A Law to Make Men Vote

A MEASURE introduced in the House by Mr. John Charlton seeks to make voting compulsory on penalty of forfeiture of the franchise. Mr. Charlton believes that such a law would discourage bribery, as those who put a price upon their vote could no longer hold off for the highest bidder. That this is a very real evil throughout Canada there is no question, and compulsory voting would undoubtedly do much to remedy it; but for several reasons it is not a practicable remedy.

It is not likely that compulsory voting would be more acceptable to the liberty-loving Canadian than would compulsory

abstinence, which many look upon as an interference with personal rights. A man may have the best of reasons for not voting, reasons altogether independent of personal gain or selfish interests. Religious scruples or conscientious objections to men or measures may deter him from voting "yea," and yet he may not be prepared to vote "nay." Under such circumstances a man cannot justly be disfranchised, and compulsion might thus result in winnowing out many of the most desirable class of voters in the country. Some provision would also be necessary for cases of sickness, and pretended ills would become an easy escape for the tricksters. All in all, while Mr. Charlton's proposition aims at an admitted evil, it is itself open to so many objections that its enforcement would be a doubtful expedient.

Another Successful Tour

THE recent visit to this country of a party of British journalists added one more triumph to the credit of Canada. Like all the other delegations that come this way, they were surprised and delighted with what they saw and heard, and have gone home fully convinced that the half has never been told concerning the greatness and the beauty of the Canadian colony. So far they did not differ greatly from other tourists, but their visit and their impressions were especially noteworthy since they were men whose position enables them to effectually spread the news after their return to England. No one sees so much and so correctly as a trained journalist, and these British newspaper men will do much to advertise Canada by telling their readers of what they saw and what they thought. We are accustomed to hear our visitors say pleasant things about our country, but there is a better chance than usual for something to come out of this journalistic tour.

Fairly typical, in a nutshell, of the British editors' opinion of Canada is what the representative of Reynolds' great publishing house said before leaving for home: "I have had many years' experience in agricultural life, both in Ireland and in England, but never have I seen finer land,