

thoughts and do what is best at present and for the future. The Opposition has no stones to cast at the Government. Had Mr. Mackenzie, when he came into power, acted on what we can hardly doubt was the dictate of his own good sense, by frankly declaring that the agreement with British Columbia was impracticable and must be rescinded, we firmly believe that he would have had the people with him; but misled, as party politicians very often are, by conventional opinion, instead of rescinding, he signed anew the fatal bond, made the enterprise a Government work, and showed his misgivings by a hesitancy in the execution and an attempt to find a middle course, which apparently would, in the end, have served only to increase the expense. His organ, or rather his leader, never ceased, under the influence of Anti-Continental sentiment, to goad the nation on to the undertaking, and to the last insisted on the immediate construction of the Mountain line, covering with foul aspersions all who opposed that course, though it now turns round and designates the policy as waste.

Ought the Pacific Railway agreement to be laid before the country at once, or ought it to be reserved for the meeting of Parliament? In demanding that it shall be laid before the country at once, the Opposition organ is, no doubt, mainly actuated by that precipitate eagerness to condemn which has led it to forfeit in advance for itself, and as far as it could for its party, every semblance of critical authority in passing judgment on the scheme. But the best friends of the Government, would, we venture to think, advise it to be as frank as possible in its dealing with the people, and when the material parts of the agreement are settled, to communicate it to the public without delay. The dignity of Parliament is a very good thing, but it is also well that in a question which is one of financial life or death to the country, Parliament should enter on its deliberations with all the light that the fullest and most searching discussion can throw upon the subject. The nation will not be satisfied with an arrangement disclosed only to be carried through the House by a party majority at the bidding