

at an end. Perhaps the clearest and greatest gain of all is, that we are rescued, politically as well as commercially, from a yawning abyss of jobbery and corruption.

It has been naturally remarked that the Syndicate does not contain those names of colossal European firms which were expected to appear. The members of the Government have partly to thank their own too sanguine language for any disappointment which the absence of the Barings, the Erlangers, the Paris Rothschilds may have produced in the public mind. On the other hand, there can be no doubt as to the perfect respectability and trustworthiness of the men with whom the agreement has actually been made: what they have undertaken they will perform to the best of their power, and the commercial honour of the country, so far as it is entrusted to them, will be safe in their hands. Nor is there reason to fear now or hereafter intrigues between them and the Government against the interest of the nation. They are not the men, nor do they resemble the men, who ten years ago commenced their operations as applicants for the construction of the line by deliberately setting to work to corrupt the Government through Sir George Cartier. Vague apprehensions are afloat that the interests of the public enterprise will in some way be made subservient to those of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Road owned by the leading members of the Syndicate: but the line of the Pacific Railway laid out by Government cannot be altered; and if its construction benefits the St. Paul and Minneapolis Road, no harm is done to us. The fact is that without the sort of basis afforded for a Syndicate by the St. Paul and Minneapolis Road, we should hardly have found a trustworthy body of capitalists to undertake this work.

It may safely be assumed that the Pacific Railway Agreement will occupy Parliament from the ninth of December to Christmas, so that to touch on other questions at present would be premature. Not that we look forward to a tough or protracted struggle on the subject of the Agreement. The Opposition may make a good point on the refusal of the Gov-