

in connection with the North-West are enough to prove that corruption is abroad. There must be a carcass, and a pretty putrid one, where such birds are gathered together. Even to us materials for creating a sensation on the subject of contracts have come ; but there is no use in creating a sensation ; what we want is to see the source of the evil extinguished. Of the dangers which threaten free institutions on this continent, there is hardly one greater than the corruption which waits on public works.

There are two things of which the country will wish to be assured—that it is entirely rid of the whole undertaking, of the running as well as of the construction ; and that the company is completely and finally severed from the Government, so that there may be no playing of the two into each other's hands, and we may not be ruled by a colossal Lobby. Sir John Macdonald, no doubt, hopes to reserve land enough to indemnify the nation for past expenditure. It will, of course, be borne in mind that a single railroad only opens up the line of country through which it passes, and that land reserved at a distance from it, without branch lines, is of little value.

Manitoba, as we learn from trustworthy informants on the spot, is not filling at the rate which sanguine calculators expected. The Opposition will throw the blame on the Land Regulations. But the illimitable wilderness, with its great attractions, has also disadvantages—remoteness, present scarcity of fuel, and a climate which may be exhilarating to the robust, the well-fed and the well-clothed, but stops industry during the greater part of the year.

Whatever is to be done for us by negotiation, the address of Sir John Macdonald will do. He is more worthily employed in this than in sitting umpire over a sordid chaos of conflicting claims for small places. There is no one who can cast a stone at him for not sacrificing the interest, nay the solvency, of the country to the obstinacy which folly calls consistency. We are all in the same boat, and alike ready to bury the past, if we can be rid of the national incubus for the future. With

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