

THE BYSTANDER.

FEBRUARY, 1890.

THE Government proposes, it seems, that little shall be done at Ottawa this session. The Government proposes, but the Opposition may dispose. The leaders of the Opposition will be greatly wanting, both to their interest and their duty if in the present situation they fail to call the attention of the country to the working of a system under which farm property in this Province has fallen in value to the extent of twenty-two and a-half millions in six years, the farmer is depressed, country towns dependent on trade with him are declining, vast mineral resources lie undeveloped, our shipping disappears from the lakes, the debt has increased to two hundred and sixty millions, the burden of taxation has been aggravated in proportion, the cost of living has risen to thirty-five per cent. more than it is in an old and overcrowded country, smuggling has spread along the Border to the injury of lawful trade, the very flower of our population is leaving us, and the promises of Government have been miserably belied with regard to the North-West, in the whole of which, after all these years, instead of the myriads promised, there are not above a hundred and fifty thousand white inhabitants, including Icelanders, Mennonites and Mormons, while a great population, largely composed of Canadian emigrants, is filling the farms and towns on the other side of the Line; the counter-vailing benefits received by the country being a number of baronetcies and knighthoods and the creation of a few great fortunes which the possessors are apt to carry away to