

dian, he is dealing with the subject largely at first hand, as having entered this western Canada in 1871, the year of the first Queen's Message there, and the year when the first resounding of cannon was heard, west of Lake Superior, by a body of elected British freemen.

THE FALL OF MONOPOLY.

The high wall of the Hudson's Bay Company monopoly had held fast Rupert's Land and the Indian Territories for two centuries. But in the middle of the Nineteenth Century assaults were beginning to be made from the outside, and these were responded to from within. The discovery of the Northern Magnetic Pole by Commander James Ross, led to the sending of Capt. Lefroy to make a Magnetic, but really a Topographical, Survey, of the vast possessions of the Fur Traders in 1842. Five years later a dispute, as to the rights of natives to trade, convulsed the Red River community, now grown to number several thousand souls. The distinguished Isbister, one of themselves who had risen to note in England, became the defender of his countrymen and succeeded in carrying their complaint to the foot of the throne. A petition of nearly one thousand Metis, of French origin, with their requests expressed in classic French, came to Her Majesty, and lest these appeals should fail, more than half-a-thousand English speaking whites and natives of Red River Settlement approached Canada for relief. In 1849 the Sayer outbreak took place and Governor, Judge and Council of Assiniboia took fright.

The British House of Commons Committee of 1857, led by Roebuck and Gladstone, held a searching examination and from this time onward it was clear that the monopoly of two centuries' duration was doomed. At the sessions of this great Committee Canada was represented by Chief Justice Draper. Coincident with the sittings of the Committee, two great expeditions, one British, the other Canadian, the former that of Palliser and Hector, the latter that of Hind and Dawson, had gone forth to view the resources of this hitherto hermit country. They were soon followed by the independent expedition of Lord Milton and Dr. Cheadle. In the year following the Confederation, the Honourable William McDougall and Honourable George Cartier, representing the two sections of Canada, crossed the ocean, and found that the country might become Canadian were the Hudson's Bay Company to receive compensation. The fates were with Canada, and so monopoly at length fell down and a new community arose. These are the commonplaces of history, but they bespeak the rise of a new entity—the CANADIAN WEST.