

The general assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, which convened in Winnipeg last week, forms undoubtedly the most important and influential gathering ever assembled together in this city. It is indeed a mark of honor to the Presbyterians of this city and province, and indeed to all of us, that a city so young in years and so far removed from the centres of population, should have been selected for this distinction. These delegates come from the most remote portions of the Dominion—from Vancouver Island, on the Pacific coast to the west, and from where the Atlantic surges wash the shores of Cape Breton Isle in the east. They meet at the half-way house of the Continent—Winnipeg. They represent a large, powerful, intelligent and wealthy portion of our population. It is therefore to be hoped that they will carry away with them much information about this part of our country, and the best of wishes for our people.

The *Toronto Monetary Times* is afraid the Dominion authorities will not take action to prevent the Manitoba Government from building the road to the boundary, and it hastens to inform them that the Local Government bill is just as open to the Dominion veto as were the private bills nullified in times past. The *Times* says: "The Local Government possess no immunity that saves the bill from the exercise of the veto power. If the federal government upholds the decision of Parliament, it will be bound to veto this bill." The *Times* further intimates that the Dominion authorities should lose no time in exercising their prerogative to veto the bill, "as tenders for the construction of the road have already been invited." The *Times* winds up with the following precious statement: "Foreign railway companies are evidently at the bottom of this business, and they will have to be shown that we do not purpose to have our independent road strangled by the newly-invented process, any more than by the old process which has been so often tried." The Toronto C.P.R. monopoly organ can save itself the trouble of getting into such a stew over the matter. The road to the boundary is going to be built, veto or no veto, and all the antics of hired monopoly, alleged journals will not stop it.

OPINION has evidently undergone a great change in Eastern Canada on the disallowance question in favor of Manitoba, during the past few months. At least this is undoubtedly the case in the premier province of Ontario, since a number of the leading journals there commenced to study up our case and came out in our defence. Up to a few months ago the best informed papers in the east seemed to be all at sea on the great question at stake in Manitoba; and in dealing with disallowance they invariably represented that it would necessitate the breaking of the agreement with the C.P.R. to allow Manitoba to build roads to the boundary. Eastern people, however, can hardly be blamed for this ignorance of the question, when it is well known that many in Manitoba held the same ideas for a length of time. Now that easterners have commenced to see the matter in its true light, the more thoughtful and independent portion are rapidly falling into line

with Manitobans. There is every reason to believe that the recent vote in Parliament on Mr. Watson's resolution did not voice the sentiment of at least the province of Ontario. It is well known how deceptive Parliamentary decisions are, so far as they may be taken to indicate the popular feeling in the country. For instance, everybody here knows that fully seven-eighths of the people of the Territories are opposed to monopoly, though the representatives of these people voted solidly for monopoly. The vote of the Ontario members may be taken as no more indicating the popular feeling in that province than did the vote of the Territorial members. A gentleman recently from Ontario, of strong independent proclivities, who has travelled over the greater portion of that province during the past few weeks, stated to the writer that the people there of both parties were largely in sympathy with Manitoba on the disallowance question. The party referred to accounted for the vote in Parliament as brought about by that hide-bound party feeling, which compels a member to support his party once when right and twice when wrong. There is no doubt a good deal of truth in this, and undoubtedly the visit of the Winnipeg delegation to the east has been the cause of a great deal of the change in the public feeling there regarding the great Manitoba question. If public opinion in the east could be educated up to the proper standard on the disallowance question from a Manitoba point of view, it would be impossible for the Dominion Government to obtain that moral support necessary to enable it to carry out any further repressive measures against this Province. It should be the earnest effort of Manitobans to help on the movement of educating public opinion in the east, and it might even prove an advantage to undertake some active work of this nature by having a course of lectures delivered throughout the east. We make the suggestion for what it is worth. At all events Manitoba's case only requires a lucid explanation to gain many sympathizers, even among those now opposed to our interests.

THE proposal coming from prominent Winnipeg Conservatives to the effect that Mr. Robert Watson, M.P., be tendered some recognition of appreciation for his efforts in behalf of the Province, on his return from Ottawa, is one well worthy of being acted upon. Mr. Watson is certainly more deserving of some distinction at the hands of the people of Manitoba than many who have in times past been made the recipient of honors at the hands of our people. It is not many years since a banquet was given at Winnipeg to a Manitoba M.P., who has since proved himself the very lowest of party tools; who for some mercenary purpose has opposed the most important interests of his Province; voted to keep Manitoba under the bondage of monopoly; broken every pledge made to the electors of his constituency, and violated all sense of decency, honor and veracity in denying that he ever made such pledges. Mr. Watson has worked hard and unceasingly for the best interests of this Province, never allowing an opportunity to pass by to put in a word in our behalf. These are the plain facts, acknowledged by all, and we should take them

as they stand, without questioning the motives which prompted such action. What should Manitoba care for Grit or Tory when the rights of the Province are being trampled in the dust. Playing the part of the cringing mercenary to the party in power has been tried long enough, without success. It is time Manitobans gave over this idea. Little Prince Edward Island, with a solid phalanx against the Government, can obtain her demands, but cringing Manitoba is denied the clearest justice. It was ever thus and ever will be. Manly independence will always triumph over mercenary support. It is really time the belief that a province must support the party in power to obtain its demands was exploded. Experience has proved that exactly the opposite is the case. There is another idea which would render the move to recognize Mr. Watson's service most commendable. This is, that it would help to remove party bitterness, and smooth down the sharp edge of party asperities. A public recognition of Mr. Watson's labors in behalf of the Province, coming from Conservatives, would be, in addition to a recognition of true merit, a great step in the direction of creating a more harmonious feeling among the people, irrespective of party. If for no other motive than this alone, the good which might be accomplished would be worth the effort. In the present juncture Manitobans should not be divided on party lines, and really there is no question at stake of paramount interest to the people here to cause such a division. By all means let Mr. Watson's services be recognized, and let such recognition take the shape, not only of a Winnipeg but a provincial movement.

THE Chicago wheat market has had a terrible shaking out during the past week, resulting in the financial ruin of many who a few hours before counted their wealth by hundreds of thousands of dollars. The market opened very steady on Monday, and like the proverbial calm before the storm, there was scarcely any change in prices, fluctuations being confined to a very narrow range, with trading fairly liberal. It has been well known that a strong clique had been operating for some time back in "bulling" the market, and that owing to these manoeuvres prices presented the abnormal features of ranging considerably higher for cash and near futures than for the more deferred options. For instance, at Monday's closing of the board, June wheat was 8½c higher than July and 13½c higher than August. These abnormal prices rendered cash and near futures at Chicago considerably higher than surrounding domestic markets. The natural consequence was that Chicago was draining the surrounding country of wheat, and the amount in store there was only limited by the elevator capacity. To show the difference in the markets it may be noted that Chicago cash wheat was about 12c higher than Duluth, and shipments by rail from the latter to the former place had actually commenced. With these vast streams of wheat pouring in upon them from all quarters, the clique were unable to hold out any longer, and the crash came on Tuesday last. Such a panic was never before witnessed in the Chicago market. There was a great crush to sell at the opening on Tuesday, and with mountains of