

province, in opposition to the Government which they had previously so ardently supported. The reluctance with which many supporters of the Ottawa Government in Manitoba, joined in the popular demand, no doubt greatly prolonged the agitation, and rendered the day of victory more distant. Even after the people here were practically united against disallowance and monopoly, the false reports sent out by Dominion and C. P. R. officials and hirelings, had the effect of greatly retarding the provincial cause, through the influence of such false reports in Eastern Canada. Popular opinion in the East of course largely influences the action of the Dominion Government, and it was therefore the object of the aforesaid hirelings to represent to the people of Eastern Canada, that the agitation here was merely a partizan affair. At last, however, even the people of the East were commencing to understand the true state of affairs in Manitoba, and the discussions which took place there upon monopoly, especially at the meetings of several representative boards of trade, exerted a strong influence toward the last in bringing down the lever which finally overturned monopoly. It was the last weight which, thrown in the scales, turned the balance in favor of the province.

The terms upon which monopoly has been removed, are most acceptable to Manitoba and the West generally, and should be acceptable to all Canada. In consideration of a guarantee of interest of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., upon \$15,000,000, for fifty years, the company has agreed to surrender its monopoly rights for the balance of the time for which its exclusive privileges held good. The company will issue land grant bonds to the amount of the loan, interest upon which will be guaranteed by the Dominion. The only benefit to the company in this arrangement, is the advantage arising from the favorable terms upon which it will be enabled to negotiate a loan, having the double security of the Government guarantee. As security for the guarantee, the Government receives 15,000,000 acres of land; also the surplus earnings of the company, together with a lien on the earnings of the company for postal and other public services, which latter alone amount to \$300,000 annually. Thus ample security is given for the guarantee, and it is seen that monopoly has been removed without cost to the country. On the other hand, the railway company will be enabled to

negotiate a large loan on exceedingly favorable terms, and if the money is judiciously expended in improving and equipping the line, the company should be in a position to handle the traffic of the country to far greater advantage than ever before.

Now that the monopoly question has been removed from the active list, and has become a dead issue, a calm and impassioned retrospective view of the matter may be taken. The agitation in Manitoba against monopoly was conducted on a constitutional basis throughout. It was evident to the people of the province that the C. P. R. Co.'s monopoly privileges did not apply to Manitoba, and on this account the action of the Dominion Government in enforcing disallowance was looked upon as harsh, unjust and unconstitutional. The great odds against which Manitoba had to contend in fighting against the Dominion, was another cause of resentment, as it was felt that were the province more powerful, more generous treatment would be accorded it. Then that sympathy and assistance which was naturally expected from the people of the Territories and the province to the west, was not given in as large a measure as could have been expected, though there were many in the Territories who were in full sympathy with Manitoba. The situation was further aggravated by the few at home who, for personal gain, sent false reports abroad as to the real state of affairs, and the effects of monopoly upon the country. Thus a heavy strain was kept up, and at times there was even reason to fear that the agitation might lead to serious consequences. Among the more ardent supporters of the provincial cause, words of danger were sometimes spoken; but wiser councils prevailed and to the end of the struggle a strictly constitutional line of action was pursued. Now that railway monopoly has been disposed of, there is good reason to feel thankful that, during the heat of the agitation, no excesses were committed which might have led to serious consequences.

With the destruction of railway monopoly, the Great West has commenced a new era in its history. Already affairs are in a more calm and settled condition than they have been for years, and this, too, in the face of a coming general election, both in Manitoba and the Territories. Immigration is coming in more freely, and a sense of security, and prosperity pervades the land, such as was unknown during the rule of monopoly. The advancement and development of this great

region may now be expected to go on with increased celerity, with the incubus of monopoly removed. Only until now have the people of the West had full liberty to go ahead and develop the great resources of their country, and they may be relied upon to do their duty.

BOYCOTTING IN CANADA.

Hamilton, Ontario, has lately had a boycotting case which has attracted a good deal of attention in commercial and manufacturing circles, and which is specially interesting to employers of labor. At a meeting of bricklayers a motion was passed to the following effect:

"That this Bricklayers' and Masons Union boycott the new city hall building, and that any member working on said building, while the corporation retains Buscombe in the city's employ, be fined fifty dollars." The publication of the resolution was quickly followed by the arrest of the mover and seconder, and later of another member of the union, on a charge of conspiracy. At the examination the evidence mainly went to prove that the parties charged were the movers of the motion. The third party arrested had made a speech in favor of the motion. The three defendants were duly committed for trial at the assizes, the magistrate holding that where a number of men conspire together to injure another, it constituted conspiracy in the eyes of the law. Buscombe, a mason, appears to have fallen under the displeasure of the labor organization, hence the trouble, and the resort to boycotting. The Hamilton bricklayers may have some just reason for their antipathy against their fellow-workman Buscombe, or they may have only an imaginary grievance, but in any case the resort to compulsory boycotting cannot be justified. From whatever side the matter is viewed, there can only be one conclusion in regard to boycotting, and this is, that it is an abuse which should not for a moment be tolerated. It is to be hoped that any attempt to introduce the system into Canada will be dealt with speedily, and in such a way as to effectively crush out any inclination to repeat such outrages. Nothing can be said against labor organizations, so long as they confine their efforts within the bounds of reason and legality, but such organizations should learn that they will not be permitted to exercise autocratic authority, or allowed to have recourse to unlawful acts with impunity. Boycotting is an outrage, which, to suppress would justify the use of almost arbitrary measures.