

the eastern press, and which, since then, in the elevator, grain inspection and other questions has steadily endeavored to barter away every trade privilege of the province, in order to secure the paper so necessary for its existence.

The *Times* thinks it is wrong to advise the people of Winnipeg to purchase their supplies for personal use at home, and such advice is a direct interference with the liberty of the subject. Such a stand is a peculiar one for a journal which was such an advocate for encouraging home industries, when the Manitoba Government gave its printing contract to the *Montreal Gazette Company*. Our contemporary while strongly advocating a system of protective tariff, which makes this province a trade possession to eastern manufacturers, asserts that our City Council would be wrong in adopting any by-laws which would protect the tax-paying merchants of this city against itinerant traders who do not pay a cent of our taxation. Such is flounder number one of the *Times* in this mixture of trade questions, and it is only what could be expected from a journal which has been the worst enemy of local trade for the past three years, through blundering at times, and at others with deliberate intention.

But our contemporary has suddenly become an advocate for liberal exemption laws, and the abolition of credit throughout Manitoba, and in its ignorance of the proposed legislation upon the subject asserts that it will not apply to the debts contracted before the passing of such legislation. Now, the original exemption bill which applied mainly to farmers' homesteads contained no such provisions, and only went the length of exempting from its provisions judgments secured, and suits in litigation before its going into force. It is very unlikely that the dead beats' protection act now sought to be passed will extend the exceptions to all debts contracted before its passing.

The *Times* publishes (as supplied by the Local Government) a list of states, and the limits of their exemptive laws, but it does not tell us that in almost every state mentioned a chattel mortgage is an instrument to be drawn up by a schoolboy in twenty minutes' time, and registered with a county recorder for a fee of 50c. With such mortgage facilities at their disposal our merchants need not stop giving credit, no matter what

exemption act be passed, but simply demand security by chattel mortgage from every man they trust. In this manner County Recorders' offices in Kansas and Dakota are simply pawnbroking offices, and we ask, Is it wise to part with our present system, by which men are trusted upon their ability as well as their desire to pay, for one which would make our Registry offices pawnbroking dens? Any jury of men who have all their lives paid 100 cents on the dollar will answer in the negative.

Our contemporary accuses us of stating that nearly one-half of our Local Legislature were dead beats. Such a statement we did not make. But we will make some very definite ones now about our hopeful crowd of legislators, and are prepared to prove them if called upon. We assert that not nearly half, but more than half of the members of our Local Legislature are sheriff-proof and beyond being collected from by any process of law. And we further state that there are not ten members of that house who will be trusted one hundred dollars by any merchant in Winnipeg on simply their own promise to pay. Such qualifications may not entitle them to the term of dead beat, but on that point we will leave the *Times* to judge. For ourselves we must assert that we have no faith in the asserted honest intentions of such men when they are interfering with the relations of debtor and creditor.

### MUST HAVE EXCITEMENT.

The *Montreal Herald* of the 13th inst. contains an editorial on the present Northwestern troubles from which we can see that our contemporary is not satisfied with a former article in THE COMMERCIAL upon the effect of the rebellion upon trade and immigration. That article was altogether too cool and void of sensation to suit the present tone of the *Herald*, which commences work by chastising the authors of sensational telegraphic and other reports coming from this city in which undertaking we pray "More power to its elbow." But the *Herald* assumes, and without the slightest reason for so doing, that this sensation circulation is the studied work of the classes represented by THE COMMERCIAL instead of being, as it is, that of a lot of correspondents of eastern newspapers, which are ever ready to pay well for sensational news from our country. No doubt but a portion of

our own press with a leaning to sensation is also to blame, and has assisted in magnifying a local riot into a big rebellion, and is in some measure responsible for what depredations the Indians have done. Even the *Herald* has caught a little of the sensation fever, and its strictures on Winnipeg wire-pulling, sound a little like "Satan reproving sin." It is to be expected, therefore, that the calm utterances of a purely trade journal, reasoning from a trade point of view would be deficient in spice for the palate of our contemporary.

But in this whole Northwestern trouble Winnipeg has acted with a coolness, that must be tantalizing to journals anxious for sensation. The city has with its wonted coolness furnished over one-third of the forces now in the field against the rebels and Indians, and has more, coolly waiting orders to start. The first battalion to start for the front went coolly from Winnipeg, in the middle of extremely cool weather, their being a foot of snow for them to travel through from Qu'Appelle north, and with an equipment furnished by our Dominion Government, which the General in command coolly characterized as simply damnable. Such coolness may be unpardonable, but the *Herald* must remember that we have a cool climate up here, although not quite so cool as it is at times represented by the eastern press. If Winnipeggers are therefore ready to so coolly march forward to where danger may be met, can they be blamed for coolly calculating what advantages are to be gained amid the general sacrifice? Even the *Herald* takes a similar course in the matter, after widening the interest from that of Manitoba to the whole Dominion, and concludes that after all the rebellion may not be an unmixt evil. With this enlargement it would not be out of place for Quebec, instead of Manitoba, to furnish Riel with arms, food, etc., to keep his rebellion going. Quebec has lavished favors upon the rebel chief before, when he was red-handed after the murder of Thomas Scott, and should not go back on its former record. In Winnipeg there are too many prominent and useful members of society still living, whose bones twitch with rheumatism, and whose health has been otherwise prematurely impaired from weeks of confinement and sleeping on the hard boards of a Fort Garry prison during the winter of 1869-70. In such a community Louis Riel will not find much assistance, and it is questionable if he would be accorded that consideration, which is allowed in cool moments to a dangerous and unscrupulous crank, and as such only he can be judged when prejudice is laid aside.