

pany that the north shore route may be abandoned, and those who have always maintained that such would ultimately be the case, profess to see in it the realization of their contentions. Be this as it may, the people of Winnipeg and Manitoba generally will not be placed at any disadvantage by the closing of the line east to Sudbury. It will be a matter of no importance to people here whether freight arrives via the north or south shore of Lake Superior, so long as we have competition and reasonable rates. However, it is not at all likely that the C.P.R. will abandon their line between here and Port Arthur, at least during the season of open navigation, even though they might close the line between Sudbury and Port Arthur.

These threats made by the monopoly's officials against Winnipeg, coming at this stage in the disallowance agitation, have served a valuable end in furthering the cause of those opposed to monopoly. No better move could have been made on the part of the company to consolidate the ranks and increase the determination of the people here to throw off this yoke of injustice and oppression. Though hurled directly against the city, the threats of the C.P.R. officials have aroused increased indignation throughout the country, and from every quarter has come expressions of determination to resent this latest display of intolerance. Sectional jealousies have been forgotten, and the entire country is now united as it never before was, in the effort to overthrow monopoly. Even eastern journals, which have heretofore been wont to look with indifference if not with hostility upon the agitation against disallowance in this province, have had their eyes opened to the true state of affairs. It would have been infinitely better for the company had it gracefully yielded to the inevitable. If an attempt is made to carry out the retaliatory policy indicated, the result may prove more disastrous to the company than to the city.

### **ANOTHER MONOPOLY THREATENED.**

The great Canadian monopoly is evidently not content with its efforts to absorb the entire railway and telegraph interests of the country. It has gone into hotelkeeping and newspaper publishing and now threatens to swallow up at one prodigious gulp the grain handling and milling business of the Northwest. It has been intimated from Ottawa, that it

is the intention of the C.P.R. Company to engage in handling grain in the Northwest during the coming season. The company will, so the report says, erect a large flouring mill at Keewatin, and the country will be covered with a system of grain elevators. Buyers will be stationed all along the line to purchase wheat for milling in transit, and for direct shipment. Several days have elapsed since these reports were first given to the public and as they have not yet been contradicted, it would seem that there is at least some ground for the rumors. Indeed it was some time ago mooted that the company were interested in a milling project at Keewatin, and it is said that the plans for the mill may be seen hanging in the engineering department of the company in this city. In the report that the company intends going into the grain and milling business, the real nature of the move is attempted to be disguised by the statement that the company is most solicitous for the welfare of the farming community of the Northwest. This is the hugest kind of a sham. If the company is so interested in the welfare of Manitoba farmers, why does it not give reasonable freight rates on grain exports? The company is evidently afraid of the coming competition, and is taking this move beforehand to drive grain dealers and millers out of the country, and thus secure a monopoly of these interests in the Northwest. The proposition is one of the most outrageous nature yet heard of, and something should be done to prevent the carrying out of the proposals. Sir George Stephen has laid great stress on the rights of those having invested in the C.P.R. though the rights of these persons have been in no way assailed. What about the vested rights of those who have staked their all in the grain and milling business in Manitoba? These men are practically at the mercy of the railway corporation, and the proposition of the C.P.R., to go into competition with them is simply enormous. The idea of a corporation doing business as a common carrier, entering into commercial competition with those for whom it is carrying, is indescribably preposterous. As both a common carrier and a grain shipper and milling corporation, the C.P.R. could charge independent shippers its present or even more exorbitant freight rates, whilst it could carry its own grain and flour at cost. If the company enters into the scheme indicated, all other grain dealers and millers might as well put padlocks on their doors, and leave the country. In grain handling freight rates are everything, and it has always been acknowledged that Manitoba dealers had always paid the very last farthing to the farmers which the freight rates will allow.

### **THE ANTI-MONOPOLY DEMONSTRATION.**

The meeting which took place in this city on Wednesday last was the most memorable gathering yet held in connection with the anti-disallowance agitation. "Shysters and irresponsible speculators" those composing the assemblage may have been, but if they were, the entire population of the city, and for that matter, of the whole province belong to this class. The meeting was remarkable for several features. The large attendance; the representative nature of those taking the most active part in the proceedings; the entire unanimity of action and sentiment; the orderly and business-like, but determined manner in which matters were conducted; the absence of injudicious statements tending to prejudice our case or give the agitation the appearance of taking an extreme or unlawful course; and last, but not least, the number of expressions received from all parts of the province, all to the same effect, that monopoly must be overthrown. These were features which could not but be noticed and commented upon. Letter after letter from reeves, mayors and municipal councils all over the province was read, and any single letter picked out at random would have given the context of the entire batch. The resolutions were to the point and passed without a dissenting vote. The first one declared that the interests of the entire province demand railway competition in furthering immigration; in securing reasonable freight rates for exports and imports; in the interests of extending trade with Eastern Canada and developing the Northwest. The second resolution denounced the telegram sent to Mr. Norquay by Sir George Stephen, as in keeping with the spirit of intolerant monopoly, and altogether untruthful in its assumptions. The third resolution declared that the election of supporters of the Dominion Government in Manitoba was secured by misrepresentation on the part of Sir John A. Macdonald, in leading the people to believe that by electing Government supporter they might expect a cessation of disallowance. The fourth resolution approved of the action of the Local Government in its recent railway legislation, and urged a continuance of the same line of action. The concluding resolutions expressed satisfaction at the fact that a portion of the eastern press and many eastern people were, now in sympathy with Manitoba in her struggles to obtain release from monopoly. The speeches throughout, like the resolutions, were effective and to the point, and the order of the meeting was only broken by the rounds of applause which greeted the telling portions of the addresses.