

C. P. R., that he would not be interfered with in any way and that the policy of the paper would not be changed; further, that he would remain in control of the same as before, the only stipulation being that he was not to run down the country.

Matters went on smoothly for some time, and so far as can be learned there was no effort at interfering, except at the time of the last general elections, when it is said Mr. Van Horne desired to have the Dominion candidates warmly supported by what people generally recognized as the C.P.R. organ. This Mr. Luxton is said to have declined to do, as it would be an endorsement of the National Policy, something in which he did not believe and did not consider in the best interests of the country, especially the Northwest. However, the Free Press did not support the Opposition candidates, showing that the hidden hand had some influence, which, coupled with Mr. Luxton's dislike of the Local Government accounted for the policy of the paper during that exciting period.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

So far as THE TRIBUNE reporter learned there was no specific instruction or effort to interfere with the policy of the paper until recently. The Sir Donald A. Smith option expired on the 6th of Sept. last. Mr. Luxton is said to have had almost completed arrangements, but failed for the time being, owing to the general financial depression. He asked for an extension, if only for a few months, which he was led to believe would be granted.

Without any intimation a meeting of the directors was called on Friday and the by-law appointing Mr. Luxton and defining his duties was cancelled and a resolution passed declaring the position of managing director, held by Mr. Luxton, vacant. It is said that at this meeting there were present Messrs. John Mather, G. A. Muttieberry and J. B. Somerset.

INTEREST IN THE DEAL.

On Friday evening a rumor became current on the streets that a change had taken place in the Free Press by which Mr. W. F. Luxton had severed his connection with that paper. The rumor spread like wild-fire and attracted the most intense interests in all circles. The knowing ones winked at one another about two weeks ago when Mr. Moynaux St. John, the well known eastern newspaper man, registered at the Manitoba and gave very general answers to the questions of interviewers. His visit was to look

into matters in the west in the interest of the C. P. R. Others thought that while this was quite true yet Mr. St. John had other strings to his bow. Friday evening a TRIBUNE reporter was stopped by a gentleman who said, "There's something in the wind; two prominent members of the Free Press staff and a well known supporter, Mr. Hugh Sutherland, have been seen in very earnest conversation and at a point outside of the offices of the paper. But from other sources came more definite information, and all pointed to the fact that a radical change had come over the Free Press, and that Mr. Luxton's connection had been severed. Prominent members of the Free Press company dropped curious hints to their friends, which in the present state of affairs meant a great deal.

On Saturday Messrs. Mather, Somerset and St. John were observed in conversation in a corner of the rotunda of the Manitoba, and the thrashing about and opening and folding of a copy of the Free Press left no doubt as to what was the object of their talk. Whatever may have been the tend of their talk they appeared to be well satisfied with the world in general, and it looked as if things were moving not altogether out of harmony with their wishes. As they separated Mr. Mather was approached by a TRIBUNE reporter, and after a few words about his trip to the west, he was asked if Mr. Luxton's successor had been appointed. Mr. Mather did not appear to be at all surprised at the question, but he answered that he was not just in a position to speak on the matter. "In fact," said Mr. Mather, "things are not in a position for me to say anything, and if the matter is now on the street Mr. Luxton must have told it. I cannot tell what he or his friends may have said, and of course I cannot answer for them."

"Well, is it true that Mr. Luxton has severed his connection with the paper?"

"It is true and it is not true. In fact, it is impossible for me to say anything about it. There will be a meeting this afternoon when the matter will be settled, and until that time I really cannot say anything. That is the state of affairs at present."

MR. ST. JOHN FOR EDITOR.

Nobody knows who will be editor, but everybody suggests Mr. St. John. The journalist of many exciting campaigns smiled in a knowing way when questioned by a TRIBUNE reporter. He fenced himself ably, however, and when the question as to his knowledge came out point blank, he said "I cannot say that I don't know something of who will be editor, but what I know I am not in a position to make public."