

Combinations, though sometimes resulting in the improvement of an industry, seldom work successfully for any great length of time. This has apparently been the case with the Oatmeal Millers' Association. Some time ago the oatmeal millers decided upon a price list, at which they unitedly agreed to dispose of their product. It was not long, however, before murmurs were heard that some millers were selling below the established prices. A meeting of the association was recently held at Toronto, when prices were advanced, owing to a shortage in the oat crop this season, and it was resolved to firmly hold to the quotations. The time is certainly opportune for an advance in oatmeal, but it is doubtful if all the millers will long maintain the advanced prices. In any combination of this nature there will usually be found some individuals who will cut prices on the sly, with the hope of obtaining an undue advantage over their competitors. Such individuals are often the most anxious for a combination, for the very reason that it affords them an opportunity of shaving prices below the established quotation. When an industry has been brought to the verge of ruin by a reckless system of slashing prices, a combination to uphold prices may have a temporary benefit, but it is the exception when such arrangements are adhered to by all concerned for any length of time.

It has been announced from Ottawa that Senator Schultz has been appointed Lieut.-Governor of Manitoba. It is also announced that Hon. Jos. Royal will be the next Governor of the Territories and that Mr. Richard Hardisty, Hudson's Bay Co's factor at Edmonton, will be made a senator. The first appointment will give very general satisfaction to the people directly interested. Besides being an old time resident of the Province, long before it was a Province, Senator Schultz has shown a very commendable interest in the welfare of Western Canada, and his efforts have been instrumental in bringing several important matters to the public attention. He has been intimately connected with the history of Manitoba since the time of the Red River rebellion, in which event he was forced to take a somewhat unenviable part. His appointment will also be received with satisfaction in that it marks a departure from the general rule of appointing Easterners to fill all public positions in the West. As to the proposed appointment of Jos. Royal to the Governorship of the Territories, nothing so favorable can be said. The appointment, if made, will be a most unpopular one, and only sympathy can be expressed for the people of the Territories, for the humiliation which in that case they will be obliged to submit to. In his connection with both Manitoba and Dominion politics, Mr. Royal has proved himself a man entirely devoid of honor, and thoroughly dishonest and corrupt. His appointment can only mean the heaping of disgrace upon the people of the Territories.

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