

have already been made by the Dominion Government for the appointment of an inspector at Winnipeg, and a special grade for hard wheat has been established to suit the products of the Northwest, and which can only be inspected here. The selection and recommendation of this inspector lies in the hands of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, the ratification being with the Dominion Government, and the Board have already taken steps to fill the vacancy and make the necessary arrangements for a system of inspection. There are other parties, however, who are desirous of having the appointment of this inspector, and among others the C. P. R. Company. With this power in their hands they could locate their system of inspection at Port Arthur, Fort William, or some port on Lake Superior, and then Manitoba grain would have to go to an Ontario village to find its quality and value. This is a state of affairs which the Board must be careful to guard against, and to do so they must insist upon all Manitoba grain being inspected and graded within the province; and set their face determinedly against the recognition of any grades fixed in another province. Assuredly, if they fail in this, they open the gate through which the manipulation of Northwestern grain affairs will eventually glide into the hands of eastern monopolies, and the country has already suffered enough from such organizations to be anxious for the rule of any more of them. The Board has already shown aptitude in guarding home interest against eastern aggression, and they will doubtless be equally careful to guard them in this matter.

But we have recently had another claim put forward for the right to dictate the appointment of, if not to appoint grain inspectors for Manitoba. The directors of the Manitoba and Northwest Farmers Co-operative and Protective Union are anxious to have the responsibility, but from their past record it is questionable, if entrusted with the power they would exercise it for the benefit of the class they claim to represent. But the establishment of a system of inspection of grain, while it is intended to deal out justice to the farmer, is not intended for his special protection, but is meant as a protection to the distant purchaser of our grain, and must be conducted upon principles of commercial integrity and under the supervision of some trade body. The fact that the grading of Manitoba grain was in the hands of Manitoba

farmers representatives, and liable to be manipulated for the benefit of the farmer without regard to the interests of the purchasers, would make our grades of practically no value as a guarantee to foreign purchasers. The power is wisely placed by the Dominion Government in the hands of the Board of Trade of the leading city of the province, a body composed of men who are above all others interested in seeing justice done to the agriculturists of the Northwest, and at the same time jealous of the reputation of the country's products. In their selection of inspectors therefore, there is little fear but the Board will look well after the interests of all concerned, and above all guard carefully against the grain business of the province coming under the manipulation of eastern monopolies and gliding from under local control.

THE MANITOBA NORTHWESTERN TERMINUS

The Portage la Prairie *Liberal* seems determined to oppose the extension of the Manitoba Northwestern to Winnipeg, and is thoroughly unscrupulous as to the means it employs in its work of obstruction. Our reply in our issue of July 22, the *Liberal* criticises in its last issue, still wailing over the wrong and injury the proposed extension would inflict upon Portage la Prairie, but without advancing a single argument in support of the theory, excepting that it might benefit Winnipeg and other places, and consequently must injure Portage la Prairie. All the wrongs inflicted upon the Portage by the demoniacal COMMERCIAL are once more recounted with an accuracy resembling the "pretty polly" of a parrot.

All the senseless twaddle contained in this article in the *Liberal* we might pass as unworthy of notice, but with that want of courtesy peculiar to a journal whose existence depends upon the artificial props which a few schemers bolster it with, the *Liberal* accuses us of manufacturing a paragraph for a dishonest purpose, and passing it as a former utterance. The paragraph in question is as follows:

"In a former article upon the same subject THE COMMERCIAL stated what it is again forced to reiterate, namely, that with the shops, round-house, and other labor centering institutions connected with the M.N.W., located at Portage la Prairie, it is impossible to see how that town could be injured by having increased railway accommodation to and from Winnipeg, the commercial as well as the legislative centre of Manitoba."

In our issue of February 20th, 1883, in an editorial upon this same proposed eastern extension of the Manitoba Northwestern, the following will be found:

"The latter (Portage la Prairie) with the shops and other institutions connected with the Northwestern located within its limits, would certainly have all the advantages that company could confer, and these are certainly not likely to be decreased any by additional railway facilities to and from Winnipeg, the commercial as well as the legislative centre of the province."

That any journal could pursue a consistent course for a year and a half is no doubt beyond the comprehension of the *Liberal*, and our consistency upon this point was, we believe, conscientiously doubted by that journal. We will give it credit for being thus far honest at least and would suggest at the same time that it might be a good policy for the *Liberal* to allow a similar credence to opponents in future. It is a bad policy to pursue when a matter arises which is beyond and above one's calibre of comprehension to stigmatise the whole as so much falsehood manufactured for the occasion, because it is just possible for broader and better informed minds to clearly comprehend all. But as already stated, we give the *Liberal* credit for honesty in this matter, but only that partizan honesty which is the outcome of narrowness, bigotry and ignorance.

We must take the precaution of stating that we cannot accept the contracted ideas of the *Liberal* as representing the opinions of the people of Portage la Prairie, and especially the commercial portion thereof. Long ago we had evidence of their enterprise and liberality and can place it in open contrast to the narrowness of a journal born out of a political emergency, and brought into existence for purely local political purposes. The proposed extension of the Northwestern may interfere with the schemes of a few politicians and speculators whose interests the *Liberal* finds it convenient to look after but who are outside the limit of those for whom THE COMMERCIAL has any care. We cannot believe, therefore, even if the *Liberal* asserts it, but that the trading classes of the Portage would be benefitted by the proposed extension, and they are unquestionably clear enough in their vision to see this.