We would respectfully remind advertisers that hereafter when a contract is made with this paper it is a contract that cannot be dissolved by the mere whim of the advertiser. Several parties have done this in the past, and we have not insisted upon the strict rights of the publishers. Such leniency will not be repeated in the future. Advertisers will bear in mind that in future they will be required to fulfill the conditions of their agreement, and that annulments of contract without liability can only be made by mutual consent between the contracting parties.

THE NOR'-WESTER.

WARNER & SON, Proprietors.

CALGARY, TUESDAY, DEC. 23, 1884.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Time which is said to overthrow the illusions of opinion and establish the decisions of nature has made another revolution with its wheel, and once more we are on the threshold of the festive season; "when the Christmas chimes of the good old times" will gladden the hearts of the old as well as of the young, and "happy voices" will awaken the echoes of the days back towards which we may all look with feelings of the fondest recollections. Not only do we wish our readers a MERRY, MERRY CHRISTMAS, but we hope they will live long enough to see the infant town develope into the full stature of metropolitan manhood.

URGING THE MATTER.

Because Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin has been boring Sir David MacPherson in the matter of territorial representation the exiguous local sheet has discovered that the Government "is considering the matter." This is an important discovery, and no doubt the writer thinks that it is original. Aye, immense! He should secure the patent without delay, else the McLeod *Gazette* will frustrate the business and file a caveat, and there is no dependence to be placed on the *Bulletin* which has now a Calgary special telegraphic correspondent, aiming in the direction of being the *Globe* of the North-West. The *Herald* writer, however, betrays an ignorance of the North-West Act that is refreshing as well as charming. For instance he falls foul of the *Bulletin* and knocks its pet project of "one territory one province" higher than Guy Sussac ever ascended. Hear him and let the *Bulletin* heed. The idea of forming the Territories into one Province with a Legislature similar to those of the other Provinces is not a bad one as ideas go. But the idea that any Government will undertake such an experimental and gigantic a piece of legislation without trying less laborious and risky measures first is one in which we do not share." The *Gazette* has also been nursing this project, but it will now have to take it all back and trot after the gymnastic organ which by the way is capable of giving a few lessons in the acrobatic art, as the *Gazette* is proficient in learning them. The writer continues "the other suggestion which has been made, that the provincial districts shall be made separate Provinces right off is injudicious, because we have no revenue and are not likely to have one for a good many years." An "injudicious suggestion" is a mild phrase even to idiocy, but is the scribbler aware that when the number of elective members in the North-West Council becomes twenty-one, that body becomes the Legislative Assembly of the North-West Territories, though the provisional districts remain as such?

The fact is all those journals in the North-West which have undertaken to howl about North-West matters are betraying an ignorance as to the existing act which is not surprising when it is remembered that few if any of them have really studied their subject. This state of things must continue so long as newspaper proprietors allow their columns to be under the control of irresponsible writers seeking their own individual advancement while posing as North-West patriots.

MUTUAL YUM YUMMING.

The *Gazette* quotes the *Herald* and that perfunctory journal quotes the *Gazette*. That is a game of mutual admiration which we would prefer to witness than those epithets the *Gazette* used to hurl at the *Herald* in anti-NOR'-WESTER days. But in all earnestness and in the name of real journalism, not the amateur articles, if the *Gazette*, desires to convey facts to its readers instead of fiction—it should know whereof it writes. Its last issue contains what professes to be a leading article on what it calls the mass meeting, (there were just seventy-one present) and it proceeds to extract comfort from the fact that there was nothing in the speeches made which can be construed as incendiary. No doubt it would have suited the *Gazette* better if there had been a display of demogoguism and flap doodle, and its disappointment at least finds expression. The *Gazette* had no reporterter present at the meeting, and its editorial is written on the strength of its own prejudices and the *Herald's* report, which, by the way, was a cooked up affair, as it, too, had no reporter present, or if present he took no notes, and this amounts to the same thing. The organ speaking of the absence of delegates from McLeod, and of the mission of certain resolutions says: "All this shows that there was no desire to run things, and that no advantage was taken of the absence of delegates from this district to pass measures which they did not feel sure would be acceptable. This mark of courtesy is entitled to an acknowledgment, and we hereby acknowledge it."

That ought to be a sufficient receipt, and we presume it is, provided always that the *Gazette* voices the respectable element of its district which we very much doubt, but in the little paragraph quoted we have the cue to the eloquent silence upon the lease question. The *Gazette* should know that the Calgary agitators were afraid to touch this subject. It is no doubt left to the McLeod *Gazette* to get up a sweeping resolution denouncing the leaseholders, because Mr. FitzCochrane and Mr. Bleeker both declare that Calgary has nothing to do with the lease matter. Settler Livingston, Councillor Geddes and Councillor Glen are yet to be heard from. So that there is a strong probability of there being considerable discord in the music. The more we view this petty agitation business the plainer it appears to us that the agitators will yet trip themselves.

UNCALLED FOR.

Among other things asked by the local agitators is the abolition of the nominated feature in the North-West Council, and the establishment of a purely elective body. The resolution to this purpose was moved by Mr. Oswald and seconded by Mr. Leech. The preamble to this resolution cites, "That the "Constitution of the North-West "Council being partly elective, and "partly nominative is anomalous "in the extreme and entirely un-"suited to the wants and require-"ments of the country." Therefore, Mr. Oswold asks, "that the Domin-"ion Government be respectfully "requested to pass such amend-"ments to the North-West Terri-"tories Act as will make the North-"West Council a purely elective "body with fuller and larger legis-"lative powers than these now en-"joyed by the Council, until the "time shall arrive when the differ-"ent provincial districts shall be "erected into separate provinces "with their own local legislatures." Mr. Oswald is the same gentleman who was defeated last summer by Mr. Geddes when he ran for member for this district. He is also the same gentleman who has been materially assisting to get up a petition to the Dominion Government, praying that the C. P. R. be compelled to plow several furrows on each side of their track, the whole distance, in order to abolish prairie fires. Mr. Leech, we believe, has gone to Nebraska for the winter where no doubt he will be able to study up the question of territorial representation from an "American point of view." The resolution which was placed in the hands of these gentlemen to move by the "resolution" committee is uncalled for and for the very good reason that there has been no especial complaint in this district against any of the nominated members. Mr. FitzCochrane himself knows this however much it may not suit him to admit it in the press, besides we pointed out in last week's issue, "that when the num-"ber of elected members in the "North-West Council amounts to "twenty-one the appointed Council "shall cease and be determined, "and the twenty-one members so "elected shall constitute the Legis-"lative Assembly of the North-"West territories, and all the "powers vested in the Council shall "thenceforth be vested in and ex-"ercisable by the Legislative As-"sembly." What could be fairer? During the present year two new elective members were added to the Council, so that just as soon as population demands it, the purely elective principle will prevail. To force matters is not only wrong but it is manifestly unfair. Mr. Bleeker has undertaken to state in public that it will take ten years to have a purely elective Council. Mr. FitzCochrane has reiterated this. Both gentlemen are in error. The elective members in the North-West Council already number seven. Another year is likely to add three or four more, so that these gentlemen must have patience and wait, not ten years, but perhaps less than three years. It is, however, unfair for them to misrepresent and mislead. Both these gentlemen personally may be in a hurry, but they will have to wait a little until the country is able to catch up with them.

A prominent North-West lawyer of our acquaintance though reaping a rich harvest from cases adjudicated by Stipendiary Magistrates and Mounted Police officials, sighs for the good times coming when there shall be no mounted police, no fines, and consequently no fees. This is an instance of legal unselfishness that ought to make the shades of Judah P. Benjamin fairly shift. It is, however, due to our North-West legal acquaintance to say, that he has already reaped a rich harvest in defending the poor devils who have been fined, taking his fees whenever the wealth was to be got and claiming glory when glory was the only circulating medium to be had—ad utrumque paratus.

The new Town Council are taking time by the forelock. They have passed a fire bye law the provisions of which if properly enforced cannot fail to be more than an ounce of protection. Mayor Murdoch is a worker, a good stickler not only for rules, but for wholesome by-laws, and what is more, their strict enforcement.

The people of the Provisional District of Assiniboia are moving in the direction of Provincial Organization. There is sense in the movement—far more than there is the blind groping after the alleged territorial representation which has been defined as being on the "American" plan.

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