

contest which seems to deepen and intensify senseless party strife, and consequently breaks the power which by unity the province lately possessed, must be a special cause for regret, mitigated only by the hope that nine days more will bring relief, if even of a questionable character.

A year ago it seemed impossible, that the people of this province could be so soon split and discordant, and no one could have foreseen, that the leaders, which the united action of a people placed in power a few months ago, would now be appealing for a continuation of power as nominees of an old and fossilized eastern-born party, which in bygone years showed as much ignorance of Northwestern affairs and perpetrated as many and as great blundering outrages upon this country, as the party now in power at Ottawa ever did. But we suppose it is one more proof of the truth of that stupid old quotation about the dog and his vomit, and the sow and the mire, which, stupid though it may be, fits aptly into political affairs in this province.

We people who have been talking about independence and provincial rights, may as well close up, for once more we are having a pure Grit and Tory fight in Manitoba, and that it is so is chargeable primarily to the men, who have been borne into power on a no party cry. The Government of Mr. Greenway could, if it had felt inclined, have stopped the holding of every Reform convention recently held in the province, and have secured in place gatherings of electors bound together only by the ties which mutual provincial interests have formed; gatherings in which the bigotries and prejudices which men have brought here from the East could have been buried, and provincial progress been the all-absorbing aim. After all Mr. Greenway and his colleagues are like other Canadians, unable to view any political question unless through Grit or Tory glasses, and naturally they have drifted to old party ties instead of mooring themselves to new-born provincial interests alone.

It is not difficult to see why Mr. Greenway and his friends should once more muster their forces as much as possible in old party lines. They see plainly that it is impossible for the opposition in its present disorganized state to make any strong showing in the next Legislature. They know that the Reform vote is sure,

and they also know that the independent vote can never be secured for the nominees of an opposition, which has as yet never publicly repudiated the blundering incapacity of Mr. Norquay, or the financial antics of Mr. La Riviere. In fact many Conservatives will on this account vote for Greenway candidates, so that the Government members can in most cases depend upon the unflinching support of their Reform friends, as well as the votes of many outsiders who will support them, because they see no other reasonable course open. Mr. Greenway and his associates know they are sure of a good working majority in the house, and if the majority be not so large as it would be if they were to stand as representatives of the province's rights independent of old party lines, the slavish obedience and neck and heel servility of a majority of straight party supporters will more than make up for anything short in numbers. Such a majority will serve the behests of party leaders much better than a larger one in which there is an element of independence, but it will by no means serve the interests of the province so well.

The people of Manitoba may make up their minds that they are going to have a few years of government in accordance with the ideas of leaders of the Reform party in the Dominion House, just as we have had ten years of Government in accordance with the ideas of Dominion Conservative leaders. We will give the present Local Government credit for a desire, and probably something stronger than a desire, to make the ideas of their Ottawa leaders and the interests of this province assimilate. How well they will succeed, time will tell; but it may be accepted as a certainty, that Mr. Greenway and his colleagues could have served the interests of their fellow citizens of this province much better, had they cut loose from every old party tie, and based their efforts upon the good of their own province, irrespective of what the opinions of their eastern Reformer friends may be. By failing to follow this latter independent and self-reliant course, they have introduced the thin edge of the wedge into a provincial unity, which in a few years would have been strong enough to resist any aggression from Ottawa.

WHEAT.

The wheat situation is still the leading question of interest, commercially, to a large portion of this continent. In the United States there appears to be a great deal of uncertainty as to the crop situation, and government returns are by no means accepted as reliable. The returns of some of the State departments vary considerably from the official estimates of the Federal Government. In California, the fourth largest winter wheat-producing State, the harvest has been a favorable one, and a large crop of fine wheat has been garnered. According to the official estimates, the wheat crop of California would be about 23,000,000 bushels, against 30,429,000 bushels for last year. Late San Francisco advices, however, place the California crop at about 100 tons over last year. This will show the contradictory nature of the various crop reports. In the central winter wheat region, reports early last week indicated that the weather had not been very favorable for harvesting, but no serious damage is yet known to have occurred. Many authorities believe that the Government figures underestimate the probable yield of winter wheat. In the spring wheat region, prospects have on the whole been very favorable, and lead to the belief that a full crop will be harvested. Grasshoppers and chinch bugs are talked of in some sections of Minnesota and hot winds in Central Dakota are reported, but altogether the outlook is good. Whilst the official returns indicated a reduction of one per cent. in the spring wheat area, many authorities estimate a slightly increased area. The most generally accepted estimate of the entire wheat crop of the United States for 1888, is now about 400,000,000, or about 15,000,000 bushels more than average estimates of a few weeks back. This would still give a shortage, as compared with the crop of last year, of about 50,000,000 bushels, and would leave the quantity available for export at only about one-half the average annual exports of wheat and flour from the United States. European crop reports are conflicting. Russia promises to return a heavier yield than in 1887, which latter was a big crop year. Exports of wheat, rye and oats from Southern Russia ports for the season eclipse all previous records. The crops in other European countries are more uncertain, and generally point to not over if up to an average yield.