

province to a level, which even a retaliatory necessity would not justify.

But outside of the justice of the policy we advocate, it has the argument of safety and wisdom to commend it. The C. P. R. Company holds by far too much power in Canada, and the best policy for this province to pursue is, to detract from that power as much as possible, or if we cannot do that, let us avoid in every way adding to it. If the province has any aid to spare to railways let it be carefully husbanded, and used to aid companies which are in opposition to the C. P. R. The more powerful the opponents brought into competition, the better able will they be to compete. Or to put the matter more plainly, the C. P. R. is an organization operated with the aim of placing the west commercially at the mercy of the east, and the west should withhold from it all patronage it can give to its rivals here.

But the question is still unanswered of who is primarily to blame for the present railway obstruction in Manitoba, although the answer is easily given. The Dominion Government must bear that burden. When crossings of the C. P. R. were wanted over the Grand Trunk, the Railway Committee could act promptly with an Order in Council, but when the Province of Manitoba wished a crossing of the C. P. R., it was found that difficulties were in the way, which the committee found it convenient to refer to the Supreme Court to settle. Had it been a crossing desired by the C. P. R. company it is very probable the aid of the Supreme Court would never have been called in. But then the Province of Manitoba is not as powerful at Ottawa as the C. P. R. company, and that makes all the difference. It will not be long until one constituency in Manitoba will be appealed to for a verdict for or against the Ottawa Government, and it is to be hoped, that the electors there will keep in mind who are primarily responsible for the Province's present railway troubles.

FROSTED WHEAT AND PORK RAISING.

Seemingly frost is about the only dangerous enemy the grain raiser of Manitoba has to contend with. Wheevil, rust, blight and several other drawbacks, with which agriculturists further east and south have had to contend, are almost, if not altogether unknown here, and are never taken into calculation by our farmers. Frost in the early fall is the one great cause of dread, and it is safe to say,

that one-half of the population of this province both farmers and others spend two nervous weeks each year during the latter part of August.

-We have come to have in this country an almost plague-like fear of fall frost, much the same as they have of yellow fever in the Gulf States during summer, and yet it is questionable if this frosted wheat experience is not a system of education as to the agricultural qualities of our country, which if expensive has the commendable qualification of being practical.

It is impossible to expect that with raising grain on such a large scale as our farmers do, there will not be some inferior product almost every year, which the farmers must utilize in some other way than by selling it as grain, and this inferior product in Manitoba is frosted grain, to sell which is sometimes impossible, and never profitable. The fact is to be in a position to guard against serious loss by frosted grain our farmers must have animals to feed the same to, particularly hogs, to whom frosted wheat in a cooked form is a great flesh producer. It can be mixed with potatoes, turnips or other root feed and in this way be made to realize often more per bushel than sound wheat sold for milling purposes. Week after week our farmers are receiving advice to go into mixed farming, and a great deal of such advice is given without a proper consideration of the pecuniary circumstances they are placed in, for it must be kept in view, that the great bulk of these farmers are not possessed of means to follow such advice. But this argument of utilizing frosted wheat is a very powerful proof, that they should make some effort in that direction.

Few of the settlers of a new country start with a capital necessary to go into cattle raising, for not only does a starting stock cost considerable money, but the farmer has to feed and care three or four years before he can realize from his work. But with hog raising circumstances are changed. Each year the farmer can send to market his crop of hogs, just the same as he can send his crop of wheat and barley, and if he is any distance from a market he will find hog marketing requires but a small share of weary hauling compared with grain marketing. Then as to which is most profitable, practical parties say the advantages of feeding even good grain over selling it are beyond question. The experience of older por-

tions of this continent proves this, for in most such districts grain raising alone has ceased to pay, while hog and general stock raising still yield a fair return to the farmer. With the Manitoba farmer there is no necessity for feeding good grain this year, for he can utilize the damaged portion of his crop if he has any.

Only those who have carefully watched our local markets, can know the effect frosted wheat has had upon pork production in this province. The damaged crops of 1883-4 and 5 left large quantities of wheat unfit for milling purposes, and during these three years pork raising made rapid strides, until the dry year of 1886 came, when almost every bushel of our short crop of wheat was of prime quality, and was in consequence rushed to market. Our farmers could not see the wisdom of saving their hogs with no damaged grain and a short fodder crop, and hogs were sold for what they would bring and in many instances at ridiculously low prices. Even the shipment of live hogs to eastern markets started, and Montreal men took out of the province some six thousand live hogs. The result was a pork famine, which compelled heavy importations in 1887, and as the crop of that year comprised very little if any grain unfit for milling, there was no eagerness with farmers to continue at pork raising although a high price had been reached. Manitoba is still importing pork although dressed hogs in this city are now selling at eight to nine cents a pound. The probability is, that with considerable damaged grain pork raising will revive again for a year, but to secure a start farmers will have to pay fancy prices for their stock.

This state of things shows the folly of making pork raising a casual instead of a permanent branch of farming in this country, and it is to be hoped our farmers will not again require a frosted crop of grain to remind them of the fact, for it does seem anomalous, that a country exporting grain in millions of bushels, should have to import a large proportion of its pork supplies.

The erratic manner in which the pork production of the province has moved has made it impossible so far to establish pork packing institutions of any magnitude, and unless farmers look to it, and produce a regular supply, they will continue to keep Winnipeg and other cities of the province, markets of but little value to the farmer. One good year's effort by our farmers would promptly stop pork importation.