

by aid of the almost unlimited combination of capital that can be effected. A good instance of this may be seen in the recent amalgamation of the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways. These roads have been rivals ever since their construction, and their competition has in no small measure helped to advance the interests of the people of this country, lowering the rates of inland and outward bound freight. In their passenger traffic also they have always shown an inclination to keep up the full rates, except at competing points, in which cases they invariably brought them to an even figure, no matter what the difference would have been at the ordinary rate charged. All this was of course brought about by opposition, and the healthy rivalry thus created did the public very much good, while it did the railroad companies little or no harm.

All this is now to be changed however, and in place of opposition and cutting of rates we are to have fusion and monopoly, and as a consequence a tightening of the screws as far as they can legitimately be turned. By their recent amalgamation the Grand Trunk and Great Western shareholders have virtually placed the people of this province at their mercy, and if they are as soulless as corporations are usually represented to be we shall not be long in feeling the effects of the change.

In fact in many places both the freight and passenger rates have already been advanced to more profitable figures for the railroads, and it is only a question of time when it will become general all along the line.

The necessity for a Railway Commission appointed by parliament to look after the rights of the people is becoming every day more apparent, and cannot be ignored much longer. Such a commission has been found necessary in Great Britain, and we think that they could find plenty of work in Canada in putting down the abuses connected with the railway management as at present practised.

CANADA'S GREAT FAIR.

As we confidently predicted in our last issue, the fourth Industrial Exhibition of the City of Toronto proved a greater success than any of its predecessors, and the management and the citizens of Toronto may be fairly congratulated on the splendid success they have achieved. This, the greatest of Canada's fairs, has already grown to be a recognized institu-

tion throughout the country, and it is hardly premature to say that its successful inauguration and steady prosperity has sounded the knell of the perambulating system of exhibitions heretofore in vogue in this country.

We have previously expressed in these columns our conviction that the day of itinerant fairs was past, and that although they had served a good purpose in the early days of our development, that they had outlived their usefulness, and should, therefore, be quietly relegated to some honorable niche in our agricultural museum.

If the head pushers of that almost defunct institution could be brought to realize that their pet show had outlived its usefulness, and that the sooner they throw what little energy they possessed into some live concern the better it would be for themselves and the country at large, they would have made long ago a step in the direction of advancement. But, singular to say, they still cling to the idea that they, and only they, are able to run such a gigantic concern as a Provincial Exhibition, and that if they were to let it go by the boards the British constitution would be endangered. They fail to see that in this age of electricity and steam their Government papered raising is wholly unfit to compete against the healthy, wide-awake stripling that private enterprise has set up against it. They also fail to see that they are not keeping abreast with the spirit of the age, and that the people do not now see the propriety of subsidizing an institution that is always financially embarrassed, and one, moreover, whose work can now be accomplished, not only better, but without any expense to the country at large.

As a matter of fact, these great central fairs, which are the direct outgrowth of commercial rivalry and friendly competition, are so far in advance of the old provincial, that one can only wonder at the blindness which prompts the continuance of the latter. In an exhibition such as the Toronto Industrial one, where the buildings and other improvements are permanent, it can be easily seen that there is a great incentive for improving and beautifying it year by year. All this is entirely altered in the perambulating system where a great deal of money is expended upon a concern that exists only for a few days at the most and then destroyed, or left to return

to its former natural state. You might as well expect to get as good protection from the sun from a lot of saplings planted each year and left in the ground for about a month, as from a grove of healthy growing shade trees which had seen both the storms and sunshine of half a century.

By the action of the directors of the Provincial last year in forcing themselves upon Toronto for the avowed purpose of killing its Industrial Exhibition, the last link in the chain which bound that valuable institution to this city was severed, and whatever be its ultimate ending, it is now practically defunct as far as Toronto is concerned.

We are sorry to notice a growing feeling of jealousy between the other large cities of Ontario and the Capital of the Province. They seem to think that Toronto's growth must mean their decay and that this city should go quietly to sleep and let every other place get the start of it. If Toronto goes into anything in a spirited manner they at once raise the cry of monopoly and centralization, and try to induce the public to beware of her grasping and selfish designs.

This should not so be. The Queen City of the West is no more selfish than any of its dearies; perhaps if the truth were told, hardly so much, but she is bound to keep in the van of Canadian intelligence and enterprise, and if by reason of her population, wealth and other attractions, she is able to make a success of what has hitherto proved a financial failure, her public spirited citizens should be praised instead of censured for it. This Industrial Exhibition is entirely an outgrowth of private enterprise, and now that its promoters have demonstrated to the country that such things can be run to pay without drawing on the public exchequer, their example ought to be imitated by many of the surrounding cities.

The large measure of success that the exhibition has met with this year, will no doubt have the effect of making the promoters put forth more vigorous efforts in the future, and there is every probability of the next year's fair outstripping all its predecessors in point of attractions and attendance. Its prize list, now the largest of any exhibition in the Dominion, is being increased annually, and it is no utopian idea to hope that before our exhibition is a quarter of a century old, it will have grown into such a vigorous manhood as to be recognized as one of the great attractions not only for Ontario alone, but for the whole of the Dominion.