

The Commercial

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SELF RELIANCE.

There is no trait in the character of an individual so necessary for success as self reliance, and indeed where such a characteristic is awaiting success may in such instances be attributed to pure luck. The lack of this necessary element is too apt to foster a spirit of irresolute dependence, and not unfrequently develops into cringing toadyism. The social, political and commercial results are usually the same where self reliance is wanting, and in all three fields success is the exception and not the rule.

The above principles hold good not only in individuals but may, with rare exceptions, be extended to associations, communities and even nations, and illustrations of their truth are well known to any observing man.

It is to be feared that the trait of self reliance has not been cultivated as much as it might have been in the North-west during the past few years, and its increase of late has been due mainly to the sad and expensive lessons that have been taught to those who persist in looking for outside assistance. This outside assistance has been looked for from many sources, and the eye of expectancy has been steadily directed by many towards a political source. Each gushing politician has looked to one or other of the two great political parties of the Dominion for relief only to be left in disappointment. Conservatives in the North-west have looked for great public undertakings on the part of the Government they support that would insure a millenium of plenty here; and although much has been done in this way by the present Government, the results have fallen far short of the expectations. On the other hand reformers look for the return of their party to power and predict that their policy of crushing monopolies would bring about an era of prosperity and progress not yet experienced. The hope is doubtless as vain as that of their political opponents, and both are the product of political toadyism and lack of self reliance. The past year has shown that the reform press and leaders of the East can maintain a systematic misrepresentation and belittling of the North-west, with the aim of indirectly

throwing odium upon the policy of their opponents towards this country, while the Conservative Ministry now in power seem to realize the great value of the North west, and encourage its settlement and development only to enable it to become a field for eastern manufactures, and to bear the application of such tariff blisters as Sir Leonard Tilley brought forward in his budget of last session. To depend much upon assistance from such sources is a clear case of leaning upon a broken reed.

But in the business community of the North west there has also been too much dependence placed upon outside sources. The floating of a lot of U.P.R. bonds some months ago was expected by many to make money easy, and we hear similar talk now about the floating of Manitoba North-western bonds. Some people in Winnipeg maintain that the delaying of the work of city improvements is to blame for all the stagnation of trade in the city, and clamor for the work to be pushed at once. Numerous other trade bolsters in the shape of outside resources are looked for which even if secured would bring little if any relief. Every expectation of this sort is only a relic of dependence still left, and a longing after the artificial and unsafe state of affairs, which existed during 1881-82. In the work of building railways and such like public improvements it is only right to invite the aid of distant capital, and find for it a safe and remunerative investment; but for the extension of the commerce of the country at least it is well to discard all dependence upon outside assistance, and trust only in the efforts of those who have cast in their lot with the North-west. In short to be thoroughly self reliant. The training the North-west has undergone since the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada has been such as would encourage the tendency to dependence. The Dominion Government swallowed up the lands and every other resource of value in Manitoba and the North-western territories, and in return therefor deals back such public improvements as are deemed advisable, much in the same manner as an administrator deals out to a minor a portion of the property owned by, but not entrusted in the administration of such minor. In political affairs, therefore, it is just if it is not wise, to expect much for the North-west. In the work of settling up the country a similar tendency has been encouraged.

Land grabbing colonization and othersuch companies have been granted lands and privileges, which place them in the position of nurses to North-western progress, while the speculative mania of the past two years only added to the growing belief that the real settler of the country was a party for secondary consideration, or at best the patronizing favors of the speculative philanthropist. Altogether the treatment the North-west has received has been calculated to make its settlers a dependent and toadying class.

How much of this course of treatment was necessary in by gone days it is not profitable now to discuss. But the swaddling band days of the North-west are over, and although yet youthful this great country has reached its majority, and is able to guide its own affairs of commerce at least. The Eastern sucking bottle need no longer be applied, and if its application be persisted in, resentment, as well as refusal, might be justifiable. Having reached the proportions of manhood North-western trade must learn to spurn the so-called philanthropic assistance which usually has to be dearly paid for, and assert its ability to be thoroughly self reliant.

IMMIGRATION AND COLONIZATION.

The report of the select committee on Immigration and Colonization just issued from the Department at Ottawa, contains a vast amount of valuable and interesting information. Several eminent men, among them John Lowe, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, with respect to immigration; Prof. Selwyn and Dr. Geo. Dawson, of the Geological Survey, as to Hudson Bay territory, and Prof. Macoun as to the adaptability for settlement of the various provinces of the Dominion. From the report, we glean that the number of immigrant settlers in Canada in 1882 reached the figure of 112,458, while in 1881 there were but 47,991. Besides those who settled in Canada, 80,692 immigrant passengers went through our country to the western States, and as this is the largest recorded number since 1868, it shows the growing popularity of the Canadian route for through passengers to the western United States. The property and effects brought into Canada by immigrants, and invested in the North-west, in 1882, was not less than \$10,000,000. The total expenditure by the Department of Agriculture for immigration purposes was