

ble to fill orders for "choice" butter, knowing that there was nothing in their stocks which would come up to the requirements. Now it must not be concluded that the great bulk of the butter is bad from the start. Undoubtedly a great deal of the butter marketed here was of good quality when first turned out from the farmer's dairy. The trouble, however, has been in the mode of marketing and the length of time in getting the article to market. Who will look at a package of butter which commences to taste and smell of the cellar, when a nice fresh article can be had? There is no article upon which "freshness" places such a premium as butter, simply because it is an article which very easily becomes deteriorated in value. Yet the way butter is often handled, one would suppose it was no more susceptible to loss of value from surrounding influences than a keg of nails. A very few days in an ordinary store cellar is quite sufficient to prevent the very best butter from selling as a choice article. Every day's delay in the hands of the farmer or the cellar of the country store, detracts from the value of the article. Receipts in the Winnipeg market show this to be the case. Last fall quite a portion of the butter arriving here could be considered of fairly good quality, whilst receipts coming to hand now, which have been held by country merchants over the winter, are usually of very poor quality.

Until creameries are largely established, it is not likely that Manitoba will take her proper place as a producer of good butter; but in the meantime a great deal can be done to improve the average quality of the butter as marketed. Farmers can do a great deal by exercising care and cleanliness in the manufacture of butter, and the merchant (who in some instances is more to blame than the farmer) can do perhaps more by seeing that the butter is kept in a wholesome place whilst in his charge, supplied with pure, fresh air, free from the taint of decaying vegetable matter, oils, provisions, etc. But the best advice to give is: Make haste in marketing. Freshness is the great consideration in butter; therefore, market it whilst fresh. This advice will apply to both butter makers and butter handlers. Let the farmer market his butter at once, and the merchant follow up the same system by shipping immediately to the point of consumption or to the central market, and the average quality of our butter

would be so greatly improved as to astonish the wholesale dealers, who have heretofore handled the article.

REMOVING MONOPOLY.

Western Canada is now passing through an eventful epoch in its history—the most eventful since the signing of the agreement with the C. P. R. syndicate for the construction of the great transcontinental road. It was little dreamed of at that time that this agreement, or rather a single clause of the agreement, would, in the near future, form such an important bone of contention, and even a menace to the stability of the Dominion. The great work which was to be carried out under the agreement, was to be the means of uniting and consolidating the Dominion. It was to form the band which would unite the sisterhood of provinces in a close and friendly commercial and political union. But time changes and circumstances change with it. The agreement made near the close of 1880, which was to have this consolidating effect, has for some time past constituted an active menace to the integrity of the Dominion, and so soon as 1888 it has been found necessary to reconsider and amend the agreement. Indeed, so soon as in the summer of 1887, or within seven years from the signing of the C. P. R. contract, the Province of Manitoba was acting in open defiance of the Dominion, owing to the action of the latter in attempting to enforce the spirit, if not the letter, of that contract.

True, some Manitobans objected against the signing of the contract, on the ground that it was unjust to this Province, and would retard the development of the great prairie country of the West. But Parliament was carried away with enthusiasm, and readily passed the bill. It has been claimed that the C. P. R. monopoly contract did not apply to Manitoba, and that therefore the anti-monopoly agitation had nothing to do with the contract. But as a matter of fact the Dominion "trade policy" and the C. P. R. monopoly clause were in effect one and the same thing. If the monopoly clause had applied to Manitoba as thoroughly as it did to the Territories, so that there had been no disputing the intent of the clause, the effect and result would have been none the less baneful to Manitoba, and the agitation for the removal of monopoly would have come all the same, though perhaps in different form. The injurious

effects of railway monopoly upon the country, the desirability of its removal, and the danger of its further continuance, are no doubt the grounds upon which the Dominion Government has considered the question, in arriving at a decision to remove the incubus.

The agreement now being made (or which has perhaps by this time been finally completed) for the removal of monopoly, is at present the most interesting matter. Manitobans will care little what may hereafter be said as to the application of the monopoly clause of the C. P. R. charter to this Province, so long as this monopoly is entirely and effectually removed. Up to the time of writing, the particulars of the basis upon which monopoly is to be done away with, have not been made public; but once assured that the end of monopoly is at hand, the people have been inclined to wait patiently for full information. This will certainly be forthcoming within a very few days.

Some ominous hints have been thrown out, notably by the *Montreal Gazette*, a journal which should be well informed as to the intentions of the Dominion Government, that in the settlement of the monopoly question, due regard will be had to the interests of Eastern Canada, in preventing the trade of the western country from flowing toward the United States. The *Gazette* intimates that the divergence of trade and traffic to United States channels will be carefully guarded against. This would indicate that the Dominion Government has not yet fully relinquished its "trade policy" idea, and is yet desirous of placing restrictions upon western commerce, though it may mean that the *Gazette* is only endeavoring to let itself down easy in its change of tune. It is to be hoped, however, that when the particulars are made known, they will be found free from any restrictive clauses. Nothing but a complete surrender of the monopoly idea will be satisfactory to Manitoba, and if the Dominion authorities are as anxious for the removal of the agitation as they profess to be, they will leave it nothing to feed upon. Assuredly the agitation will not cease if any restrictions are to remain upon the commerce of the West. Anything less than a complete removal of monopoly will at best but exercise a temporary influence in quieting agitation, and it hardly seems probable that with past experience the Government will seek a present settlement on such a basis.