

lines, never for a moment expecting that they would have to face the unheard of situation, of having their common carrier to the seaboard as a competitor in their business. No doubt the philanthropic deal was a link in the engineering of some financial undertaking in which European capitalists had to be coaxed or tickled; but whether it was successful in that respect or not, the loss it brought to its operators, and the injury done to the reputation of our Northwestern raised wheat in British markets by the damp and otherwise damaged stuff, which was bought and shipped on philanthropic and not business principles, was such that there is not much fear of a repetition of that blunder.

In another place in these columns will be found an article quoted from the *Montreal Trade Bulletin*, which in a humorous and satirical way furnishes the information that in the milling, as well as in the grain buying business, the C.P.R. combination have not struck a financial success. It has been pretty generally believed, and not without good reason, that the fine new flouring mill at Keewatin was from first to last simply a C.P.R. enterprise, owned by the C.P.R. directorate and a few friends, and constructed and operated to be worked purely in the interests of the railway company, no matter how unfair might be the arrangement to others in the milling trade. According to the *Trade Bulletin*, (and that journal has a happy knack of blurting out unpleasant facts at times) the milling venture, or if you like it adventure, of the C.P.R. crowd at Keewatin, although only a year in operation, has already cost its owners \$75,000 to \$100,000 of a loss in running alone; so that if kept in operation upon the same principles for five years more, we would probably hear of an appeal being made to the Dominion Government for a subsidy to keep it running *pro bono publico*, for assuredly it has not so far been run for the benefit of its owners.

So it would appear, that in milling as well as grain buying the efforts of the C.P.R. combination have been anything but a success, and they have received one more expensive piece of instruction in what might seem plain to them, namely, that railroading and neither commerce nor manufactures is their line of business. If they can only get that fact firmly fixed in their minds there is some hope of their operating the C.P.R. so that it may be a

benefit to the grain and milling interests of Canada, instead of the company being as it has been in the past a menace to both. Enterprise is altogether misguided when its rose is poked into other people's business, and this is what the C.P.R. combination have been doing in connection with both the grain and milling business.

The Keewatin mill has passed we understand into the control of Messrs. Hastings Bros. & McGaw, and with this transfer we hope will vanish every interference from C.P.R. magnates with any branch of trade to which they are servants as public carriers.

THE LATE HON. A. G. B. BANNATYNE.

There was somewhat of a shock felt by all old residents of Winnipeg on Monday morning of last week, when the daily press announced the death of the Hon. A. G. B. Bannatyne, which took place in St. Paul on Saturday, while he was on his way home to this city, after spending the winter in Texas, whither he had gone last fall to spend some months in a warm climate, and avoid the rigors of a northern one, which his failing health would not allow him to face. Although Mr. Bannatyne had been in poor health for a number of years, and many of his friends as well as himself believed he had his fatal disease upon him, still his death within one day's travel of his home, seems a specially sad circumstance, and was a sad disappointment to many who knew of his intending return, and hoped, if only for once, to meet him again in his own home, and in the country to which he was so attached. But it was willed otherwise, and only his mortal remains reached this city on Monday, and were interred in the Kildonan church-yard on Tuesday afternoon, when they were followed to their last resting place by one of the largest processions of citizens of every grade that ever attended a funeral in this city.

The honorable gentleman was a Scotchman by birth, but at a very early age entered the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, from which time he made his home in what is now the Canadian Northwest, and has been intimately connected with its growth and progress ever since. Although he had only attained his sixtieth year, his life was a long one if judged by the record of work and usefulness he left behind him. As a pioneer, a citizen, and a legislator he put the stamp of

his upright character upon everything he touched, and when laying down life's burden he might truly have said, I have lived not for myself half as much as for the welfare of others.

But as a trade journal THE COMMERCIAL finds in the deceased gentleman one of the oldest links with the past. Only those who have lived nearly half a century in this Northwest can realize how rigidly the Hudson Bay Company's officers sought to enforce the Company's trading monopoly in early days. Yet as far back as 1848 Mr. Bannatyne braved all their power, and established what may be considered the first independent store in Manitoba, and for over twenty years he carried on this business in opposition to every obstruction put in his way by the Company's officers. When then, his sad death occurred, the Northwest lost its father of free and untrammelled trade. His name is fitly placed to-day at the head of the list of Presidents of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, he having been the first to fill that responsible position. In connection with many other spheres of public life Mr. Bannatyne's name stands out prominently, showing that for the public good he was ever ready to sacrifice himself.

Men possessed of the sterling qualities of Mr. Bannatyne are invariably successful in business, and he was no exception to the rule. Eight years ago he might have been considered a wealthy man even in an older, more populous and wealthier country than Manitoba. Unfortunately he got caught in the whirlwind of speculation, which passed over this country in 1881-2, and in latter years had the misfortune and mortification to see slipping from his grasp the accumulations of many years, and not through his own mismanagement, but through the recklessness of others in whom he placed too implicit a confidence. No man in the Northwest had wider sympathy in his misfortune, for none possessed a freer hand and more liberal heart than he, while he possessed wealth.

Seldom does death claim a man for whose loss regrets come from such varied sources. Many have lost a warm social friend; the country has lost one who was a conscientious and patriotic legislator; the church has lost one whose example as a Christian was brought out in every sphere of life, and the commercial community has lost the pioneer and father of unrestricted commerce throughout the Canadian Northwest.