

at market prices in Winnipeg and St. Paul or Minneapolis will convince any unbiased mind that Manitoba agriculturists enjoy at present great advantages through the tariff on grain. Without tariffs the price of wheat in Manitoba would be fixed by the Millers' Association of Minneapolis, and the system of crushing monopoly enforced by that association throughout Minnesota and portions of Dakota, by which no independent grain buyer can exist in country towns unless at their will and pleasure, is proof of how Manitoba wheat would fare in that market. But with present prices the advantages are in favor of Manitoba. During the past week Winnipeg prices for wheat have ranged from four to six cents a bushel above a shipping margin to Minneapolis, and during the present season there have been times when it reached fifteen cents above. Without a tariff this four-to-fifteen cents would be detached from the farmers' returns. At present oats sell in Winnipeg from nine to twelve cents above Minneapolis prices, and without a tariff oats from Minnesota would deluge the Manitoba markets, and take one-third off the price of the farmer's oats. It is the same in almost every other agricultural product; so that the complaint of protection burdening the North-west agriculturist is at least unnecessary if not dishonest. The facts have probably never been looked into by the reverend gentleman at West Lynne, who evidently forsakes theology for a time to dabble into politics, in which new field his success will be small if he displays the same blundering ignorance he has of commercial economy.

It is a fact beyond dispute that a tariff system can be advocated upon grounds of expediency only, and this is fully recognized in the reciprocal clause of the Customs Act of 1879, by which local products can be admitted duty-free from the United States, as soon as the American government sees fit to adopt a similar policy. As a matter of expediency, therefore, a tariff system is for the benefit of the North-west at present; and when railway communication is open to Lake Superior, and a system of cheaper freights than possibly can be secured across the international boundary line is within the reach of the people of Manitoba, Americans will soon see the benefit of a reciprocal policy.

There is but one way out of the diffi-

culty of high prices of manufactured goods, and that is by the encouragement of local manufactures, and the abundance in which coal can now be found throughout the North-west should stimulate this encouragement. More capital placed in manufactures, and less in townsites and imaginary railway schemes would be productive of much good for the North-west; and it would act as a check upon a certain class of Eastern men, who with a patronizing air, talk of the vast North-west only as a field for Eastern merchandise and manufactures, which must ever remain only an agricultural district, into which the products of Eastern and foreign factories can be pushed. The enterprise and energy of Canada are filling up the North-west, and we are mistaken if these elements will long remain merely tillers of the soil, but will branch off into manufacturing pursuits, and when they do so they will find that a protective tariff is not a bad shelter under which to embark in such undertakings.

THE CANADIAN LAND MANIA.

There is a periodical published in London, England, called *Money*, and we mention the fact, knowing that but few sensible people have ever seen the sheet, and still fewer ever troubled themselves to read one of its columns. Its issue of November 15th contains an article with the above heading, which is unquestionably the most gushing piece of cockney ignorance and impudence we have seen in print. It is evidently the production of some Whitechapel "cad," whose knowledge of the North-west is limited to what he has seen in the illustrations of the *Graphic* or *Illustrated London News*. The whole land business of the country he characterizes as "land jobbing," having got at least far enough away from Whitechapel to learn one Manchester trade term, and regarding the Duke of Manchester's connection with the North-west Land Co. he says:

"We have always thought that, in this connection, his grace has been an idiot for his pains. He has been so, because having turned himself into a kind of superior land surveyor and house agent, he has taken up an occupation hardly ducal in its way, or suitable only for the lower members of the house of Argyll."

The scribbler in a garret has evidently read "The Fortunes of Nigel," and has fixed his estimate of a Scotch lord accordingly. An English duke he has occasionally seen in Piccadilly or Pall Mall, and the idea of such a personage making himself

useful to society in any way has never entered his contracted cockney skull.

The manner in which the quallable are swindled with North-western lands is thus described in the article:

"Attention was first largely called to land-jobbing in Canada by the realizations of town and farm lots made by the Hudson's Bay Company, which being the pick of the basket, returned unexpectedly large sums. It is perhaps needless to say that the hint was not lost. But those who first took it, and have since most industriously worked the business, are neither Canadians nor Britishers. These latter have undoubtedly been drawn into it; but rather as buyers, or dealers at second-hand, and not as the promoters. The movement was started and the initial profits grabbed by the genuine Yankee. The successful land-jobbers of Canada are the scoundrels of our day. Gangs of them have invaded the Dominion, or, we should perhaps say Manitoba, and have successfully launched companies to take off their hands at an intolerably high price, not lots, but small territories, which they have arranged to buy for comparatively a mere song."

A sectional map of Manitoba has, evidently never reached the office of *Money* or such stuff would never appear in its columns. Out of commiseration for the ignorance of its whole staff our Land Department should send one to its office free. Some one connected with this journal might then know that the Hudson's Bay Company are bound to certain numbers of sections in each township, and so to speak have to take pot luck in lands. A little better knowledge of those engaged in Manitoba land business would let some member of *Money's* staff know that not one in twenty of those are Yankees, and that more of them have been born within sight of the dome of St. Paul's than in the whole United States. There are a score of other pieces of information which would be of value to the writers in *Money*, and save them from airing their ignorance, when they write upon North-western affairs. The writers of the article in question will never lose much by land investments anywhere, as it is evidently the production of some poor devil as destitute of money as he is of brains; and who substitutes cockney ignorance and impudence for the latter in his endeavors to earn the price of two pennorth of gin and water, or perhaps, only a pennorth of "cold fours."

North-western lands will find plenty of buyers among those who are interested in the setting up of other countries; and there is no limit to the amount of misrepresentation and falsehood employed for that purpose. People of that class, however, generally know what they are about, and give to their falsehood a semblance of truth, which arrests some of the attention of intelligent readers. Such misrepresentation of the people of the North-west expect, and are prepared to contend with. Such articles, however, as that in *Money* is not the outcome of such a policy; but is merely the scribbling of one whose ideas of a new and great country are as contracted as the alley and slum in which he puts forth his productions.