

Free of Blas.

SUBSCRIPTION:

FRIDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 22, 1882

THE GRAND TRUNK AND THE SYNDICATE. Elsewhere we copy what the Winnipeg Times has to say about the powerful finan cial influence of the Grand Truuk, exerted in antagonism to the Canada Pacific railway syndicate; and the critical situation in which the latter now finds itself. Our contemporary is tollowing, in point of time at all events, what The World said months The World was the first paper in Canada to point out the fact that the financial power and prestige of the Grand Trunk, great enough before, had been immensely increased by the recent fusion; and we argued that it would yet prove impossible to keep that railway power from gaining an entrance into Manitoba. Towards the fulfilment of this forecast events are hastening. Some of our big, sleepy contemporaries will

find out all about it after it happens. Our Winnipeg contemporary thinks that a crisis has come in the fortunes of the syndicate; and certainly things look that way it must be said. What then is to be done to avoid a disastrous crisis for the country as well as for the syndicate,? We answer let the dominion government use vigorously the power which it undoubtedly possesses as the executive of the commonwealth, give the Grand Trunk entrance into Manitoba, give the syndicate extension of time if this be really needed, and establish a fair scale of fares and freights to, from, and in the Northwest, by which both railway companies shall be bound. We hold a certainty that the companies would gain far more by the cessation of the waste and expense of railway war, than they would lose by accepting such a fair scale of rates as the government would fix, on advice of competent practical authority. The waste of railway war is enormous. Fancy two good choppers doing a day's work cutting cordwood on a bet and stopping every half hour for a bruising bout, pummelling each other instead of swinging the axe. Something like a parallel case is that of two rival railways spending in mere profitless fight the time, the money and the energy which should be devoted to doing their proper work. We say let Sir John interfere between the belligerents, bring them t living terms between themselves and with the country, and stop a big fight that will HEALTH IS WEALTH in the end only damage the country the more the longer it is continued.

THE CHEAPER GAS AGITATION. It is to be hoped the agitation for cheaper gas in Montreal will have the effect of reducing the price of that commodity in To-Investigation shows that a very onsiderable reduction could be made and yet leave large dividends for the shareholders. Gas for cooking purposes is sold in Montreal for \$1.20 a thousand, and certainly there must be a profit—else why would the company continue to supply it. Monopolies of all kinds are doomed to annihilation sooner or later. The public is being worked up against them. They are abnormal excrescences on our commercial system. Wherever the supply of any article or the rendering of any service does not from its nature admit of competition that supply and service must be controlled by the people themselves. The more reasonable monopolists are the longer is pro tracted the day of their dissolution. THE GREAT FIGHT.

How the Grand Trunk is Attacking the Pacific Railway Syndicate. From the Winnipeg Times, Dec. 13. The Grand Trunk is attacking the syndi-

cate all along the line. Grand Trunk influence has done much to cripple the land company of which Lord Elphinstone is and the duke of Manchester was the president; and Mr. Hickson's agents are making a vigorous onslaught upon the credit and standing of the C. P. R. in the London market. The financial journals there are unanimous in urging English investors to have nothing to do with the bonds Mr. Stephen and his associates are trying to float. A private cable despatch from London says the action of the provincial rights party is being quoted as evidence of the instability of the syndicate's tenure, and of the determination of the people of Manitoba to upset its contract.

If the syndicate should be driven to the wall by the powerful combination which is company of which Lord Elphinstone is and

If the syndicate should be driven to the wall by the powerful combination which is attacking it, how would it fare with Manitoba and the Northwest? Construction would cease, and the road already built would doubtless be shut down. The development of this country would be put back fifty years. The fail of the syndicate would empty Manitoba of its wealth and population, and ruin every man who had anything to lose. Syndicates as strong as this one have come to grief. In 1873 Jay Cooke & Co., engaged in the construction of the Northern Pacific, fell, and brought down with them scores of well-known houses and hundreds of private investors. The contest now going on between hundreds of private investors. The contest now going on between the syndicate and the Grand Trunk is a desperate one. Next year the syndicate have to construct the 400 miles of heavy work lying between the Saskatche wan and the Rocky Mountains, and to begin the construction of the 700 miles of rock section lying between the Landing and Lake Nipissing. Money, and an enormous amount of it, must be obtained, or else the company will go under. It is no exaggeration to say that Mr Stephen and his colleagues are face to face with a most trying orisis; and say that Mr Stephen and his colleagues are face to face with a most trying crisis; and as the fortunes of Manitoba are bound up with theirs, our position is also a critical one. At this juncture is is our duty, as it is also to our interest, to put no weapon in the hands of the syndicate's great opponent. The fate of Mr Norquay or of Mr Greenway is a trifling matter compared with the life or death of the Pacific railway company.

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