

has not attempted to levy, and the incurring of expenditures which it has had no means of defraying.

The latest phase of the liquor question has developed within the last fortnight. The Council and the so-called Protective Association seem to have made common cause, and, finding the Manitoba Government unable or unwilling to take further action, the Mayor has undertaken the responsibility of controlling the liquor traffic, the issue of licenses, and the protection of the licensees from prosecution either under the Keewatin, Public Works, or Ontario Acts. A sum of \$250 has been paid by one tavern-keeper into the Municipal Treasury on the express understanding that he will be protected in his "rights."

As evidence of the feeling which now obtains in the village, the following reference to one of the contractors of Section B of the C.P.R. is taken from the local paper of February 3rd. After alluding to the statement that the contractor in question had recently visited Ottawa in connection with the application of the Public Works Act for the purpose of suppressing liquor selling, and assuming that his mission had been a failure, the paper says:—

"It is safe to suppose that the Dominion authorities will allow the Manitoba Government undisputed sway. If not, the people have the remedy in their own hands, and if they allow last summer's oppression and interference to be repeated, then they are a different class of people than what we take them for. The next time a bonfire is started let the substance be burned instead of the shadow!"

Mr. Shields, the contractor in question, had, with one of his colleagues and the Dominion Police Commissioner, been burned in effigy in December at the instance of members of the Protective Association.

The contractors are now reported to have withdrawn their special police force, detailed to maintain order in the territory, and instructed them to devote their time to protecting the contractors' property, "arresting no man except for murder."

In October, 1882, the Manitoba Government appointed a Registrar for the municipality of Varennes. This official was provided with the necessary appliances for his office by the Government, which exacts a percentage on all the fees received. It is understood that a large number of deeds, more or less of a provisional or temporary character and arising, mainly, from the transfer of squatters' rights, have been deposited with this functionary, at once for safe keeping and to prevent fraudulent duplication.

One, and that not the least injurious, of the results attending the non-ratification of the boundary award, is the facility afforded adventurers for pretending to acquire mining locations in the disputed territory. Hitherto it has been no uncommon occurrence for such persons to go out prospecting on the lake, returning in a week or ten days with the announcement that they have discovered a bonanza. They then proceed to engage a surveyor who, under instructions, maps out a location of twenty-five, fifty or a hundred acres, as the case may be. When this is completed, a notification of the "claim" is sent by the "owners" to Ottawa, where it is duly noted, and registration is had with the Registrar of the "County of Varennes." Under cover of these *quasi* official sanctions, it becomes possible, though the process is not without difficulties, to organize a joint stock company for working the "claim," and to place the shares on the Winnipeg or

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