

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JUNE 6, 1887.

## THAT BREACH OF FAITH.

Sir George Stephen has undoubtedly ere this recognized that he made a great mistake in allowing rage to get the upper hand of his judgment. His famous telegram has been denounced by journals from all parts of the country as a piece of insulting impertinence, and even those papers which uphold disallowance have hardly offered an excuse in behalf of the wrathful knight. Sir George had evidently not recovered from his first outbreak of temper at the time he received Mr. Norquay's reply to his insulting message, to the effect that the Government was acting on behalf of the Province, uninfluenced by the attitude of the C.P.R. toward Winnipeg. On receipt of the reply he declared: "I will take no notice of it. It is no answer at all to my message." His Royal Nibs should have come to that decision before he undertook such an indiscreet action. If he had, his stock would now stand much higher in the estimation of the people of this country than it ever can do again. Reference is not made to C.P.R. stocks, but to the estimation in which the monopoly knight is held by the people for shrewdness and business tact. Nothing further has been heard from Sir George since his first breaking out, and it is probable that he is now thoroughly disgusted with himself for the exhibition he has made of himself.

Sir George has laid great stress upon the rights of private capitalists who have "invested \$134,000,000 in C.P.R. securities." This, Manitoba has nothing whatever to do with. The Province is in no way committed to any set policy in connection with the holders of such securities. Manitoba has made no arrangement with nor given these capitalists any pledges, and therefore has no agreement with them to break. In what way then can it be a "breach of faith" toward these parties, as Sir George declares, for Manitoba to build a road to the boundary? It has been declared over and over again, both in and out of Parliament, that the monopoly clause of the C.P.R. charter does not apply within the boundaries of the original Province of Manitoba. Sir George had to draw heavily upon his imagination when he made such an absurdly

reckless statement, and it is only another indication of the state of mind into which he had worked himself through allowing his angry passions to unduly rise. The people of Manitoba would be pleased to see that those who have placed their money in C.P.R. securities should find it a profitable investment; but Manitobans must not be made slaves to monopoly for the sake of foreign capitalists who have bought up C.P.R. stocks.

Other capital is interested as well as that invested in the C.P.R. Is it not a breach of faith on the part of our paternal Government to endeavor to force monopoly upon those who have invested their all in this Province? Admitting that competition may injure the C.P.R., is it right or just that all those who have invested in this Province should be compelled to suffer for the sake of one corporation? Others have at least equal rights with the Company, and the capital invested in the railway in the Province is but a small amount in comparison with other investments which are suffering from the effects of monopoly. But others who have invested capital have the greater cause to complain, for whilst the C.P.R. has no legal or equitable right to monopoly, the people of Manitoba have both a legal and an equitable right to be released from monopoly. Then where is the breach of faith against the C.P.R. bondholders? Is not the breach of faith committed against the toiling farmers of Manitoba, who came here expecting to enjoy untrammelled railway facilities and reasonable freight rates on their grain and produce exports? Is not the action of the Government in forcing monopoly upon this Province a breach of faith toward those who came here and invested in manufacturing industries, but whose operations are rendered unprofitable owing to the prohibitive freight rates imposed upon their products? Is it not a breach of faith toward those who invested in property, expecting that the development of the country would in time give them a return for their outlay, which development has been prevented by a huge railway monopoly? Is it not a breach of faith toward our wholesale and retail merchants, who have staked their all in the country? Then away with such rot as this man, who has made his millions out of the public of Canada, has been endeavoring to cram down our throats.

If all reports are true, this is not the first time that C. P. R. officials have

evinced an extraordinary interest in private capital invested in a railway enterprise, and not a very honorable interest at that. The enriched Dutch bondholders of the M. & M. know to their sorrow that capital invested in railways is not always a profitable investment. If the shades of this transaction were resurrected a tale might be presented which would show to the people of Canada what monsters are being fed at the public bin.

## AN UNENVIABLE POSITION.

What a pretty figure Winnipeg has cut in parliament with her silent member. The chief city and commercial metropolis of Western Canada apparently occupies a very insignificant position in the House, when the questions of the most vital importance to her welfare are debated and voted upon without a word being uttered in her behalf. All Manitoba and the entire West, from the Red River to the Pacific coast is interested in the question of monopoly, but no portion of the vast region within the boundaries indicated is so deeply and directly interested in the matter as is this city. Her very existence almost hinges upon the solution of the disallowance question, yet this question is discussed at length in an all-night session, without a word from our representative in Parliament. Under ordinary circumstances this action of our representative is worthy of the most severe condemnation; under the special circumstances surrounding the case, that condemnation should be increased ten-fold. The disallowance matter was the great question uppermost at the time of the elections, and Mr. Scarth was sent to Ottawa on the express understanding that he should most strenuously exert himself in our interests in this particular direction and on every occasion. In Winnipeg Mr. Scarth was very valiant as to the course he would pursue, and moreover, evidently, and unbounded faith in his peculiar abilities to solve the problem to our entire satisfaction. Giving his words on one occasion, he "would not only vote, but speak against disallowance." The eventful moment comes, and Mr. Scarth is dumb. All previous pledges are broken, and not a word is spoken in defence of our interests and our rights. Provincial members in the person of Messrs. Watson and Daly ably uphold the rights of Manitoba, and even members from Eastern constituencies declare against the injustice which is being done