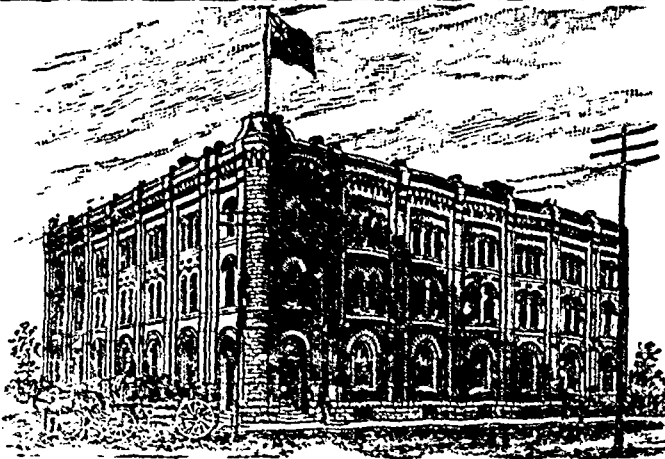


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G. F. & J. GALT,

DIRECT IMPORTERS

TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES
CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

If the proposal to appoint Jos. Royal Governor of the Territories was put forth as a feeler, it has certainly brought forth abundant answer. The result has been to plainly show how very unpopular such an appointment would be. Throughout the length and breadth of the vast region a loud protest has gone forth against the proposed appointment. It is clear that Royal's unsavory record is too much to impose upon the people of the territories. His unpopularity throughout the west amounts to intense dislike if not to actual hatred. If the popular feeling is to be at all regarded, Royal will never disgrace the honorable position of Governor of the Territories.

In the British Columbia Legislature Mr. Hunphreys recently moved that a Select Committee be appointed for the purpose of considering the expediency of drafting a bill intitled, "An Act to regulate Railroads within the Province of British Columbia." The original motion was not carried, but the matter was referred to the standing railway committee. The question of railway legislation is a very important one, but it would seem that to have an effective measure it would require to be a Dominion act. Within a limited sphere the Provinces undoubtedly have room to enact certain measures relating to the railways, but the question in its broad sense is an interprovincial one. There is now a Dominion act governing the railways, though of acknowledged imperfection in many respects. There is abundant need of some wholesome railway legislation of a general or Dominion nature, and in the absence of such, the Provinces may supply some deficiencies in the law, within a limited sphere.

To the man of the world it seems strange that clergymen are so frequently found in opposition to proposed reforms in civil government. To follow the course of the clergy of the established Church of England in their political, is to discover that the weight of their influence has almost invariably been thrown against proposed reforms. The clerical party in the British Parliament has been shown to

have adopted an uncompromisingly conservative attitude toward the modification of existing regulations, especially when such changes were in the interest of the plebeian masses. Laws which in the present state of society would not be tolerated for a moment without creating a popular outcry, have had their existence prolonged for years through the influence of the clerical party. Though one would naturally suppose that the clergy would be the first to speak out for reforms, the opposite seems frequently to have been the case. In English speaking Canada the influence of the clergy in the direction noted has not been so important a factor, owing to the great diversity of creeds and to the fact that no one sect enjoys any great preponderance of influence, such for instance as church establishment. In Toronto, however, the people have lately had a taste of clerical opposition to reform. An influential section of the laity have been in favor of conducting the election of trustees for the separate schools by ballot, but the proposals have met with the most strenuous opposition from the Archbishop and clergy, excommunication even being threatened against the leaders of the reform movement. The Archbishop's denunciations of voting by ballot do not seem to be in keeping with the practice of electing the head of the Church by secret ballot. The real trouble seems to have originated with an effort made to exclude the clergy from the school board, hence it will be seen where the shoe pinches.

BRITISH COLUMBIA provincial finances do not seem to be in a flourishing condition. The half-yearly accounts for the six months ending 31st December, 1887, were recently laid before the Assembly. From these it was shown that the total receipts from ordinary revenue amounted to \$245,608.96, whilst the expenditure for the same period footed up to \$414,173.93. This makes the expenditure \$168,564.97 in excess of revenue. For the last fiscal year, ended June 30 last, there was an excess of expenditure over revenue of \$189,797. The current fiscal year promises a much larger deficit, if the same ratio is maintained for the balance of the term,

as is shown by the statement for the first half of the year now submitted. The province negotiated a \$1,000,000 loan last year, bearing interest at 4½ per cent., which has added considerably to the expenditure on interest and sinking-fund account. Two previous loans were negotiated, one in 1874, for \$20,000, and one in 1877, for \$730,000. These with other small sums, make the total liabilities of the province at \$1,770,000. In addition to the ordinary revenue, the province has an annual grant from the Dominion of \$100,000, for lands in the railway belt, transferred to the Dominion. The rest of the public lands, minerals, etc., are administered by the province, and will provide a good revenue, with the development of the country. The province is therefore well supplied in the matter of revenue, and should be able to make ends meet without trouble, by a little more careful financing.

THE action of the Winnipeg Conservative Association is the strongest protest yet offered against railway monopoly in Manitoba. Any belief which may have existed that an influential section of the Conservatives of Winnipeg favored a compromise, has been effectually dispelled. A great deal of dissatisfaction has existed against Mr. Scarth, M. P. for Winnipeg and president of the local Conservative Association, on the part of leading Conservatives, on account of the action taken by that gentleman in furthering the compromise proposals. During the election campaign, Mr. Scarth made very specific pledges of hostility to monopoly, even going so far as to intimate that, in case the Dominion Government persisted in its policy of disallowance of Manitoba railway charters, he would resign his seat, should he be elected. Instead, however, of fulfilling his pledges, Mr. Scarth has proved himself a pliant tool in the hands of the C. P. R. and the wire-pullers of the party. Any protests which he has made against Manitoba's wrong, have been of such a feeble nature as to give the impression that he was really in sympathy with monopoly. His late effort in behalf of compromise proved the last straw, and turned many of his former supporters against him. This feeling of antipathy to Mr. Scarth amongst leading Conservatives here had grown to such an extent, that it was thought that at the approaching meeting of the Conservative Association, some opposition might be shown to his maintaining the position of president. Consequently every effort was made by the wire-pullers to defeat any such move. For several days previous to the meeting of the Association a supreme effort was made to drum the faithful into line, but all to no purpose, for at the meeting of the Association, Mr. Hespeler, a pledged opponent of disallowance, was nominated and elected, in opposition to Mr. Scarth. An attempt to stuff the ballot box on the part of Scarth's friends, was detected and nipped in the bud. Mr. Scarth's chagrin over his defeat was so great, that he gave vent to his feelings by calling his opponents Grits and annexationists, though these same men had supported and voted for him at the last election. The meeting broke up in great confusion, so great was the excitement, but at a largely attended meeting of the Association, called by the new President,