

would undoubtedly make Winnipeg the central market for the hard wheat belt. Foreign purchasers would place their orders directly in this market, and in time this would become the place where prices would to a great extent find their level. Our millers would also have advantages in regard to freight rates and length of haul which would enable them to compete with all comers for the markets of Great Britain, in the grades of flour manufactured from hard wheat. By the time the route is open and ready for traffic, our milling industry, now so rapidly developing, may be expected to have attained a position of solid strength. Competition for the home market will doubtless have been overcome, and this attained our millers will be better able to turn their attention to the foreign export trade, with a vigor which they could not at the present time muster. Whilst, therefore, the immediate prospect for an export trade in breadstuffs from Manitoba is not hopeful, the outlook for the more distant future is most encouraging, and in due time the wheat-growing and milling industries of this province will undoubtedly reap the reward in store for them.

THE NORTHWEST COUNCIL.

The Northwest Council closed its labors on Tuesday last, after a session lasting about thirty-five days. During this time considerable legislation of an important nature was enacted, and other matters of vital interest to the Territories were discussed, upon which the Council had not the power to legislate. Among these might be noted the Meti question and the liquor regulations. The legal system of the Territories has also received an over-hauling. An ordinance relating to civil justice has been passed, in accordance with the provisions adopted at the last Dominion Parliament, whereby the old system has been done away with and an entirely new *modus operandi* substituted. One feature which has marked the last session of the Northwest Council has been shown in the widespread dissatisfaction with the existing system of territorial government. It was readily ascertained that the representatives were imbued with a spirit of independence and a desire for a representative form of local self-government, which no doubt is the feeling not only of the members of the Council, but of the people of the Territories generally. It seemed to be the general belief that the time had come

when the Territories should be placed under a system of local self-government similar to that enjoyed by the Provinces, and with this object in view a deputation was appointed to go to Ottawa, to confer with the Dominion authorities in the matter. The Dominion Government will be asked to sanction a redistribution scheme, giving Assiniboia thirteen members, Alberta seven members, and Saskatchewan four members, and to constitute the members elected under this redistribution, an independent legislature for the Territories, having the powers of a Provincial Government. A memorial will also be presented to the Dominion Government, bearing on a number of other matters of interest in the Territories, among these the following:

That the Government use its influence with the C. P. Ry. Co. to have the Southwestern Railway extended to the Souris coal fields and thence to Regina. The argument in connection with this request is, that settlers went into this region as early as 1882, with the understanding that the road would be pushed through to Regina. The immediate payment of all claims passed in connection with the late rebellion is urged upon the Government. An investigation is also asked for in connection with the "widespread dissatisfaction" existing in some districts, in regard to the awards made by the commissioners. The Government is further urged to at once dispose of its interest in town sites at reasonable figures, so that the lands may be made available for taxation. Another clause in the memorial asks that voting by ballot be instituted for open voting, in the act giving representation to the Territories in the Dominion Parliament. Some amendments to the homestead regulations are also asked, such as reducing the price of pre-emptions to settlers who may make certain improvements upon their land, such as tree-planting, etc. The Government is also asked to forego the collection of payments upon land occupied by settlers, until after the 1st of January, 1888, owing to the recent drought. Other requests are for grants to agricultural societies; grants for the construction of bridges, and for the establishment of one or more public high schools.

Perhaps the most animated discussion which took place during the session of the council, was on a motion to send a resolution to the Dominion Government, to the effect that the manufacture and sale of

spirituous liquors and beer should not be allowed in the territories until a majority of the people have declared in favor of such a course by popular vote; and that the O.P.R. Co. be prevented from selling liquors on their cars while passing through the territories. This motion provoked a good deal of discussion, but was rejected by a majority of fourteen to two. Though little objection could be taken to submitting the liquor question to the people, yet the large negative vote against the principle of the resolution, would show the territorial representatives to be either in favor of the present permit system, or in favor of a license law being substituted for it without reference to the people. That the councillors are not in favor of the permit system, it is only necessary to glance over their remarks on the subject and note the general dissatisfaction expressed against it. We must, therefore, conclude, that a large majority of the councillors are in favor of a license system without any ado about it. Indeed, this sentiment was freely expressed by the speakers, who used many arguments against the present system and in favor of license. Governor Dewdney stated during the debate on the question, that he had received intimation of the unpopularity of the permit system, and would be glad to see it abolished. One speaker asserted that in districts where the permits had been curtailed, the quantity of liquor to be had increased, owing to the fact that smugglers then plied their avocation more freely. It was urged that a properly regulated license system would do away with this illicit traffic in liquors, and it would also have the effect of keeping that every undesirable class of desperadoes out of the country who now engage in smuggling the stuff in from Montana. This argument in favor of a license system as a means of diminishing crime, will be a new thing to prohibitionists, but to those acquainted with the situation in the Northwest, the statement will be known to contain more truth than poetry. The desperate characters who now make a living by means of smuggling, and who are also ready to turn their hand to any other crime, such as robbery and even murder, would find their occupation gone and would be forced to leave the country. Then the horde of saloon and keepers of small hotels, who make a living out of the sale of "soft drinks," would give place to a few better class houses, which latter are now debarred from selling, to the advantage of the former.