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premier Province of the North-West without means to provide for the administration of its Government, and with the bugbear of direct taxation staring it in the face. But we have too much confidence in the statesmanship of those at the helm in Ottawa, to believe that they will allow the consideration and settlement of this most vital question to stand until we are forced into such a disastrous state of affairs. They know too well how much the future of the Dominion depends upon the success of the Western Provinces, whose fertile plains,—the best authorities admit, are destined to become, ere long, the grain fields of the world, and whose people will be the best supporters of the manufacturing industries of the East. Other schemes are suggested for increasing the revenue of the Province, but at present we see no way that would prove as satisfactory as the transfer to local control of the public lands remaining at the disposal of the Dominion, together with the timber and mineral rights. Notwithstanding the large inroads already made by free grants, sales, and the grant to the railroad, there is enough land undisposed of to enable the local Government to adopt a very liberal homestead policy, and still have a reserve, the ultimate sale of which would provide ample funds to cover any loan that might be effected now and leave a handsome surplus to pass to capital account. No reasonable argument can now be advanced in support of the further retention of the lands of the Province by the Dominion, and unless our rights are respected and we receive equal justice with the sister Provinces, the best interests, not only of Manitoba, but the whole North-West, will be seriously jeopardized. However, while we fully realize the danger that threatens us, and believe it to be our duty to point it out, we repeat that we have to much confidence in the present rulers of the Dominion to believe that they will allow another session of Parliament to pass without grappling

with this difficulty and bringing it to a satisfactory conclusion. The Hon. Mr. Norquay and his colleagues are leaving nothing undone that will assist them in obtaining the active interest of the public men of the country, and we confidently look forward to their next mission to the capital being crowned with complete success.

### MANITOBA'S POSITION AS A PROVINCE.

*From the Gatoray Express.*

A perusal of the letters distributed as a supplement to the last issue of the EXPRESS, upon the "Anomalous Position of Manitoba as a Province of the Dominion," will doubtless lead to the more serious consideration of the very important question of the rights and privileges enjoyed by this Province as compared with the responsibilities imposed upon us. Unfortunately this is a question too little thought of by our representative men, and one never approached by the Provincial press. The contents of the letters referred to are therefore calculated to somewhat startle us, as we are brought face to face with the fact that we are gradually drifting towards Provincial bankruptcy. Nevertheless this is the fact. Figures are stubborn things and in these letters we have doubtless the most accurate figures in support of the deplorable fact that while we are nominally a Province of the Dominion, we are in reality a species of stock or fund laid by, by the Dominion, on which, as occasion demands, drafts may be made for purposes political or otherwise, and upon which sufficient will be expended to barely keep us from entirely passing out of existence. We feel with the writer of these letters that it is high time we caused our voice to be heard. We have a magnificent country which is being gradually frittered away for one purpose and another, and unless we soon obtain possession and the right to administer