

through the business of her smaller trades with a prosperous and numerous suburban population.

DISCRIMINATING FREIGHT RATES.

At a meeting of the wholesale merchants of Winnipeg, recently held, the question of freight rates on imported goods was fully discussed. What transpired at that meeting we have no exact information, except that the main point at issue was the discriminating rates given by the Canadian Pacific Railway to shippers in the east for points west of Winnipeg. This hardship has been borne by our city wholesale men for a long period; but the situation has become latterly so grave, that they cannot longer tolerate a freight rate so advantageous to eastern houses and so adverse to themselves. The discrimination against Winnipeg and in favor of eastern cities is so great as to exceed the wholesale profits on such goods as sugars, provisions, heavy hardware, etc., taking the difference of freight from points east to Regina, and that of the rates from the east to Winnipeg, adding local freight to that point. It can easily be seen that there is a limit to the patience of our merchants, when suffering from such a drawback. We understand that the wholesale men have presented an ultimatum to the Canadian Pacific Railway, and in case of no redress, the signatories to the paper have bound themselves not to bring a pound of freight over this road during the coming summer. This decision is not the result of a fit of unreasoning stubbornness; it is the outcome of careful consideration of their own interests, and it is backed by an offer from roads to the south, such as the Canadian Pacific Railway has not yet given. It is to be regretted that such a course should be necessary; and it is all the more to be deplored, seeing the demands imply nothing more than the concessions promised by Mr. Van Horne in the spring of 1883.

With Winnipeg wholesale merchants the fight means a fight for existence, and it will in consequence be all the more determined. It does seem strange, that a road which should see its duty in building up a large wholesale business in the province, should prefer to ignore the claims of the leading wholesale centre, and by its rates positively encourage eastern houses without a stake in the country to cut the throats of those estab-

lished here. It seems, however, to be the policy of the Canadian Pacific Railway, since the opening of their through route from the east to the northwest, to throw all the trade advantages possible in the way of eastern houses, to the detriment of Winnipeg.

Under such circumstances, a combined effort of our resident wholesale men becomes necessary; and we are glad to see such a combination formed. Our merchants will have the sympathy of every one who has the prosperity of Winnipeg at heart; and to those our wholesale men may confidently look for assistance in their effort to free themselves and the trade of the city from the thralldom of the east.

In commerce, in railways, in politics, and in everything else, it grows daily clearer that influences are at work to keep us bound hand and foot, for the furtherance of eastern interests. Every attempt to assert our independence, or our right to be heard on any question, must be stifled. Manitoba is slowly waking up to this state of matters, but she need not dream of finding the battle for her rights an easy one. The fight will be a hard one. Every inch of ground will have to be contested, and if we hope to win, it will only be by using every available legitimate weapon with the utmost skill and combined determination.

POLITICAL POINTERS.

By the elevation of Mr. Killam, Q.C., M.P.P., to the bench, the seat for south Winnipeg becomes vacant. Already the air is filled with mutterings of the coming contest. The Grits, determined to hold the seat, have secured the grittiest of Grits as their henchman, and in Mr. Luxton they have a man whose personal character and clearly defined political creed will make him a hard opponent for the Tory candidate who would hope to win over south Winnipeg to the party in power. The recent split in Conservative ranks does not indicate unanimity of that party. There is nothing to be said against Mr. Howell the nominee of the "Old Guard" or against Mayor Hamilton, the champion of the junior Conservatives, both are first-rate men. So far, all three aspirants would make legislators far above the average, but on this we do not dilate. We wish to look for a moral in the Tory split. The break in their rank, is a break by young bloods. This element

does not mean to be longer tied to the apron strings of its grandmother. Young Tory Manitoba to-day shows that the old party feeling, and the old party principles of older and lesser Canada cannot control the actions of those who are breathing the free air of the western province. They may not want to show it, but they cannot help showing it. Their action simply points to what the future run of politics in the Northwest will be—politics distinctly western and progressive, none the less loyal to the claims of British birth-right, but refusing to be trammelled and governed by the fageyism that centres at Ottawa.

We would be glad to see a similar split in the Grit camp. That would we venture to think, be also a blessing; it would more clearly show how the tide was setting in. That will in due time come. The Grit party as represented by young Manitoba, will also refuse to be governed by eastern dictates. A political life, commensurate with the breadth and possibilities of our western heritage will be the outcome. Old Grit and Tory lines will be overleaped, and the fossilized ideas of eastern provinces will ere long be laid on the shelf of the Old Curiosity shop at Ottawa.

The retirement of Mr. Howell, and rally of Conservatism around Mr. Hamilton, does not indicate that unanimity has been reached. Sulkily the Old Guard retire from the standpoint, as might be expected of a party forced out of power. But Mr. Hamilton's nomination clearly indicates that the young blood of Conservatism is in the ascendancy, and in the future must and will rule the party. The indication is a hopeful one: for our province is safe in the hands of either young Tory or young Grit, when it is by no means so under the control of those whose political opinions were formed a score of years ago, and probably a thousand miles from where they now reside. With young blood in power in both of our political parties, we may expect to see elections squarely fought upon political principles, or merits of candidates, and saved in future from having elections turned into opportunities for fossilized politicians of both parties to fight out their personal quarrels of fifteen or twenty years' standing.