

engage in where they will accomplish so much for the centering of the trade of the North-West in their own city.

THE SCARCITY OF HOPS.

In our last issue appeared a short paragraph on hop culture in Manitoba, which has attracted the attention of some of our brewers and parties interested in securing a plentiful supply of this product. All who have communicated with us on the subject have urged the necessity of that branch of husbandry being established in the Province, and not one has expressed a doubt about its being a success. The local demand is now quite a heavy one, and has the prospect of increasing very rapidly; but for shipment to Eastern markets the raising of hops would undoubtedly prove one of the most profitable occupations connected with the products of the soil.

The following article from the *Montreal Gazette* of October 4th, gives a clear idea of the scarcity of hops at present in the Eastern Provinces. It is headed, "The excitement in hops," and is well worthy the consideration of parties interested:--

"Parties in the trade here inform us they never remember anything like the excitement at present existing in the hop market, and certainly nothing comparable to the recent sharp advance in value. Most of the crop has already been bought up by parties who are shipping it out of the country, at a time when the home trade never needed it more, all the old supplies having been previously exhausted. The growth in Prince Edward County, we believe, has been swept up by Montreal buyers, most of which has been re-sold at a handsome profit to an English house. In Dundee section, the bulk of the growth is said to have passed into the hands of a New York house, and those lots which are left in growers' hands are held for very much higher figures than can be had for them to-day. We learn of a consignment of 50 bales hops just received in this city with instructions from the shipper to hold for 75c. per lb. Prices are quoted to-day at 55c. to 60c. per lb. The opinion has been expressed in the trade that Canadian brewers will have to import hops before another crop comes round, as it is generally admitted that a large portion of the whole crop of Canada has been sold for export to the United States and England. Enquiries for hops are already being received here from the country, a round lot being asked for yesterday by a Western buyer. Latest cables quote the English and Continental markets in favor of sellers, prices continuing to rule high."

A system of hop culture in this Province would do much to prevent such an excitement.

RUMORED RAILWAY AMITY.

The St. Paul *Pioneer Press* of the 5th inst. published a special telegram from New York to the effect that an amicable arrangement had been reached by the Northern Pacific, and St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railways, regarding their interests in the North-West. According to this rumor, which the telegram in question claims only to be, the Northern Pacific will gain possession of the line from St. Cloud to Minneapolis and St. Paul, which will enable them to travel on their own line clear into these cities. They are also to gain possession of the east and west roads in their territory. The St. P., M. & M. are to acquire possession of the Castleton Branch, and are to be left in undisputed possession of their monopoly of the traffic to Manitoba.

How much truth is in this rumor we are not prepared to say, but if substantially correct it throws some light upon the sell-out of the Manitoba Southwestern, of which a local daily recently accused the managers of that road. The arrangement would be simply a monopoly in the great North-West of the north and South traffic by one company, and of the east and west traffic by another. The arrangement would prove a sad disappointment to those people of Manitoba who have so long looked for and depended upon the crossing of the boundary by some Canadian line to meet the Northern Pacific. It shows plainly, however, that the intents or complaints of the public are only a secondary consideration with railway corporations when their own interests are at stake. Could the Northern Pacific secure an entrance to Manitoba the managers would in all probability soon arrange a pool with the St. P. M. & M., which would place the people of this Province under a much more powerful monopoly than they now are in railway matters. We are justified in this opinion when we view the actions of these companies. North of Fargo, the St. P. M. & M. have no opposition, and they carry passengers at the rate of four cents a mile. West of the same city the Northern Pacific have a monopoly, and they charge passengers five cents a mile. There has been a great amount of gush in this Province about what the latter company would accomplish for us could they only secure an entrance. It must be remembered, however, that the Northern Pacific are like all other railway corpora-

tions, and know well how to avail themselves of the advantages of a monopoly.

The *Toronto World* of the 3rd inst. contained an article on loan companies, which commences by agreeing with the opinion that such companies are an unmixed evil in Canada. The high rate of interest charged on loans, and the additional commissions of agents are the principal arguments used against them, and the terrible loss to the farmer in running to town after a loan, is summed up with telling effect. The extravagant management of loan companies is advanced as the reason of these high rates of interest, and the law of supply and demand is completely ignored.

The *World* does not understand the wants of the North-West, or it might contain different opinions regarding these companies. But it is unnecessary for us to state this, as their articles on the Prairie Province during the boom of last winter, which so thoroughly misrepresented its advantages and prospects, proved that the managers of that journal were but poorly informed about the country altogether.

We learn that Sir Charles Tupper, in company with Mr. Stephens, of the C.P.R. Syndicate, are expected in Winnipeg by the train from the south this evening.

Our contemporary, the *Sun*, states that in conversation with one of their reporters the Hon. Gilbert McMicken expressed his opinion that insurance rates in this city could be lowered. Mr. McMicken is certainly an authority on this subject, and we should like to see his opinions taking practical shape.

It is our aim to secure the class of news which will be of most value to the business circles of the North-West, and in our endeavours in that line we respectfully solicit the co-operation of this class. We shall be pleased to give publicity to any matter which will be for the benefit of any branch of business, and we solicit correspondence on such subjects.

Mr. James G. McDonald, of this city, has secured the contract for the building of the new C.P.R. depot, which will be a fine brick structure, and will cost somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$75,000. The brick will be supplied from Mr. McDonald's own yards.