

barns he has to stack his wheat in the field ; and by the addition to the expense of building, house rent is raised against him. This cannot last ; no power of the Ottawa Government will long be able, in a perfectly open frontier, to keep up a Customs barrier between the North-West and its natural markets. On the other hand, it does not appear that the Syndicate, apart from the jealousy sure to be excited by overweening power, has done anything to provoke the resentment of the people. It has gone about its work in thorough earnest and with extraordinary energy ; its workmen must have been great purchasers of food, and it has kept entirely clear of politics. The rates, which are the chief ground of complaint, are, in the opinion of competent and impartial judges, not excessive, considering the absence of return freights, and the paucity of centres of distribution, which makes the distances over which goods have to be carried great and the charges inevitably high. It is true, that the existence of any commercial company, with powers so great, is itself an evil : for this the members of the Syndicate are not responsible : they merely took what, had they not presented themselves, others would have taken, and they have done their work in a way entirely creditable to themselves and to the country. With them there is no ground of quarrel ; the ground of quarrel is with the legislative restrictions alone.

Amidst these disturbing influences, which after all are partial and temporary, the North-West is working out the great problem of its destiny, the elements of which are on one side a boundless expanse of the best wheat land in the world ; on the other, a very cold, though dry and healthy climate, the difficulty of keeping stock, the danger of late and early frosts, and the scarcity of fuel, with some minor drawbacks such as the alkaline character of the water, and the contingency of grasshoppers, which, however, does not seem to be much feared. The question of fuel is the most serious of all : on November 3rd, a snow storm having set in, coal was \$15 per ton in the yard, and \$16 50 including delivery. If good coal has been found in the Territory, as some geologists aver, it has not yet been brought to market. On the whole it may safely be said that the balance between the grounds