

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 22nd, 1887.

WHAT THE BOARD SAID.

The *Toronto Monetary Times*, a journal which should certainly be better informed on the subject whereof it speaks, will persist in representing that disallowance in Manitoba is a part of the agreement between the Government and the C.P.R. Co., and that the company should be given some compensation in the event of disallowance ceasing in this province. But not content with assuming this false position itself, the *Monetary Times* endeavors to convict the Winnipeg Board of Trade of similar utterances. In the last issue of that journal, the following paragraph occurs:

"Disallowance has arrayed against it the whole delegation from Manitoba, and the time is probably not far distant when it will cease. The Minister of the Interior, being interviewed by a deputation at Winnipeg, expressed his belief that the time had come when disallowance might be abandoned. The effect of such a policy, says Mr. Van Horne, speaking on behalf of the company, would be the ruin of the property of the C.P.R. The destruction of a guaranteed monopoly, limited in point of time, would, as the Winnipeg Board of Trade suggested, raise a question of compensation. The company has legal rights which could not be confiscated; and no reasonable person would object to a fair compensation being paid. Nevertheless objections are sure to come, though it is impossible that they can prevail. We trust the compensation will not be felt too onerous, and it will be for Parliament to see that on commercial principles, it is not excessive."

The idea to be drawn from the above paragraph cannot but grossly misrepresent the opinion of the Board, regarding the relationship between the C.P.R. Co. and disallowance. The Board has been so frequently misrepresented upon this subject, that it has more than once protested against such unfair inferences being drawn from its utterances, and the motives which have been attributed to its actions in protesting against railway monopoly in Manitoba. Witness the following taken from the last annual report of the Board.

"Another point on which the position of your Board is too frequently misrepresented on this question, is that it is accused of demanding from the Dominion a concession, which would entail repudiation of a fair agreement between Canada and the C.P.R. Company, whereas the Board has at no time demanded anything beyond the right of Manitoba to charter railways to the southern boundary of the original province, a limit which is included in no agreement between the Dominion and the C.P.R. Company, but which is kept closed against railway construction by a Government policy which has a crushing effect upon the Northwest, is detrimental to the trade interests of the

Dominion, and instead of being a guard to, is in reality a drag upon the prosperity of the C.P.R. Company."

There is nothing said in the above quotation about allowing the C.P.R. Co. any equivalent in lieu of disallowance, but on the other hand it is plainly shown that the members of the Board were firm in the belief, that the Company has no "legal rights" in the matter. Instead of compensation, it is the opinion of the Board, that disallowance is a hindrance to the prosperity of the C.P.R. Co. and the country alike. It can hardly be that the *Monetary Times* is as ignorant of this question of disallowance as would appear from its utterances, and there must surely be some other cause for its apparent lack of information on this subject. If the writer in the *Times* had read the remarks of the Minister of the Interior, to which he makes reference, he would have discovered that his own statements are altogether at variance with the words of the Hon. Minister. In his speech at Winnipeg Mr. White said:

"There is nothing in the C.P.R. contract that called for disallowance. It was adopted, not because we were bound to adopt it on account of anything in the contract, but deliberately as a matter of public policy, which was believed to be in the best interest of the country at the time." * "He believed the Government has always regarded the policy of disallowance as a temporary policy." * "If the Government should now abandon the policy of disallowance, he did not think the C.P.R. would suffer, as a result."

Mr. White's remarks, of course, only applied to Manitoba, and not to the Territories. The claim which the *Monetary Times* makes, of compensation to the C.P.R., for the invasion of rights which the company never possessed, is one which, if seriously proposed, should meet with the most strenuous opposition from the people of this country.

In connection with this question of disallowance, it is hardly worth while bringing up these threadbare arguments and oft-repeated quotations to disprove the persistent misrepresentations of journals like the *Monetary Times*. The false impression given by the *Times* as to the position of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, is the only excuse which THE COMMERCIAL offers to its readers for again taking up the matter.

AWAY WEST THEY GO.

Already this season quite a number of immigrants have arrived in the country, but the mistakes of former years seem likely to be repeated to a great extent. A large number of the new arrivals are booked through to the Pacific terminus

of the C.P.R. This feature is as much to be deplored for the sake of the immigrants themselves, as for the development of the Northwest and the settlement of our vacant lands. Men with large capital may do very well in British Columbia, but it is well known that that province cannot begin to compare with the Northwest as a field for those wishing to engage in agricultural pursuits. Immigrants with small capital, who intend farming, are undoubtedly making a great mistake in passing over the prairie gardens, for the mountains and forests far beyond. There must surely be something wrong in the management of the Canadian immigration agencies in Great Britain. It can hardly be that the C.P.R. agents in Britain (who are the principal source from which information is derived by intending emigrants), advise those applying to them to go away through to the terminus of the road, merely for the temporary benefit accruing to the company from the longer haul. This movement of immigration only shows how necessary it is for Manitoba that more attention should be given to the subject of immigration. Very little has been done by the provincial authorities in encouraging the settlement of the country. If an effort had been put forth to direct the attention of intending emigrants from Great Britain to our vacant lands, it is not likely that we would see these people passing to more distant and less desirable regions. It is not too late to take up the matter, and a great deal might yet be done to keep some of these people in the province. Literature could be circulated on the incoming trains from the south and east, and many other plans devised to inform immigrants about the country, and show them the desirability of remaining here, instead of going to a region where farming must be much more difficult and less remunerative. No time should be lost, if anything is to be done this season toward securing the settlement of our vacant lands.

POSTAL RATES TO AUSTRALIA.

A good deal of attention has been given by the commercial press of late to the subject of trade with Australia. One of the great benefits which was to accrue to this country from the completion of the C.P.R. was to be in the direction of opening up trade with the Australian colonies. It has been shown that quite a large trade is done between the United States and Australia, whilst exports from this coun-