

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 10, 1892.

ASSINIBOINE WATER POWER

The Winnipeg board of trade has again called attention to a matter which is of the greatest importance to the city of Winnipeg, namely; the Assiniboine river water power project. This matter has been somewhat in the background of late, and in fact, seemed for a time to have almost dropped out of sight, until recalled to view by the action of the board. If this water power is nearly as valuable as it is believed to be (and there seems to be no reason to doubt the opinion of the engineers who have investigated the matter), it is certainly in the interests of the city that it should be utilized at once. The work is certainly a somewhat costly one, but not costly when measured by its value. It should prove a very profitable investment for either the city or any company carrying it to completion. It might just as well be understood at once, that the cost of fuel is so excessive that the city can never hope to make much progress as a manufacturing centre, as matters now stand. There are many lines of manufacture which could be carried on to good advantage here, but for the high price of fuel. At the present moment there are some important manufacturing establishments that are only kept from being located here by this question of fuel. The only hope of overcoming the great disadvantage of costly fuel, lies in the utilizing of the Assiniboine river water power at this city. It was hoped that the opening of new coal regions closer to the city, would reduce the price of fuel to such an extent as to improve the prospects for manufacturing here; but this hope shows no prospect of realization. It is doubtful if the new coal, at the price placed upon it, is any cheaper than the fuels previously obtainable. At any rate, it would require to be reduced almost one half in price before it could be considered a fairly cheap fuel, as prices are elsewhere. We are therefore forced to look to the water-power project as the only hope for relief from the excessive cost of fuel, in considering the establishment of manufacturing industries in Winnipeg.

It will be remembered that the city secured a charter from Parliament for the construction of the works necessary to utilize this water power, subsequently some effort was made by the city council to secure the construction of the works by a company, but nothing practical has yet been accomplished. The city engineer reports that the minimum horse power which would be obtained by carrying out the proposed work, would be 3,000 horse power. The same authority places the cost of steam power in Winnipeg at \$80 per horse power per annum. The water power could be rented at a fair profit at \$20 per horse power per annum. At \$20 dollars per horse power he estimates that the works would return a revenue over interest and cost of maintenance, of \$22,000. If this is approximately correct, the immense saving to the city from the construction of these works is apparent. Besides

the \$22,000 net revenue which the power would return, rented at \$20 per horse power, there would be the saving of the differences between \$20 per horse power from the water power, and \$80 per horse power from steam, on a minimum of 3,000 horse power, thus:

No. revenue from 3,000 horse power at \$20	\$22,000
Saving on 3,000 water power versus steam	\$180,000
Total annual saving	\$202,000

This Saving of \$202,000 would be divided between the city council and the company, firms and individuals who would rent the power from the city, instead of using steam.

According to the estimates of the city engineer, we have therefore upwards of \$200,000 running to waste every year, in the waters of the Assiniboine river passing through the city. There will certainly be a lack of enterprise in the community, if this waste is permitted to go on much longer. In view of the high cost of fuel here, there is no city in Canada which is so intensely interested in the reduction of the cost of manufacturing, yet here we have power sufficient to run a large number of factories going to waste. These figures are based on the minimum horse-power in an extremely dry season. The average horse-power which could be obtained from the river would be very much greater or say about 5,000, increasing the revenue and saving therefrom in proportion.

PRESIDENT HARRISON AND CANADA.

It is frequently said of a man that he could not stand success. Success frequently carries men off their feet. It is seen nearly every day in business. Many men are overcome by a limited measure of success. They succeed in some small undertaking, and forthwith they become inflated with overgrown ideas as to their own importance and ability. They launch out into new undertakings, or extend their operations thoughtlessly, and soon wind up in failure. While they stand on firm footing in shallow water, they are all right, but when they strike out beyond their depth, they soon find that it is easier to wade than to swim, and the consequence is they sink.

But while many men are carried away by success, there are just as many who cannot stand defeat. It is simply a feature of frail human nature, that it is seldom it can bear itself up complacently under many circumstances. Men lose their heads through success, and they also frequently lose control of their better selves in defeat. Just now we have President Harrison of the republic in our mind. What an exhibition the man has made of himself in his recent message to Congress. Human nature all over again. The man could not maintain his composure under defeat. The head of the expiring Republican administration in the United States never gave evidence of great qualification in statesmanship; but in defeat he has acted the child, and gives vent to his feelings in anything but a dignified manner. While this we say is simply human nature, and is what might be expected of many men, it is hardly what we might have expected from the head of a great nation.

President Harrison's reference to Canada in his message is the overflow of a pettish disposition, roused by defeat. His statements concerning Canada are utterly false in principle,

and are doubtless not shared by the intelligent citizens of the republic. The refusal of Canada to vote the unrestricted reciprocity programme deprived the Republican administration of a triumph which would have been a great thing for it in the recent presidential election, and would have, perhaps, turned defeat into victory. This feature was no doubt in the mind of the president when he worded his unkind reference to Canada in his message to Congress.

Just a little thought will show how false is the position taken by President Harrison in his reference to Canada. He complains that Canada has interfered in controversies between Great Britain and the United States in an unfriendly manner. He refers to the Atlantic fisheries question and the Behring Sea trouble. Now, both these questions are purely Canadian in their nature. Does the president expect that Canada should stand by like a child and allow Great Britain and the United States to settle these questions between them without a word from her. Canada has a right to be heard in these matters, or in any other matter affecting her interests. The position taken by the president, that Canada had no right to interfere in matters pertaining to her own interests, when these matters were under discussion between Great Britain and the United States, is simply childish. It is silly to claim that any action on the part of Canada to protect her own interests, is evidence of an unfriendly disposition toward the United States. The fair-minded people of the republic, who believe in liberty for themselves and the right to protect their own interests, will certainly repudiate the extremely narrow selfishness of the defeated president.

There is another point in the discourteous reference of the president to this country, which should be taken into consideration by Canada. Are Canadians British subjects, or are they bondsmen. The president's reference to Canada is contemptuous, because it refers to our people as slaves. The slave was bought and sold without any reference to his own interests. Canada, according to the soured president, should not be heard at all in international questions affecting her interests. This serves to draw attention to the position this country occupies in the mind of the president and perhaps other foreigners. Canada is not considered by the president as a part of the British empire whose people have any rights. The people of the United States are supposed to have much sympathy with the alleged grievances of Ireland, but here the president whines because Canada is not forced to occupy the position of the most wretched dependency, without a word to say in her own behalf. What do the liberty-loving people of the republic think of such utterances coming from their president, and aimed at their nearest neighbors, of their own near blood relationship.

The point Canadians should think over, as drawn from the president's message, is their position as colonial British subjects. We are British subjects in the colonial sense, but not in the imperial sense, hence the ground for the president's remarks, unreasonable though they be. Should there not be some widening of