

Manitoba Anti-Disallowance Association.

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WINNIPEG, 24th SEPTEMBER, 1887.

Reeve Municipality of

SIR:—

It is the object of certain officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and politicians in sympathy with that Company, to create the impression on the minds of the public of the Dominion and of Great Britain, that the whole agitation existing in this Province on the question of disallowance of railroad charters granted by the Legislature of Manitoba, is confined to the citizens of the City of Winnipeg, and they publicly and through the medium of their subsidized press, are continually reiterating this statement and declaring that the residents of this Province outside of Winnipeg are perfectly satisfied with the monopoly which is at present unjustly enjoyed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

As examples of the utterances of this description, two are herein given.

Sir George Stephen, in his letter recently addressed to the shareholders of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, uses the following words:

"The present agitation in Winnipeg is chiefly damaging in its effects on the Province itself. The intemperate, sensational and ridiculous utterances of a section of the local press are printed and read abroad with alarm, and the effects upon emigration and upon the credit of every enterprise in the Province has already been most serious. Your directors believe, however, that this agitation, like those which have preceded it, will disappear as soon as the people of the country come to understand the facts and discover the motives of those by whom it was created."

W. C. VanHorne, the vice-president of the C. P. R. Co., used these words:

"There are a dozen or more men in Winnipeg, having a prominence of a certain kind, who are working for annexation because they think it will suit their personal ends, and when such men control an important section of the public press and succeed in working up a great public excitement there is danger that they may turn it in the direction they want it to go."

Of course these gentlemen ignore completely the existence of the resolutions passed by municipalities in all parts of Manitoba, condemning disallowance and encouraging the Manitoba Legislature to carry on the work of completing the Red River Valley road.

It is extremely advisable at this present time that the municipal councils in all parts of the Province should speak out again and repudiate the false assertions of the Canadian Pacific officials, so that the shareholders of that company will be placed in possession of the facts, contrary to the expectations of Sir George Stephen.

You will find enclosed a platform of the Manitoba Anti-Disallowance Association which is being largely subscribed to here, and it is our sincere hope that you will bring the matter before your council at once so that they can endorse the position taken therein by this Association, and the truth be made known to our friends in the east and in Great Britain.

If from any cause, it is impossible, at an early date, to get your council together, we beg to suggest that *you personally* give an endorsement of the platform presented, and that after having done so you organize a branch association and get many true friends of Manitoba to sign the constitution, sending us as soon as possible a list of the members. The by-laws, of course, can be altered to suit the circumstances of your local case, and it is presumed you would not require any entrance fee as is required by the Winnipeg Branch which has printing and other expenses to meet.

It is essentially necessary that no time be lost in making the organization large and influential so that its strength when published in Canada and Great Britain will counteract the baneful effect of Sir George Stephen's misleading and untruthful statements.

Our enemies are crafty and are not hesitating to adopt any means to give a false color to our actions, Sir George Stephen deliberately misquoting extracts from the wording of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's charter, in his attempt to mislead the shareholders of the Company, and his subsidized press are daily grinding out falsehoods. We must therefore take every honorable means within our reach to expose their infamous methods, by giving the facts to the world.

Your kind assistance is therefore urgently requested by the Council of this Association, who feel assured that you fully realize the gravity of the situation and the necessity for prompt action.

By direction of the Association,

CHAS. N. BELL,
Corresponding Secretary.