

Although it is not uncommon to look for corruption in political circles in all countries, the exceptional state of affairs above stated, must naturally be the outcome of exceptional circumstances, and some explanation on this head is necessary. Such explanation does not require much searching to find, for it had its origin in that root of all Manitoba evils the "Boom." That this great period of excitement, while it may have had a few beneficial effects upon our province, had a demoralizing effect upon every detail of our business and social affairs must be admitted, and we Manitobians can afford to make that admission now that the evils of the "Boom" have almost passed away, and a better and healthier state of feeling has set in in every direction. A craze which equilibrium of the minds of our best business men, and started nearly all of them on a course of unsafety if not recklessness, which transformed parsons into real estate speculators, and made staid bank managers toady and truckle to gambling speculators, and treat industrious business men with disrespect and coldness, which at times reached snubbing, could not fail to have a very pernicious effect upon that sphere, of all others most susceptible to influence, namely politics. In 1882, when Mr. Norquay appealed to the electors of the province (by no means so numerous then as they now are), "Boom" was still uppermost with us, and even those of us who had kept comparatively clear of its influences, were very unwilling to admit that its collapse was unavoidable. With "Boom" still in the ascendancy it is easy to tell what element rushed before the people, (or rather the few who possessed votes), and while the wave of recklessness was still swelling, were carried on its crest into office as representatives of the people. A more unfortunate state of affairs in which to inaugurate an election could scarcely be selected, and Manitoba secured the reward merited thereby. A Legislative assembly was elected which has been famous, and will be handed down to posterity as the worst collections of adventurers who ever attempted to make laws for any country, and which will also be famed for the enormous aggregate of unsatisfied judgements and mortgages which latterly hung over the heads of the majority of its members. It commenced its legislative work as the Legislature of irresponsible adventurers, and near its close has earned the reputation of the Legisla-

ture of "dead beats." In such a Legislature in which the few honest men of its membership were naturally powerless to effect any good, and were as a rule ignored by the unscrupulous majority.

But we have had some startling changes in Manitoba since 1882. We have passed through three years in which there has been a struggle between speculation and industry, between honesty and dishonesty. In the business and social spheres industry and honesty have been slowly and surely scoring triumph after triumph, and are now fairly in the ascendancy. But in politics matters have been different. A Legislature of adventurers and dead beats has sat like a load upon the healthy reaction, and have gradually grown more disreputable, as the web of former recklessness and crookedness thickened around them. Latterly they have not scrupled to prostitute their legislative privileges to protect rascals, and rob the industrious and honest of the community, and are prepared no doubt for any extent of legislative subterfuge which will shelter themselves and the class they belong to from the claims of their honest creditors. The state of our business and social affairs, now that they have undergone the refining process of three years of depression, does not tally well with that of our political affairs, and we have no doubt, but an appeal to the electors of Manitoba at the present time would result in the return of a Legislature, the majority of whose members would be men who have stood the test of adversity, and preserved their integrity and honest name.

We may expect to hear many a cry uttered and repeated as the electors of Manitoba during the coming political contest. "The tariff," "equal rights," "railway monopoly abolition" and many other questions will be paraded as the all-important points at issue. All of these require the careful consideration of the electors, and we hope they will receive that. But before we dream of party revolutions, let us consider one far more important matter. The first struggle must be between honesty and dishonesty, between industry and recklessness, and the first consideration of the voter must be to get on the right side of this question. He need not ignore the other important ones, but he requires to place this first. We will offer him the best guide he can find in the matter, and our instructions are briefly "Vote only for men who pay one hundred cents on the dollar of their debts."

THE CROPS.

Every report from the country is brighter than another regarding the crop now being harvested throughout the Northwest, and it seems as if for once Providence has been specially kind to us, and it is not out of place here to remark that the people of this country have met with very little kindness from any other quarter. The best reports, or rather those which indicate nearest to a completion of cutting operations are from western points. From Qu'Appelle eastwards to near Brandon, and for twenty miles on either side of the C. P. R. track, grain may be considered out of danger from frost, while harvesting has commenced in real earnest in all that section of country. From Brandon east the wheat crop is on the average considerably later than in the west, but it does not follow that it will be inferior. On the other hand, as the Red River Valley is nearer the grain yield promises to be heavier, and there seems scarcely a doubt but it will all be saved in good condition. In every locality wheat harvest has commenced, and by the end of this week it will be general throughout Southern Manitoba, and not far behind in the Red River Valley. Several cool nights of late have made parties interested a little uneasy, but as yet there has been no necessity for anxiety, and there is very little danger to be apprehended for the balance of the season. By the end of the present week fully one-half of our wheat crop will be out of danger, and if another week of favorable weather is secured the entire crop will be saved, except that small portion cultivated by farmers who are always hanging off to be too late with everything. Upon this calculation Jack Frost, if he came round at the date he did in 1883, and with the same destructive intentions, would get completely fooled for once. Let us hope that he will.

But should a portion of our late crops get caught before it is harvested, the fact would in no way affect the capability of this country for grain raising, nor indeed would the misfortune be more than might be expected. Our farmers are by no means as far behind in their operations as they were two years ago, but it is a fact all the same that over one-fourth of the wheat crop of 1885 was sown on spring plowing, and much of it in the month of June. This is little short of a tempting of Providence, and until our farmers have their plowing done in the fall and ready for early spring seeding, wheat raising must be somewhat precarious.