

"Your Board is desirous of impressing upon the people of the older Provinces that its efforts to get free from railway monopoly are not dictated by any desire to make the markets of this Province in the United States. On the contrary, its sole aim is to secure railway competition between Manitoba and these older Provinces, where the ties of Confederation and a system of national tariffs point to us our natural markets. The Board adheres to the principle that transportation between the Northwest and the East, facilitated and cheapened, must necessarily increase the trade intercourse between the two."

The money saved by the people of this Province on freight rates gives just that much more cash to pay for merchandise in Eastern Canada, where, apart from the all-powerful consideration that our business connections are already established, the high Customs tariff now in force compels us to purchase our goods. If goods were carried from the United States markets to Manitoba free of freight charges it would fail to counterbalance the Customs duties imposed on imports from those markets. This effectually answers the misleading statements made by Mr. VanHorne and other interested persons that a connection with the American system of railways at the boundary line would make the market of this Province in the United States, instead of in Eastern Canada. The lower the freight rates enjoyed by the Manitoba settler the greater will be the benefit to the business community of Ontario and Quebec.

The whole matter has resolved itself into the question as to whether this Province has or has not the full rights enjoyed by the other Provinces. Would the Dominion Government ever dream of forbidding the people of Ontario to build lines from the Canadian Pacific Railway to the frontier? We believe we are the equal of the other Provinces of the Dominion of Canada, and will insist on being recognized as such; and knowing that we have a constitutional right to build a railroad to the boundary, our Legislature, consisting of 35 members, unanimously determined on doing so, and the Government, as instructed by the Legislature and supported by the whole population of the Province, are proceeding with the work undeterred by the foolish threats of the President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company and his subsidized press.