

with ours in this land of great promise. Many of them, who have during the course of the rebellion seen a good deal of our fertile country, have already indicated their intention of so doing, and with some who have not yet made up their minds for a similar course of action, the display of genuine good and kindly feeling at the reception will not be without its effect.

LOCAL JEALOUSIES.

It would be too much to expect that in Manitoba we should be exempt from those jealousies between towns and localities which are to be found elsewhere, although in a new country like ours, where there is so much for every one to do in the work of development, such jealousies should not and indeed are not founded and built upon such trivial causes as in older countries. Still we have our local jealousies and they are often very unnecessary as well as damaging. We can find it in our towns where there are those who look with grudging jealousy upon any town which is larger or more important than their own, and in turn there are those who would trample upon the smaller places, and prevent if possible the progress they would naturally have. The same feeling extends to municipalities and counties, but is not so bitter as in towns, although in most cases it is as unnecessary.

When we begin to analyze the local jealousies of Manitoba, and especially those of its towns, we are astonished at how little the industrious business classes have to do with their origin. In most cases they are the jealousies of speculators, charter peddlars and such like individuals who live upon their sharpness and the long suffering of more industrious people. Yet once the feeling gets a start it is wonderful how many industrious people, who should know better, get mixed with it. Thus the trading community of one town feel hard towards their own class in another, and yet the cause of the whole trouble may be some imaginary railway or other such speculative bubble, which if practicable would benefit no one but the scheming sharks who pull the wires in connection with the same. It is high time that traders in every portion of the province would come to the conclusion that their interests are mutual and that they have but little cause for quarrel with each other, even when they reside in different towns. If they only look to the legislation of the past year or two they can see

how the speculative classes can combine against them and cause them much injury. There is evidently no lack of unity among their opponents when the plundering of the industrious is intended, and yet these industrious people can be kept discordant, disunited and powerless to protect their interests by the fateful schemes of those who are their worst enemies. Local jealousy is the most powerful weapon of the speculative schemer and the unprincipled politician, and in fact furnishes a living for more social parasites than any other feeling which finds a place among the people. It would be well, therefore, for the toiling industrious business classes to keep them in remembrance, and to use every influence in their power to discourage and root out the dangerous feeling.

THE FUEL AND TIMBER REGULATIONS.

The question of FUEL is one which is necessarily one of great importance in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. That we have immense coal fields, which will yield in course of time, as capital and enterprise come into the country to develop them, abundance of good coal at moderate prices there is no denying. Until, however, we have sufficient development of our coal fields to furnish the supply required by the people, cordwood has necessarily, in many instances, to be resorted to. Even after our coal fields will have become well developed, there will be many settlers in large portions of this vast country with no coal fields near enough, or with freight accommodations cheap enough, to render coal the most available fuel. Where then are such settlers to get their fuel unless it be from the timber growing on the prairie? there is no other course open to them.

Take the case of an incoming settler going on to his homestead. If there is plenty of wood on his homestead he is all right, but there are hundreds of thousands of cases where land of the very best quality has been and will be homesteaded on which there is not a stick of timber. The homesteader, in such a case, if removed so far from coal fields and from the railway by means of which he might have coal shipped, that he cannot procure it at a reasonable figure, is simply driven into a corner without an alternative. He must procure cordwood at the nearest point possible and it may be at such a distance that the teaming of it may be a very costly item to him. Even with all this handicap against him we find the homesteader further hampered by the Government

Timber Regulations now in force under which he has to receive a "Permit."

The case, however, of *settlers other than homesteaders*, and their name is legion and their advent amongst us welcome as that of the homesteader, is a much worse one. He is not allowed to take wood anywhere unless on his obtaining a permit and paying dues of *twenty-five cents a cord* for that privilege.

We are quite in favor of such regulations being made as will protect the lands from being so spoiled that they might form less attractive acquisitions to our prospective settlers. Many settlers who will come into the country in the future may wish to go in purely for grain raising, but many more will prefer to go in for mixed farming. Trees and bluffs form excellent shelter for cattle and even more so for sheep in a storm. Therefore, we say, do not allow any quarter section of land to be spoiled for future farming by undue cutting of its trees.

There have been many interferences, however, with settlers taking from the bluffs on unoccupied Dominion Lands the *dead wood*. A considerable amount of ill feeling was engendered last fall from the action of the Government Timber Agents in this matter in various portions of the country. They claimed dues for such wood although it is doubtful if the wording of the regulations entitles them to do so. But whether they are entitled to make such a claim or not is a less important question than whether it is *advisable and politic* that they should do so. We think not and for more than one reason. The dead wood in the bush is of more value now to the present settlers than it would be to those of the future, because it is always deteriorating and wasting away; it injures and retards the growth of the green and living wood, and on the occasions of prairie fires it is most destructive to the growing wood. In many parts of our plains the prairie fires can pass along the grass and through trees and bush without doing material harm to the green wood. The grass is not of sufficient length or bulk to retain the fire long enough to do much material damage to the growing and green wood. It is too speedily consumed. Where, however, a quantity of dead wood has been left in the bush, it catches fire from the grass and it keeps on burning, for a sufficiently long time to do great destruction to the growing wood.

Therefore, it is of the greatest importance that, while adequate provisions should be made to protect the growing timber on vacant lands, so that they may not be injured for future settlement still it would be highly advisable that the timber regulations should be so administered as to be of the greatest advantage to our present settlers consistently with that object.

The fall, when we will have our prairie fires will soon be here. Now is the time for the Government to deal with this matter in a practical manner suitable to the different districts of the country.