

WINNIPEG BOARD OF TRADE.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade held its annual gathering in that city on the ninth instant, the president, Mr. Kenneth McKenzie, in the chair. Reports from the secretary, Mr. J. S. Steen, and the treasurer were adopted and ordered to be printed in pamphlet form. We have not received as yet a copy of the pamphlet but find in the *Commercial* copies of the report. The first mentioned, the sixth report which this body has issued, refers to the labors of the Board as beginning last year in a time of great agricultural and commercial depression and of general business anxiety. Allusion is made to the question of Hudson's Bay navigation and to the resolutions passed in favor of building a line of railway to the northern seaboard. Large sums are being spent, it is stated, by Minnesota and Dakota to improve the navigation of the Red River from Grand Forks northward. The Dominion Government has been urged to like action.

The necessity for local and branch railways being urged, the Council received an assurance from the General Manager of the C. P. R. that an extension of at least 100 miles of the South Western would be built. The fact that the railway referred to purchased all its supplies in eastern markets appears to have been resented by the Board, a deputation from which called upon the management with reference thereto. Still another matter which affected the mercantile interests of Winnipeg and occupied the attention of the Board—that of the discriminating freight rates of the C. P. R. against Winnipeg, given to shippers from the east to points west of this city led to correspondence on the subject but "the result so far has not led to any satisfaction."

Respecting land grants to local railways, the Board urged upon the Government that instead of charging one dollar per acre the lands granted under this arrangement should be given free, as a means of inducing construction.

Grain inspection at Winnipeg, the need of a bankruptcy law, the Torrens system of land transfer, are other matters on which the Board has deliberated, and it claims to have secured delay in the enforcement of an objectionable Act requiring that weight should be stamped on packages of canned goods. Being earnestly solicited to that end, the Board took up the question of civic representation. As the outcome of a convention held under its auspices, a "citizens' ticket" was nominated and mainly elected, so that it is hoped "that the city has entered upon an era of civic retrenchment and reform."

The compilation of statistics of the city's trade has been undertaken this year, for the first time. We have summarized them elsewhere. While there has been a large addition of new and active members, a very large number of old members has been struck off the roll. The belief is expressed, however, "that the strength and usefulness of the Winnipeg Board of Trade will steadily increase." Twenty-one new members were elected at the meeting in question. The officers for 1885 were chosen as under:—Kenneth McKenzie, president; S. O. Shorey, vice-president; and James Steen, secretary.

treasurer, unanimously re-elected. The following twelve gentlemen constitute the Council:—Messrs. J. H. Ashdown, R. J. Whitla, G. F. Galt, L. M. Jones, W. F. Henderson, James Redmond, G. J. Moulson, W. F. Luxton, G. F. Stephens, Andrew Strang, and S. A. D. Bertrand.

TORONTO TRADE FIGURES.

With prompt courtesy, the secretary of the Board of Trade sends us the figures which describe the imports and exports of Toronto for February last. These we compare, as usual, with those of the February preceding. Total imports last month were of the value of \$1,752,111; of which sum dutiable goods covered \$1,609,503 worth; free goods \$137,703; coin and bullion \$4,815. The total value for February, 1883, was \$1,733,896, so that the difference in import this year, so far, is not great. See comparisons below:—

	Feb. '85.	Feb. '84.
Cotton goods.....	\$252,696	\$229,990
Fancy goods	118,984	122,365
Hats and bonnets.....	35,165	41,120
Silk goods	130,812	136,394
Woollen goods	411,496	289,610

Total dry goods.....	\$958,153	\$819,479
Books.....	21,798	21,190
Coal	222,291	190,846
Fruits	12,902	17,560
Glass and glassware.....	12,212	14,562
Iron and steel goods	53,265	73,571
Leather goods.....	38,037	25,423
Paper goods.....	18,871	19,503

In silk wares, fancy goods, hats, caps and bonnets, an effort appears to have been made to keep purchases within the figures of last year. There is an increase in cotton imports, mostly prints, and one still more marked in woollens. In this last department, imports of every item mentioned in the list except under clothing, are greater.

Exports were a good deal smaller, having been \$234,252 in value in February 1884 while they only reached \$183,273 last month. The items composing this total were: Animals and their produce \$76,972; field products, principally barley and seeds \$89,113; each of the other departments contribute small amounts, except the fisheries.

IMPORTANT ARBITRATION.

The saw mill at Parry Sound, the property of the Midland and North Shore Lumbering Company, was destroyed by fire in June last, entailing a loss on the Lumbering Co. of \$39,578, on which there were insurances amounting to \$38,000, being \$9,000 in the Royal, \$7,000 in Phoenix of England, \$7,000 in Western, \$5,000 each in Lancashire, Citizens, and Fire Insurance Association, from which companies the Lumbering Co. claimed \$33,275. After the fire it was ascertained that the building containing the furnaces and the boilers had been erroneously described as a stone building instead of a wooden one as it really was, and that the burner instead of being fifty feet distant was really not quite fifteen.

The fire commenced in a pile of slabs in the boiler-house and by reason of the inflammable character of the building, it soon spread to and destroyed the mill. The insurance companies had been induced by the description of a first-class boiler-house, to take, some of them, larger lines of insurance than they would have done if they had known the facts, but, believing

that there was no intention to deceive them, they treated the matter as one in which a compromise settlement would be equitable, and offered \$25,000 in full of the claims. The Lumbering Co. would not accept this, but finally consented to take the \$25,000 without admission of liability on the part of the insurance companies and without admission of satisfaction by the Lumbering Co., and to leave to arbitration the question of any further payment. The insurance companies then placed the matter in the charge of Mr. Henry Lye, and it was referred to Judge Dean, of Lindsay, Mr. Hugh Scott of the Queen City Ins. Co. and Judge McDougall, of Toronto, before whom the Lumbering Co. were represented by Hugh McMahon, Q. C., and E. T. Malone, instructed by Mr. George A. Cox, and the insurance companies by B. B. Osler, Esq., Q. C., and Wallace Nesbitt, instructed by Mr. Henry Lye. The instructions in the submission to the arbitrators were to the effect that the matter was to be considered from an equitable stand point and consequently the evidence and the arguments were highly interesting.

It is very encouraging to find claimants and companies inclined to deal with each other in an equitable manner and to prefer friendly arbitrations to a cerimonious suits, and we think our courts would do well to encourage this spirit. After a most exhaustive discussion and very extensive research, the arbitrators decided that the equities had been fully satisfied by the payments made, and that, consequently the cost of the arbitration should be borne by the Lumbering Co.

We understand the Lumbering Co. are erecting a new mill on the old site, and we are very glad to find that such a difference of opinion could arise between the parties without any charges of bad faith on either side.

DEATH LOSSES RUNNING UP.

There are two orders of Foresters in Ontario, both organized solely for the purpose of affording their members cheap life insurance. One is called the Independent Order of Foresters, and the other the Canadian Order of Foresters. The first has a membership reaching both sides of the line forty-five, numbering about 2,600, but the second, as its name indicates, confines itself to the northern side of that geographical mark, and its membership is less numerous. The organs of both these associations have been vehemently proclaiming, for years past, that the rate of mortality among insured people does not rise, as the membership grows older. But of late both of them are getting some stubborn and unwelcome proofs that they are wrong.

Until recently, it is true, their monthly incomes, upon certain fixed scales, have proved more than sufficient to meet current losses, so that each of them, contrary to the assessment doctrines as to leaving the reserves in the pockets of the members, has now quite a little reserve laid by. The Independent Order, of which Oronhyatekha is the Supreme Ranger, had \$23,081.85 on the 1st January, but a few weeks later had to confess to only \$22,240, and on the first of February, the death losses had, during the month, so far exceeded the income, as to reduce the fund to \$20,093. The receipts for January, from assessments, were only \$2,323, while the death losses which had to be paid, and could no longer be delayed, were \$4,800, or more than double the income. During the year from July 1881 to July 1882 only \$8,000 had to be paid out for deaths, and only \$10,000 for the following year ending July 1st, 1884. But from August 3rd, 1884 to January 3rd, 1885, a period of only five months, no less than \$12,000 has