

decide, as they have every right to do, to establish a municipal water supply system. A threat of this nature can only cause a feeling of resentment, which will bode no good to the company. The threat has certainly had the effect of calling unusual attention to the water-works by-law, and no doubt was instrumental in securing a much larger vote in favor of the by-law.

#### BY-LAW CARRIED

The by-law, authorizing the issue of debentures for the sum of \$700,000, to establish a municipal system of water-works in Winnipeg, was carried by popular vote on Wednesday last. At one time there was some fear that a sufficient number of votes to carry the by-law would not be polled, but the action of the Winnipeg Water-Works company, in threatening to raise the water rates if the by-law were carried, put the citizens on their metal, with the result that the by-law was carried with a rush.

The adoption of the by-law is a matter for congratulation. Firstly, because the city is in need of an efficient water service, preferably controlled by the city. Secondly, the adoption of the by-law places the city in a position to deal with the Winnipeg Water-Works company, which company has heretofore controlled the water supply of the city, providing the said company is willing to negotiate on reasonable terms for the disposal of any portion of its plant which the city may think of acquiring. The Commercial, on another page of this issue, refers favorably to the proposal to arbitrate any differences between the city and the company. Such arbitration would be understood as subject to the opinion of experts, as to the advisability of acquiring any part of the existing plant for the use of the city. This is the position first taken by The Commercial, to which we still adhere. If any portion of the present plant can be used to advantage by the city, and can be acquired on reasonable terms, it should be so acquired, in order to prevent any unnecessary destruction of property. The action of the company has alienated sympathy which would otherwise have been extended to them, and if the announced advance in rates is put into effect, public opinion will probably be aroused to such an extent as to render very unpopular any negotiations whatever with the company.

#### THE CHANGES IN TOBACCOS

There is some complaint regarding the changes in the weight of the staple plug tobaccos, rendered necessary by the late changes in the tariff. The object is to get plugs to retail at even prices, such as 5, 10 and 25 cents.

T & B, for instance, were formerly made 3 to the pound, to retail at 25 cents per plug. The increased cost of the tobacco made it necessary to either advance the price of the plug or make the plug smaller. The manufacturers of this tobacco put a smaller plug on the market to sell at the old price of 25 cents and made them four to the pound. The old size of three to the pound are still being made, but they would have to be sold at 30 to 35 cents per plug, instead of 25 cents as formerly. The new plug of four to the pound is not received favorably, because it is thin. It is the same size as the old plug of three to the pound, except in thickness. The trade would prefer that the reduction in size should have been made in length and breadth, instead of in thickness. The answer to this is, that new steel dies would have to be made

#### TALK ON FURS

P. C. Small, manager of the fur manufacturing department of John W. Peck & Co., arrived in the city recently from Montreal, on a business trip. Mr. Small says they have been busy though the fine, warm weather retarded business somewhat. They expect a good season's trade, however. Speaking in regard to manufactured furs, Mr. Small said there was not much change in staple fur goods this season. In men's coats the coon is still a favorite with those who wish a good coat, without going into the very high priced kinds. Beaver, Persian lamb, otter and seal include the very costly lines, which, of course, have only a limited sale. The coon coat is the happy medium between the very costly article and the cheaper lines. A staple fur coat which continues to have a large sale is the wombat, made



CHIEF DAY—A Territorial Indian

to change the dimension of the plug, except in thickness, and these dies would cost some thousands of dollars. Manufacturers do not like the idea of changing their dies, when a few months hence further tariff changes might be made, which would necessitate further changes in the size of the plugs. T & B is now put on the market in nines, as well as in fours and threes.

from the fur of an Australian animal of that name, an immense number of which are annually shipped from the island continent. These wombat coats are largely purchased by farmers. Wombats are costing somewhat higher this year. A coat called the Russian buffalo, is also having a free sale. This coat has been handled by the firm for several years, and as the sale has been increasing steadily, it



THE AMERICAN BISON—Wild Cattle of the Western Plains.