

were excessive for the service rendered, and that the rates would compare favorably with those made by other companies in similar territory and under similar conditions, he concluded one letter with the following statement :

" In 1893, we made a voluntary reduction of from ten to twenty per cent between all points on the Western Division. This was the natural sequence to the increase of legitimate express or parcel business, following the increase in population after the original tariff was fixed. We are from time to time making special rates, but it should be understood there is a minimum of cost in the transportation business, as well as in merchandising, and it is necessary that our rates should cover such cost and a fair margin for the risk of carrying on so hazardous a business. In conclusion, I desire to express the earnest wish of the management to meet the wishes of its patrons in every way, and to aid in every possible manner in the development of the country, which we feel will add to the prosperity of ourselves as well as our patrons."

It is satisfactory to note that, at the close of the year, the Dominion Express Company made a considerable reduction in their rates on the Western Division, and we are satisfied that the contention of your Council that reduced rates would mean large increase in business to the company, has been amply sustained.

INTEREST ON JUDGMENTS.

In March, 1896, the Council endorsed the principle of a draft bill respecting interest, being chapter 127 of the revised statutes, which it was desired should be amended by adding