

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE

OF THE CITY OF OTTAWA,

For the Years 1866-'67, '68.

The Council of the Board of Trade of the City of Ottawa respectfully submit the following Report of the Proceedings of the Board of Trade for the years 1866, 1867, 1868, inclusive, to 31st December, 1868.

Owing to the impossibility of obtaining accurate information respecting the commerce of the city, it was not within the power of the Council to give a fair synopsis thereof, and therefore this Report will be wholly devoted to the transactions of the Board of Trade for the last three years, and they have to express regret at the apathy displayed by the leading merchants on all questions connected with the commercial interests of the Province. So markedly has this feeling been displayed, that, on more than one occasion, a General Meeting on most important business had to be adjourned for want of the requisite quorum, (twelve members.)

Occupying, as this Board does, such an important position at the Capital of the Dominion, its representations and influence would be far more effective if a greater interest in the commerce of the country at large was manifested by its leading merchants. The history of the "Silver Nuisance," as it has been termed, is evidence of this; and as the facts are well known, it is not necessary to repeat them in this Report. The Council, however, cannot allow this opportunity to pass without earnestly entreating the representatives of the mercantile and manufacturing interests of the City to attend more closely to the objects for which the Board of Trade was incorporated, resting assured an enlightened and unanimous policy on the commercial and fiscal relations of the Dominion will be conducive of great advantage to the public and of profit to themselves.