

gress of Commerce, held at Philadelphia, Mr. Bole dwelt strongly on the necessity existing for some form of union between boards of trade in Canada, so that representatives might meet periodically, and discuss matters of importance affecting the commercial interests of the Dominion. Mr. Bole pointed out that delegates from Canadian boards arrived at Philadelphia without any understanding as to the attitude they should adopt in connection with matters to be considered by congress. Again this year, the same state of affairs is reported by Mr. Nares, our delegate to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the

ed in the welfare and progress of the country.

South Africa.

Every loyal citizen of Canada has been thrilled with pride by the heroic deeds of our brave volunteers, who responded to the call for aid to the British cause in South Africa. Our chief need in this country is that of population, yet we freely gave of our number to fight for the unity of the empire, and while it is regrettable that this episode is not yet closed, it will always be gratifying to remember the manly part played by our soldier-boys on the field of battle, and the enthusiastic appreciation of their services by the Mother Country. Especially have we of Manitoba and the west great reason to be proud of our former fellow citizen, resident among us, now the honored representative of Canada in London, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, whose noble patriotism in raising and equipping that magnificent corps, known as the "Strathcona Horse," has challenged the admiration of every British subject, and drawn the world's attention to the fact that Canadians are ready to do and dare to the utmost in defence of the empire.

Membership.

During the year our membership has undergone considerable change, through the lamented death of some of our members, and the removal of others to different places. The last to leave us was Mr. C. S. Hoare, for some fifteen years a member of the board, and while we congratulate him upon his promotion yet we cannot but feel that the departure of such men is a distinct loss to the city.

Permit me to call the attention of the board to the large and valuable library, which has been gathered together through the indefatigable labors of our secretary. It is, I believe, the only attempt made in Canada to establish a purely commercial library, and an examination of it will show that it contains much that is useful in the way of information, to any business man in the city.

I wish here to express my appreciation of the kind way in which Mr. Bell has placed at my disposal the accurate and varied knowledge he possesses in all matters connected with his work, and for the ready assistance accorded to me at all times.

In closing I desire to tender my hearty thanks to the board for the honor conferred upon me, in electing me to the position of president, and also to the council for the courteous consideration and support given me during my term of office.

Mr. J. H. Ashdown moved that the address be received and printed in the records of the board for the year. He said the numerous points touched on had been well handled. He congratulated the president on the very happy way in which he had brought them before the board. Mr. E. L. Drewry seconded the motion, emphasizing the thought that this country was the safest for investment of all in his knowledge. One only needed, he said to go away for two or three weeks to return more contented than ever with this country. The motion was then carried.

Treasurer's Report.

Mr. A. Strang, the treasurer, reported 170 members in good standing; fees, \$1,700; balance \$312.46. The report was received and adopted, on motion of Mr. Strang, seconded by Mr. Hespeler.

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The report of council, presented by Secretary Bell contained exhaustive review of the work accomplished and matters dealt with by the board. Following are the principal features:

Grain Inspection Certificates.

During the past year the general grain committee of the board requested the minister of inland revenue to instruct inspectors that when they issued certificates for grain graded "to be cleaned" that they should definitely state on the certificate, for the instruction of the terminal elevator people, the number of pounds, or fractions thereof, per bushel, of dirt or foreign seeds to be actually cleaned out of the grain so graded.

After urging this matter upon the attention of the minister, he communicated with the inspection officials and finally agreed to instruct inspectors in the Manitoba grain inspection division to carry out the wishes of the board, in case the grain bill now before the house at Ottawa became law.

Under the Manitoba grain bill government weigh masters have been appointed at all terminal elevators and it is their duty, with the inspectors, to see that the exact amount of dirt or foreign seeds defined by the inspector is cleaned out of the grain.

Traders Excursion Rates.

Early last fall the council appointed a committee to confer with the railway officials in Winnipeg on the subject of granting special excursion rates to actual traders established in the western division of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. The following copy of a letter addressed to Mr. C. E. McPherson, general passenger agent of the C. P. R. in Winnipeg, will explain the details of the proposition:

Winnipeg, Sept. 10, 1900.

Dear Sir—

I beg to now forward to you in writing what was urged on you verbally by a committee of this board a few days ago, viz. That your company grant to actual merchants in the western division (i.e., persons included in the traders lists kept by your general freight officers here) a passenger fare of one and one-third for return journey during following dates:

First week in April, June, October and December in each year, fares to apply from the business residence of the trader to Winnipeg and return.

As stated to you the board prefer this request after much consideration with the full belief that the result would be beneficial to the wholesale trade in Winnipeg, your company and the retail business men of Western Canada.

The committee, from the knowledge of the traders concerned and the complete experience of the methods pursued in carrying on business in the territory embraced in your western division, are assured that your passenger traffic would be augmented to an extent that would be very satisfactory to your company. Such traffic would practically be new business.

On behalf of the committee,

Yours faithfully,

C. N. BELL,

Secretary.

The railway company has not yet given the committee a final answer.

Commercial Travellers' Passenger Rates.

At a general meeting of the board



Treasurer Andrew Strang.

held on the 29th May, the following resolution was passed, viz.:

"Resolved, That a committee of this board to be named by the president take up the question of commercial travellers' passenger rates with the railway companies, as while the general passenger rates in Manitoba have been reduced from 4 to 3c per mile, there has been no corresponding reduction in the commercial travellers' rates, and that this committee co-operate with the Northwest Commercial Travellers' association in this matter."

On the 31st May the above appointed committee with one from the Northwest Commercial Travellers' association had an interview with Mr. McNicoll, vice president of the Canadian Pacific Railway company, and laid the case of the commercial travellers before him, requesting that the travellers be given the same generous reduction on the ordinary passenger rates as heretofore granted. After a full discussion Mr. McNicoll promised to take up the whole question with the passenger department of his road and sometime after his return to Montreal the board was notified that the deputation's request had been granted and your council is pleased to report that the reduced rates are now in force.

Winnipeg Wholesalers' List.

After consultation with the Winnipeg railway officials the freight rates committee reported to the council that the privileges as to rates granted to wholesale houses in Winnipeg, re-shipping goods had been abused, and persons not entitled thereto were enjoying such privileges. The following resolution was passed by the council.

"Resolved, that the freight officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. and the Northern Pacific Railway Co. having reported to the freight rates committee that they desire to restrict the privileges enjoyed by wholesalers in Winnipeg to those only properly entitled to the same, and the committee having gone over the list of wholesalers submitted by the city railway officials, and as corrected by them to date, the council approves that the secretary of this board certify to the railways in the future the names of such persons as he ascertains to be fully entitled to such freight rate privileges as the tariffs of the companies confer on bona fide Winnipeg wholesale houses."

This arrangement was continued until the 1st of November, when the lists being fairly correct, the railroads again assumed the responsibility of themselves seeing that persons not properly entitled should not have their names on the list.

Additions to the Library.

The library continues to grow in size and value and practically without any cost to the board. All the general and special reports of the Dominion government departments, with Hansard and other parliamentary reports and papers are received regularly. The board is favored by the government of the United States with the reports of several of its departments including the very valuable issue of the department of agriculture, the monthly and special reports of American consuls throughout the world, and the departments of education and fisheries. Your council believe that few members of the board appreciate the range and value of the information obtainable from the library shelves, for in addition to the government reports received the board is in continual receipt of valuable pamphlets, statistical works and monographs on special trade and other subjects from all over Europe, America, Japan, Australasia, India and South Africa. On several occasions, by one mail, circulars, pamphlets and trade publications addressed to the board, have arrived from the four continents, indicating the growing importance of this body and the fact that it is regarded as one of the leading boards of the Dominion. Though not utilized to the extent it should be by the members, a large number of people, both members and citizens generally, seek information and rarely depart without obtaining what they require. The requests received from government departments, public libraries, business associations and individuals for our annual report and general information, increase from year to year. All such requests for information relating to the country, its possibilities, development and opportunities afforded by it to settlers and for the exchange of trade are cheerfully met.

Inspection of Flax Seed.

In February last the board again represented to the hon. the minister of inland revenue the necessity for the passage of the legislation necessary to permit of the legal inspection of flaxseed at Winnipeg, it being the only Manitoba grain for which legal certificates could not be issued after inspection. The general grain committee of the board had considerable correspondence with the department in connection with the details of the exact wording necessary to define the different grades. However the department finally conceded the point raised.

The following extract from the report made by our secretary after his return from a visit to Ottawa, when he took up this question, explains the final disposal of the bill introduced by Sir Henri Joly:

"In connection with a request of the board forwarded in September, 1899, to Sir Henri Joly, minister of inland revenue, that the General Inspection Act of Canada be amended so as to provide for the inspection of flax seed grown in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, I had several interviews with the minister and with him drafted a schedule of the grades required which I forwarded to the members of the grain committee here for their consideration and approval, and on this being returned the minister approved



Secretary C. N. Bell.

Empire, held in London in June last, who pointed out the weakness of Canadian boards sending delegates before some common action had brought into harmony, and reduced to a concrete form, the views of the Canadian mercantile public. Mr. Bole reported that the Canadian delegates at Philadelphia discussed this matter, and it was left to the Toronto board of trade to take the initial action towards securing some organization. So far as I learn nothing has been done, and I earnestly recommend this board to appoint a committee to open up correspondence with similar bodies throughout Canada, with a view to reorganizing the Dominion board of trade. I am satisfied that great good to commercial interests would follow, and that the opinion of representatives from all parts of Canada, expressed at a joint meeting, would carry great weight with the federal government, in all matters connected with trade and commerce.

Sir Wm. Macdonald's Gift.

The introduction of manual training during the past year, as a department of school work, in connection with the schools of Winnipeg is a step of much significance to the business interests of the community. I have seen the classes in operation, and have been much impressed with the work. It will supplement the largely theoretic training the schools usually afford, giving a practical turn to the minds of the students, and training their executive faculty to perform what the mind conceives, and in this respect alone it is a valuable preparation for business life, and a factor that will contribute towards commercial and industrial prosperity. Further, it is important as being the stepping-stone to the establishment of technical education, which is coming more and more to be recognized as one of the most important agencies in enabling a country to make the most of its natural resources. As a means of promoting the movement in the direction of this technical instruction, the department of manual training should receive the cordial support of this board. To the members of the board, who have known of the liberality of Sir Wm. Macdonald in other directions, it will not come as a surprise that the establishment of this work in our midst is due to his generosity and public spirit. The entire cost being borne by him for a period of three years. One thousand boys in Winnipeg alone will receive a course of training, and the extent of Sir William's liberality may be seen from the fact that this scheme embraces one large city in every province in the Dominion. The public spirit of this action must win the admiration and gratitude of all interest-