

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

To the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

GENTLEMEN :

"Your Council's report is a bare outline of the work they have done. There were many subjects discussed by them that are not touched upon in the report, and as even those that are noticed are related without comment, I will say a few words on some of the most important in the short address I will trouble you with; and I will also take the liberty of touching on a few matters not in the Council's report. On the question of deep water navigation I am sure we are all agreed that it is all important that our waterways to the ocean should be improved. A great stride in this direction has been made in the completion of the Canadian Sault canal. We are no longer at the mercy of our neighbors, and have our own waterway from Lake Superior to the sea. I trust that the Dominion Government will soon take up the work of deepening the Welland and St. Lawrence canals, and thus cheapen transportation to the sea board.

On the question of grain standards your Council are, I think, unanimous in the belief that the parties selected to make the standards, for this western country, should be Manitobans or Northwesters, who grow, handle and ship the grain, and, in this connection, let me mention that 90 per cent. of it is purchased and handled by Winnipeg firms.

You will observe that the Council took action in the matter of the Southeastern railway. The Local Government declined to grant aid to the scheme for reasons set forth in the report, but I think you will all agree with me that the Ministers com-