

Merritt; Ingersoll, R. H. Cotter; Sarnia, Wm. Storey; New Hamburg, J. Ratz; Winnipeg, T. Harry Slater; Aylmer, R. G. B. Moore.

On motion of Mr. Brock, seconded by Mr. Gray, a vote of thanks was tendered to Mayor Little, C. S. Hyman, M.P., and T. S. Hobbs, M.P.P., for their services on the delegation to the Government of Ontario in furtherance of better hotel sanitation.

ONTARIO TANNERS IN SESSION.

On Wednesday the tanners of the Province of Ontario assembled in Toronto as a section of the Toronto Board of Trade. Chairman L. J. Breithaupt, of Berlin, presided, the following tanners being present: Messrs. S. R. Wickett, Toronto; George C. H. Lang, Berlin; W. Beardmore, Toronto; C. King, Whitby; Charles Knees, Oshawa; J. C. Breithaupt, Berlin; C. J. Miller, Orillia; Jos. King, Toronto; James Robson, Lindsay; E. J. Davis, M.P.P., King; W. J. Bickell, Toronto; F. T. Daville, Aurora; T. Craig, M.P., Port Hope; W. H. McCordack, St. Catharines; D. A. Burns, representing Shaw, Cassils & Co., Montreal; R. M. Beal, Toronto; J. Lawson, Port Dover; James Acton, Toronto.

This being the annual meeting more than ordinary interest was taken in the proceedings. But previous to entering upon the business of the day, Mr. Breithaupt, possibly with the object of making his duties as chairman the lighter, entertained the members to a tempting and substantial luncheon. The tanners are exceedingly grateful to Mr. Breithaupt for the interest, as chairman of the executive committee, he has manifested on behalf of the common weal during the year.

In his annual address the chairman spoke of the practical work which had been accomplished by the section, instancing the establishing of a uniform system of bark measurements. He regretted that a uniform arrangement of terms of credit and discount had not yet been arrived at. The executive committee had thought it advisable to petition for an Act making the inspection of hides compulsory; but had decided that the matter should be further discussed by the section. He suggested that Government be petitioned to amend the Act so as to require the ears and tails to be cut off the hides before they are weighed, instead of afterwards. Referring to the business of the year, the chairman said it had been one of the most remarkable in a quarter of a century. During the first few months it was very dull, then in the spring a decided improvement set in and values took a sharp upward move, until in July hides and leather reached a phenomenal figure. The last four months, however, could be best summed up in the words, "dull, exceedingly dull." Now, however, many inquiries were being made, and the prospects for the immediate future were good.

The question of hide inspection was by far the most important one with which the meeting had to deal. Tanners appear almost unanimously in favor of compulsory inspection, but some of the hide merchants uphold the principle of *laissez faire*. Inspection is not compulsory in most countries where hides are a staple product. A system of voluntary inspection certainly has the tendency to favor the hide merchant; the inspector's profits depending upon the number of hides brought to his scales; it is obviously in his interest to give the dealer a high inspection. There is little uniformity in the inspection of Toronto, Hamilton, London and Kingston, and possibly the variances may be explained in this manner. The following resolution was adopted by the section:—"That the Government be memorialized to grant uniform and compulsory hide inspection on all Canadian hides and skins in every city and district where there is an inspector at present or where one may be appointed in future, and that Messrs. Davis, Wickett, Lang, Beal and W. Beardmore be a committee to prepare said memorial, and at the same time seek the co-operation of Montreal, Quebec, Winnipeg and other places in the movement."

The question of protection from foreign manufacturers was brought up to be dismissed with little comment. The tariff so far as the black leather men is concerned is as it was in the Mackenzie Administration, viz., 17½ per cent. The competition among tanners is sufficient to ensure the public low-priced products, and the tanners think that so long as they are living in a protected country they are entitled to consideration in this respect. During the spring of 1895, it is said, considerable imports were made of American splits, grain upper, and glove grain. But as the coming session of the Dominion Parliament is likely to be stormy and short, and dissolution is so soon at hand, it was not thought advisable to moot the matter of increased duties now.

The officers elected for the ensuing year are as follows: Chairman, S. R. Wickett, Toronto; vice-chairman, George C. H. Lang, Berlin. Executive—L. J. Breithaupt, Berlin; R. M. Beal and G. W. Beardmore, Toronto; secretary-treasurer, Edgar A. Wills.

—A half-yearly dividend of 6 per cent. has been declared by the Bank of New Brunswick.

FOREIGN TEXTILE CENTRES.

NOTTINGHAM, Nov. 29th.—It cannot be said that there is much movement in the lace market in any direction. Amongst millinery laces, Valenciennes in tones take the lead, though guipures and in commoner qualities heavy makes are selling pretty well. The plain department is moderately active, and the demand for stiff foundation and other nets is better. There is little change in the curtain branch, which is doing only poorly just now, as are also the silk departments all through. Makers-up of fancy goods are busy in anticipation of Christmas, and the hosiery houses are well employed, though cotton goods are very slow. No alteration in yarns is reported, and brown nets remain steady.

KIDDERMINSTER, Nov. 25th.—All the Brussels looms at work in the town are now fairly busy, and the Axminster trade, which was lagging a little, is now in a better position. A short time ago an arrangement was made between the manufacturers and weavers as to the conditions on which overtime should be worked in the mills. This agreement is not satisfactory to some of the firms. Wools used in the carpet trade are very firm, with an upward tendency. Yarns are a little dearer. Spinning mills are still very busy.

HALIFAX, Nov. 25th.—There is more disposition to purchase wool, and prices are firm and hardening. In English wools there is a better demand for lustres; cross-breds are more inquired for, and merino tops are bought more freely. The last are realizing an advance. The home trade for yarns continues very good; export rather weak. Lustres are receiving more attention at rather lower prices. In the piece trade serges for dress purposes are in request.

BARNESLEY, Nov. 25th.—Trade is fairly steady and values are maintained. There is a fair inquiry for bed linens, and wide sheetings and towellings of all grades are taken steadily, fancy varieties being probably in greatest request. In household linens, the trade runs chiefly on the cheaper grades, as it does also in table goods, fine damasks meeting little inquiry, whilst lighter grades move off steadily. The trade for coarse linens is steadily maintained, drabnets and smockings moving readily. Printers are steadily employed, but bleachers are quiet.

HUDDERSFIELD, Nov. 23rd.—The woollen and worsted cloth manufactures this week show rather a falling off as compared with the month past. The termination of the winter trade makes a good deal of difference, but producers of goods for that season are not at all slack of employment, because some who are usually large buyers for America are placing conditional orders in view of the winter of 1896. Orders for spring cloths have flowed in more largely than ever both to home trade and shipping merchants. The run is chiefly upon fine and medium fancy worsteds, vicunas and serges. At the same time serges of a lower grade and low-priced tweeds are ordered freely by the ready-made clothing firms. The shipment of cloths to Canada and the United States for the spring season is nearly completed.

KIRKCALDY, Nov. 25th.—A good deal of activity continues in the linen, weaving, and linoleum branches, particularly in the latter, work being steady and prospects good. Engineers are also fairly active. The cabinet-making industry, which has been rapidly developing of late years in Kirkcaldy, is in a healthy state at present, one large work, having extensive business connections outside, affording employment to a large and increasing number of hands. Most of the minor branches are fairly busy, and a good demand exists for outdoor labor.

BRADFORD, Nov. 29th.—The firmness of colonial wools at the London sales having exceeded the fullest expectations of holders here, there was yesterday a noticeable improvement in the condition of all classes of the raw material. Mohair is firm in respect to quotations, but what it would sell at is not really ascertainable. The yarn market feels instantly so considerable a movement in wool, and in all quarters the downward tendency recently shown in yarns is effectively checked. Some spinners, indeed, are asking for more money. New orders, however, are very scanty, and if they could be placed it would be impossible to get deliveries within a reasonable time. Lustres of some kinds of two-folds are wanted, and cannot be obtained, whilst some sorts are quite neglected. Mohairs are steady, but quiet. In the piece trade home-trade manufacturers are doing a steady business in a great variety of novelties, but American customers are operating very slowly.

MANCHESTER, Nov. 29th.—The higher prices asked for various classes of heavy goods helped to stimulate purchases greatly, and retailers have laid in heavier stocks than usual of staple articles. The sale of black hosiery has been greatly increased from this cause, and retailers are now well supplied. There has not as yet been much doing in the lace departments, but the Christmas trade is expected to swell sales considerably. Valenciennes laces have been in good demand, and Plauen laces and guipure insertions have also been supported, although the Plauen branch of the trade has not been very active of late. It was expected some time ago that a greater movement would be visible in