

It may be noticed that a Local Fire Insurance Company, organized about a year ago, did not at any time seek to impose this most unfair tax.

FREIGHT RATES COMMITTEE.

A report of the evidence presented by the Board to the Freight Rates Commission in Winnipeg was printed in the last Annual Report. Shortly after its issue the Commission held its sittings in Montreal, where the whole of the evidence of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company was submitted. The committee of this Board, after perusing published reports of such evidence, communicated with the Commission requesting to be allowed to file answers to statements submitted to the Commission by officials of the railway company, but this request was refused. The report of the Commission, as printed, is devoid of any clear statement of the evidence presented by this Board. The Council have to acknowledge the kind assistance of the Hon. Jos. Martin, M. P. in securing for them type written extracts from the above report on its first presentation to the House at Ottawa.

BOARD OF CUSTOMS EXPERTS.

A request from the Montreal Board of Trade was received in April, that this Board should join in a petition to the Senate and House of Commons at Ottawa for the establishment of a Board of Customs Experts, on the grounds that importers suffer from a want of uniformity in the application of the Tariff, that there is no satisfactory recourse or remedy in matters of dispute as to classification for duty, value for duty, or in cases when Customs Officials inflict injustice upon importers by erroneous and arbitrary rulings. A large number of signatures to the petition were secured and forwarded. The matter came up in the Senate and House of Commons, but was strongly opposed by the government. The Council have to thank Senator Bernier and the Hon. Jos. Martin, M. P. for presenting the petitions.