

as I can learn about the subject, quite a large amount of flour dust must be suspended in the air at a given moment in order that an explosive or inflammable mixture may be formed. The quantity to be dangerous must, I am convinced greatly exceed that which was present in the air I procured. Whether some traces of inflammable gases may or may not be present in the air of the mill, it is as I have stated, impossible to learn by direct test; but all chemists would, I think, agree, that there is no cause or action in the regular working of the process carried on in the mill by which any inflammable gases should be generated. Some of the mill dust is so fine that it may behave like an inflammable gas, but inflammable gases themselves are, without doubt, absent."

The Board of Trade Meeting.

On Tuesday afternoon the Board of Trade met in the City Council Chamber, Mr. Joseph Mulholland, president, in the chair, present:—C.S. Maulson, Kenneth McKenzie, J.H. Brock, C. Sweeney, T.H. Carman, C.J. Brydges, J. H. Ashdown, Lewis Arnett, A.F. Eden, Ham. G. McMicken, John McDonald, H.S. Wesbrook, G.F. Carruthers, E.P. Leacock and D.M. Lewis

The minutes having been read the president read his report which dealt with the progress of the city, citing facts with which the press has made the public familiar.

The Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$300, the whole receipts for the year having been \$450.60.

The President in a neat little speech followed the example of his predecessors and tendered his resignation, at the same time proposing Mr. C.J. Brydges as his successor.

Mr. McDonald seconded the nomination which was made unanimous and Mr. Brydges declared elected.

On motion of Messrs. Carruthers and Arnett, Mr. R.J. Whittle was unanimously chosen as Vice-President.

Mr. Brydges on taking his seat declared his intention to work with a will and advised every member to strive to increase the membership of the Board. He advised the Board to secure a regular place of meeting and also a place to store the valuable documents in possession of the Board.

On motion of Messrs. Eden and McDonald, Mr. A.M. Lewis was appointed Secretary at a salary of \$500, he to be paid \$300 for his services last year; carried unanimously.

The following gentlemen were then elected by ballot as the council:—Joseph Mulholland, Lewis Arnett, H.S. Wesbrook, A.F. Eden, Capt McKeand, G.F. Carruthers, John Macdonald, G. Gault, Thomas Howard and Hon. G. McMicken

It was an instruction to the new council to consider the by-laws and submit an amended draft at next meeting.

The following gentlemen were then elected by ballot as members:—Col. Scoble, W. W. Ogilvie, John Ogilvie, E.H. Taylor, F. Matheson, Thomas Renwick, M.A. McLean, John A. Moore, Geo. D. McVicar, A.W. Ross, R. D. Rathgate, James Tees, John Haliday, J. Steen, L.M. Jones, F. W. Stobart, J. Thompson, W

L. Boyle, J. H. Housser, F.A. Fairchild, Clark Alexander, Moffatt and William F. Henderson.

A unanimous vote of thanks was awarded to the retiring officers.

A plan showing a proposed fire limit, with a recommendation that only brick or stone buildings be erected on Main Street, and that brick veneered buildings be built only two stories high with metal roofs, was submitted and referred to the council.

Consideration of the improving of St. Andrew's rapids and the dredging of the mouth of the Red river was referred to the council.

Notice was given of the introduction at next meeting of a by-law making the weighing of coal compulsory.

A committee was appointed to secure suitable rooms in the proposed stock exchange building and the Board adjourned.

Export of Breadstuffs.

From the report of the U. S. Bureau of Statistics the *Miller's Journal* compiles the following table of the exports of breadstuffs from all United States ports for the six months ended December 31, 1882, and for the corresponding six months in 1881, and for the calendar years 1882 and 1881:

SIX MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31		
	1882.	1881.
Barley, bush.....	256,545	152,292
Indian corn, bush...	5,209,765	32,068,996
Indian corn meal, bbls.	126,772	176,468
Oats, bush.....	164,626	394,816
Rye, bush.....	799,507	352,764
Wheat, bush.....	75,700,076	59,959,004
Wheat flour, bbls. ...	1,031,875	404,355
TWELVE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER 31.		
	1882	1881.
Barley, bush.....	305,563	233,004
Indian corn, bush...	15,389,658	72,483,401
Indian corn meal, bbls	238,544	404,135
Oats, bush.....	231,690	519,885
Rye, bush.....	1,420,640	985,007
Wheat, bush.....	108,563,804	118,203,990
Wheat flour, bbls...	7,423,934	6,716,014

In value, the exports for the six months ended December 31, 1882, amounted to \$117,826,493, against \$112,143,915 for the corresponding six months in 1881, and for the calendar year 1882 they footed \$182,682,734 in comparison with \$224,124,832 in 1881. The export of provisions likewise show a large falling off as will be seen from the following statistics:

EXPORTS, TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31.			
	1882	1881	Decrease.
Beef, fresh, lbs.	53,983,739	96,784,881	42,801,142
Beef, salted.....	40,517,648	42,537,126	2,019,478
Bacon.....	314,483,728	550,920,038	236,440,310
Hams.....	31,346,435	57,010,572	25,664,137
Lard.....	232,538,658	310,195,218	77,656,560
Pork.....	66,029,915	94,431,880	28,401,965
Tallow.....	39,333,825	69,183,093	29,849,268
Butter.....	7,637,240	21,220,341	13,583,092
Cheese.....	103,739,207	140,358,894	36,618,887
Total	\$89,063,404	1,332,051,143	492,987,739

A decline of nearly four hundred millions of pounds avoirdupois, valued at \$36,400,000 is a startling reduction in the volume of trade of the United States for one year. The principal cause of this reduction was the drought of the summer of 1880.

The New Government Buildings

The government having decided to erect a new Post Office and Customs House in Winnipeg, the sites chosen should be centrally located. For the Post office no better site can be obtained than that whereon the present building is located; for the Custom House no worse site could be selected than that whereon it is at present located. While there is no necessity for the two being located contiguous to each other, if it be possible to have them in the same block it will be a boon to the commercial public. Mr. Arnett introduced a resolution in the Board of Trade meeting urging the government to purchase the adjacent twenty-five or fifty feet of Main Street, and to erect thereon the new Custom House. This is an excellent idea and should be advocated with earnestness and despatch. Besides being able to obtain the site practically in exchange for the old site, a great economy would be effected in building the two new departments on a uniform design and in reality as one piece of work. The City Council ought to join with the Board of Trade in urging upon the government this desirable change in their plans. We are perfectly satisfied that if time be not lost the boon will be obtained, for the government besides being anxious to promote the commercial facilities of the city are in a good humor over the result of the elections. Strike while the iron is hot.

Systematic Depreciation.

The *Toronto World* seems to conceive its mission to be to run down the North-west. Not only is it persistent in attacking the Canada North-west Land Company and the Canadian Pacific railway's financial negotiations, but it cites with grim satisfaction the fact that several traders in the North-west have got into difficulties. If the *World* is anxious to puzzle itself over statistics it will find occupation in determining how many hundred times greater, during the past year, were the failures in the city of Toronto alone than in the whole length and breadth of the North-west. Were Toronto to be put suddenly on the same short financial rations as Winnipeg has been lately, ten per cent. of its industrial concerns would be embarrassed, and five per cent of them would come down with a crash. In this city to-day a large business is being done on smaller bank accommodation than is enjoyed by any other city of half the size in Eastern Canada, simply because there has been over trading and stock gambling there. The worst enemies of the North-west could not have devised a more exacting trial than that to which we have been subjected during the past two months, and yet the danger has been averted and the tide has turned. Were two millions of money to be withdrawn from Toronto in one day, the *World* would have some queer news to record next day; yet two millions is the sum that was withdrawn from one Winnipeg bank alone without a moment's warning, and not one failure was the consequence. The *World* might be better engaged than in decrying the promised land for young Ontarians. Manitoba is very far from seeking to appropriate what the *London Advertiser* called the Provincial motto: "twenty cents on the dollar." Manitoba has paid one hundred cents so far with something over, and with common justice will continue to do so; but common justice is not systematic depreciation.

EARLY in January the snow had disappeared from the Bow river country, and the base of the foot hills was bare.