

Meeting of Council on 22nd November. A circular from the Montreal Board of Trade containing "Rules to be observed by Official Assignees," and asking for the Co-operation of this Board was read and ordered to be laid over till General Meeting. As some of the members of the Civil Service of the Dominion of Canada had prepared a petition to the Ontario Legislative Assembly in which it was shewn that various members of this Board and of the City Council were exempt from taxation through the laxity of the assessors, and other arguments made use of to secure for the Civil Service Exemption from the Income tax, it was resolved that a petition be prepared shewing the real state of the case.

Committees were appointed to prepare statistics for Yearly Reports.

The regular monthly meeting of Council was held on 6th December. The City Assessors were requested to prepare documents shewing the amount of taxation imposed on members of the Civil Service, the amount paid by the members of the Board of Trade referred to in the petition, and the amount that would be paid if the alterations asked for by the Board of Trade were enacted.

A meeting of Council was held on the 15th December, to take into consideration certain trade irregularities. It was resolved:—That J. P. Featherstone, Esq., P. A. Egison, sen., and Dennis Whelan, Esqrs., be a Board to investigate the cause of complaint urged by J. G. Robinson, Esq. Those gentlemen were notified of their appointment and the Council awaits their Report.

A meeting of Council was held on the 21st December, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the City Assessors, but as it was not completed it was referred back to those gentlemen.

The petition of this Board on the Assessment Act of 1869, led to a series of resolutions for its amendment in the Ontario Legislature, but the results were not satisfactory, and as the Assembly adjourned on the 24th no further action could be taken.

At a meeting of the Council on the 29th December, it was resolved that the petition prepared for the House of Assembly be attended to. A circular letter be prepared and with the approval of the General Meeting that it be signed by the President, printed and distributed to all the members of the House of Assembly, and generally throughout the Dominion.

The Board of Trade had two General Meetings during the past year, and the Council nineteen Sessions. In placing before the General Meeting a Report of their proceedings the Council feel how little has been done to forward the general objects of utility required for the development of the resources of the Country. In the early part of the year great hopes were entertained that a decisive effort would be made to place that greatest of all national works, the Ottawa Navigation, before the Public, the failure of every attempt to effect so desirable an object has been most decided. It is impossible to look on spasmodic exertions such as result from the action of Parliamentary Committees as being of the slightest value, and your Council are persuaded that all attempts at profitably agitating this subject will be useless till the Ottawa people, through their representations, make it a vital question of policy, or till an administration far sighted enough shall arise to make it a Governmental measure—the efforts therefore of the people more immediately interested should be directed towards their own Representatives, and if unable, to impress the value of a direct policy on them. Care should be taken to select men as their successors who would know no other. It is surely time that the Ottawa people were in earnest about this matter. The future prosperity of the Country depends on it in no ordinary degree, and if there is to be a healthy Immigration poured into it the construction of the necessary work must form one of the chief inducements to the Immigrant.

There are two great objects to be achieved by the Ottawa Navigation. The trade of the West and North West must find an outlet to the sea board through that channel, the truth of this axiom has been so often demonstrated that it need not enter into any discussion of this question, and with all its great importance, it is not by far the most valuable service the interests of the Country will receive from the construction of the works necessary to achieve that object. Its agency in filling the country with people, will be more valuable than its trade, large as that will undoubtedly be. The difficulty encountered in establishing immigrants in Canada results from the fact that immediate employment is not always available, and that no system of emigration exists either here or in Great Britain