

of that body, the meetings of which were reported from time to time as held. Reference was made to the increase of elevator capacity in the territory from Fort William west, from 7,628,000 bushels in 1891 to 18,873,600 bushels in 1896, and to the considerable capacity added since. The council recommended the taking up directly, with the executive council of the territories, of the question of securing and publishing reliable information as to the areas under crop in the Northwest Territories and the results of the harvest in the Northwest. Mention was made of the attendance of the president at the congress of chambers of commerce of the empire, which met in June last.

Mr. Nairn reported as follows regarding the London conference:

I beg to report to the members the result of my work as a delegate from the exchange to the meeting of the chambers of commerce of the British empire, held in London in June, 1896. This meeting is a representative one, the delegates being from all parts of the British empire, and the questions discussed are ones affecting trade and commerce generally of live interest, ranging from the general and broad one of "Closer trade relations with the colonies" to a "decimal system of weights and measures." There were twenty-four of these questions before the congress, and several of them were of great interest to Canadians, that of "Closer trade relations" being the main one and taking up two days' time of the congress to arrive at a decision—other questions brought forward were "Bills of Exchange," "Copyright," "Inter-Imperial Postal and Telegraph Routes," "Bills of Lading Reform," "Freight Rates," "Rules of the Road at Sea." The important resolution on emigration, and others, showing that the object of this meeting was not merely a formal gathering, but an active meeting of business representatives to discuss what is best for the general promotion of trade and commerce in the British empire.

As to the result, the very friendly feeling shown to colonial delegates in the discussion of questions affecting trade proved that the desire of the mother country is to help the colonies as much as is consistent with the present lines of trade policy in Britain; and this help will be given more in the shape of assistance to quicken and cheapen mail, transportation and telegraph service. The two days' discussion on the question of "Closer Trade Relations" showed plainly that it will be very hard to get any concessions from Britain on the lines of preferential trade with her colonies.

The meeting was a very interesting one, and the feeling was that these congresses, which are held every four years, are of increasing value to the business world. All of which is respectfully submitted.

STEPHEN NAIRN.

President of Winnipeg Grain Exchange.  
Winnipeg, Jan. 12.

The exchange in adopting the president's report, thanked him very cordially for his services during the year, and ordered the report to be printed.

The treasurer's report, which was adopted, was certified to by Messrs. Farrell and Muir, auditors. It showed a balance on hand at the beginning of the year of \$20.35; a total of receipts, \$1,752.20; total expenditure, \$1,645.85; balance, \$106.35.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The exchange proceeded with the election of officers, and the same were chosen as follows:

President—Nicholas Bawlf.  
Vice-president—R. Muir.  
Secretary-treasurer—C. N. Ball.  
Council—F. W. Thompson, G. R. Crowe, S. Spink, S. A. McGaw, W. A. Mathewson, Hon. D. H. McMillan, H. D. Metcalf, B.

Phillips, R. P. Roblin, S. Nairn, and Joseph Harris.

Committee on arbitration—S. Nairn, H. Mitchell, R. D. Martin, Jos. Harris, S. Spink, S. A. McGaw and G. R. Crowe.

Committee on appeals—F. W. Thompson, R. P. Roblin, R. D. Martin, Arthur Atkinson, S. P. Clark, Wm. Blackadar and S. W. Farrell.

The exchange adjourned and a meeting of the council was held at which the members of the call board were chosen as follows: S. W. Farrell, F. W. Thompson, H. D. Metcalf, S. Spink and Joseph Harris.

### Monthly Wheat Supplies Statement.

The total of 77,459,000 bushels of available wheat in the United States on January 1, 1897, is the smallest recorded on a like date since 1891, when the corresponding aggregate was 60,061,000 bushels. The quantity in sight in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky Mountains out of farmers' hands on Jan. 1 this year was larger than on Jan. 1, 1892, but that on the Pacific coast was less than one-half the total five years ago, which makes the aggregate at the beginning of the current year smaller than it was five years ago.

But while the statement is true that stocks of available wheat today are 4,189,000 bushels smaller than on January 1, 1892, they are 39,000,000 bushels less than on a like date in 1893; 33,000,000 bushels less than on January 1, 1891; 50,000,000 bushels less than at the corresponding time in 1895, and 27,000,000 bushels smaller than on January 1, 1893, one year ago. On the Pacific coast they are smaller than at any like period in the past eight years. But east of the Rocky mountains, Canada included, they are largely in excess of like totals in 1891, 1893 and 1895, and 4,000,000 bushels in excess of the total on January 1, 1892.

Total available stocks of wheat in the United States and Canada on January 1, 1897, with comparisons for like dates in preceding years, are as follows:

	East Rockies.	Pacific coast.	Total
1897....	73,270,000	4,189,000	77,459,000
1896....	97,769,000	7,116,000	104,885,000
1895....	113,707,000	13,322,000	127,029,000
1894....	99,512,000	10,721,000	110,233,000
1893....	107,037,000	9,305,000	116,342,000
1892....	69,213,000	8,813,000	78,026,000
1891....	47,16,000	12,911,000	60,061,000
1890....	54,227,000	7,565,000	61,792,000
1889....	52,740,000	5,765,000	58,505,000

The total quantities of wheat available for immediate distribution in the United States and Canada, both coasts, plus the quantities afloat for Europe from all exporting countries, on January 1, 1897, added to available stocks in Europe, as reported to Bradstreet's, with comparisons in previous years, are as follows:

	East Rockies.	Pacific coast.	Europe and afloat.	Grand total.
1897 ...	73,270	4,189	61,704	139,163
1896....	97,769	7,116	65,088	169,973
1895....	113,707	13,302	57,741	184,750
1894....	99,512	10,721	79,960	190,223
1893....	107,037	9,305	68,336	184,698
1892....	69,213	8,813	78,430	156,456
1891....	47,116	12,911	51,423	111,450
1890....	54,227	7,535	53,299	115,061
1889....	52,740	5,765	72,253	130,758

The quantity of available wheat reported in the United States, Canada, afloat for and in Europe on the last inst. amounts, as shown in the accompanying table, to 139,163,000 bushels, nearly 40,000,000 bushels less than one year ago; more than 45,000,000 bushels less than two years ago; 51,000,000 bushels less than on January 1, 1891; about 43,000,000 bushels less than on the like date 1893, and about 17,000,000 bushels less than at the

corresponding period 1892; but about 28,030,000 bushels more than at the like date in 1891, and 21,000,000 bushels more than in 1890.

While the decrease in available stocks has been marked, fully as much as anticipated a few months ago, there does not appear to be any immediate dearth of supplies of wheat for export, which effectually disposes of the calculations of the bull statisticians, who were particularly in evidence during the fall months of the year. In fact, one so-called authority announces that there are 100,000,000 bushels of wheat available for reserves on July 1 next, from supplies in and out of sight in the United States. Whether this be true or no, the earlier reports of the domestic wheat crop particularly that of the government, are discredited by the statistical position of the cereal today. For, according to them all, there should be no wheat to export from the United States from this time on until the new crop comes in without intruding on supplies needed at home for food and for seed.—Bradstreet's.

### British Columbia Mining News.

Within a radius of hundreds of miles from the coast, mining is still actively in progress owing to the dry warm weather. The Alphon Company, principal promoters Messrs. Geo. Cowan, J. W. Weart and Henry Shaw are surveying their 12 claims on B. wan Island, 14 miles from Vancouver preparatory to applying for a crown grant. There is no doubt whatever that the ore is on the property in large quantities as it can be traced superficially a long distance. The ledge now being worked has been tunnelled 50 feet and the vein has already widened from 5 feet to seven feet. The average assays run about \$14 the ton on the average at the surface in silver, and can be concentrated so that it may be smelted at less than \$5 per ton. The company have decided to develop the property and place a concentrator on the ground.

Another deal has been consummated in Toronto, showing the willingness with which sound financial concerns will take up a bonifide proposition. The British Canadian Gold Fields Company with ex Finance Minister Foster at the head has purchased 150,000 shares of Athabasca, the mine claims previously mentioned in these columns as situated in Nelson district and being particularly prominent. This enables the Company to proceed with developing work vigorously, having the proceeds of the sale of 200,000 shares all told for that purpose. As the mines, four in all are tree milling a stamp mill will be erected at once. The last average assay from the Athabasca tunnel went \$114, and the ledge has been proved for 600 feet by open cuts and in places the ore runs away above this average.

The Golden Cache Co., received a wire from their manager this week which runs as follows and is self explanatory: "Biggest and richest free gold strike ever made in Golden Eagle yet while cross cutting west of tunnel at 67 feet, samples and particulars forwarded." The stock of the Golden Cache mines is being held very firm there being no stock offered.

Great interest is being taken in the Fairview camp, southern British Columbia, by Vancouverites. Perhaps the most prominent claims being the Occidentals recently acquired by a Terminal City Company. There are three claims, the Mayflower, Occidental and Bootblack. In the Mayflower, tunnels have been worked ledges east and west, all three claims free gold in paying quantities. Four tons of ore sent to the smelter returned \$62; the ore was not picked and was taken practically from the surface. The ledges on all the claims are from five to seven feet wide,