

of the revenue is derived, and from articles of pure luxury, and that are admitted to be superfluities of life by common consent, such as intoxicating drinks and tobacco, another one-fourth. Absolutely necessary foods are taxed for the balance. Of course, this estimate may vary somewhat according to the reader's notions of what really constitutes a necessary, and what a luxury of life, the estimate here given being based upon the local view of the case, which may be presumed to govern the constructors of the tariff. Other estimates would say that fully one-half (and even more) of the duties annually collected in Newfoundland are derived from articles of prime necessity and consumption—to the extent of even one million dollars of the whole.

The value of these annual imports may be set down as between six and eight millions. The great bulk of the manufactured goods come, and have always come, direct from Great Britain. Of late certain specific articles of this class have come to us from the United States, such as cotton duck for ships' sails, certain makes of calico, and some styles in boots and shoes; but none of these things have superseded their equivalents for any reasons that differential tariffs could affect or national interests control. As for *where* we buy our flour, and provisions generally, that must and will depend upon forces that operate outside of this colony, and the battle regarding them must be fought before the issue reaches the Newfoundland purchaser at all. It is, in short, a battle of relatively fruitful harvests, of competition between rival lines of carriers to the seaboard, and a matter of good trade connections and efficient salesmen. These features are happily not a matter of nationality, but of business competency or success that finds expression equally on both sides of the line, and it is just from such healthy, vigorous competition that countries like Newfoundland, and principles like Free Trade, enjoy their chief blessings. Long may the latter continue to exist, and the period of their curtailment be indefinitely postponed.

VANCOUVER BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Vancouver Board of Trade was held on 3rd March, President H. Bell-Irving in the chair.

The president read his report, reviewing the work of the Board for the year, and the secretary showed that the board has a paying membership of 72, and that there is \$541 in the bank. A letter was read from the secretary of the Fruit Growers' Association, stating that the association believed New Westminster to be the central point for fruit-growers on the Mainland.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. The appointment of Mr. W. Godfrey as president was moved and seconded, but the gentleman declined. The name of Mr. H. Bell-Irving was proposed and his election was unanimous. Messrs. W. Godfrey and W. Skene were re-elected as vice-president and secretary respectively. It was resolved to grant Mr. Skene \$150 for his services during the coming year. The following gentlemen were elected as members of the Council: Messrs. F. Buscombe, W. Murray, C. J. Marani, C. G. Johnson, W. F. Salisbury, J. C. McLagan, R. H. Alexander, E. E. Evans, J. W. McFarland, F. Cockburn, W. Skene, R. H. Patterson, Sol. Oppenheimer, H. Darling, and H. H. Spicer.

A resolution, moved by Caesar J. Marani, and seconded by E. H. Heaps, was then discussed and carried. It advocated the construction of the proposed Columbia River and Western Railway, from Trail to Penticton within two years, instead of six, in order that the products of the Okanagan Valley may find a market in Rossland and other places of growing importance in the Kootenay district (now drawing their supplies almost entirely from the American side). A memorial from the Board to this effect is to be sent to the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council.

NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF TRADE.

On the evening of February 19th was held the annual meeting of the New Westminster Board of Trade, when the chair was occupied by the vice-president, John Wilson. The membership is now 61, a decrease of 13 within the year. It was agreed to consult with other B.C. boards of trade as to appointing a joint delegate to the Congress of Chambers of Commerce in London. The matter of deepening the river so as to admit large ocean steamers in connection with the G.N.R.R. was next debated, and strong criticisms made of the Ottawa Government, which had failed to provide a dredger for the purpose, as the board had been promised. The secretary's report shows the amount collected by the Fraser Valley Relief Committee in 1894 to have been \$9,099, and that disbursed, \$8,710; the balance is in bank. The oatmeal mill, established through the good offices of the board, is running satisfactorily, but the other enterprise, the Mainland pottery works, have failed, and the lot is bonded by the Texas Lake Cold Storage Company. The report of the secretary contains much that is of interest. Upon the claim of Mr. Fraser that Westminster should have a

smelter, a committee of enquiry was appointed. Mr. Major then urged that the delta lands of the Fraser were the best sugar-beet producing lands, both as to quality and quantity, in the world, and therefore a sugar refinery was a likely thing.

The time having come for the election of officers, Mr. G. D. Brymer was chosen president, Mr. John Wilson re-elected vice-president, and Mr. D. Robson secretary. On motion it was decided to increase the number of councillors for the ensuing year from ten to thirteen.

The following were then nominated and elected by acclamation as the council of the board: John Hendry, J. W. Creighton, C. G. Major, George Kennedy, James Johnston, M. Sinclair, R. Jardine, John McNab, D. S. Curtis, T. S. Annandale, George H. Cooper, J. S. C. Fraser, and J. G. Scott. The following were elected by acclamation as the board of arbitration: A. J. McColl, J. E. Phillips, W. J. Walker, and A. B. MacKenzie.

TRAVELERS' INSURANCE COMPANY.

There has been friction in the administrative board of the Travelers for some time past. Mr. Batterson, the president, and Mr. Dennis, the secretary, were not on good terms. Finally the differences became so acute that the two men could no longer remain associated, and Mr. Dennis has severed his connection with the company. Both are men of ability and high repute; both have been long connected with the company, but there is no longer room for both in its counsels.

The company's business goes steadily and successfully on. It shows a gain in assets from the business of 1895 equal to \$1,750,000, the total assets being now \$19,425,220, and the surplus, to which \$178,283 was added last year, is now \$2,661,245. Such figures as these attest the extent of the company's business and the condition of its affairs as a strong and progressive organization.

During the year the company paid to policy-holders the sum of \$2,244,588, of which amount \$1,002,300 was to life, and \$1,242,287 to accident policy-holders. Since its organization in 1864, the company has paid to accident policy-holders the sum of \$18,454,252, and to life policy-holders the sum of \$10,686,687. Although it has in force twice as many accident as it has life policies, the Travelers' wrote \$15,422,712 of new life insurance during 1895, and its total life assurances in force at the close of last year amounted to \$87,355,158.

COUNTRY STORES, ETC.

John King's new store at Fort William is to be ready for the spring trade.

Miss Maggie Lees, of Almonte, has left that town to start a millinery business in Rockland.

The firm of Lang & Morphy, general merchants, at Arnprior, have closed their branch store at Shawville.

It is stated by the *Seaforth Expositor* that H. G. McCosh and H. Jeffery, who have been carrying on a retail dry goods business in that town, have decided to relinquish the business.

Geddes Bros., dry goods dealers, of Strathroy, have closed an agreement with the Mackenzie estate for the lease of the store in Sarnia, occupied by Messrs. Watson & Wilkinson, and will take possession this week.

On or about the 16th inst. a new shoe dealing firm will open in Chatham, John L. Campbell, long with Convey & Co., having entered into partnership with Mr. Gray, of Sarnia. The new firm are having a store in the Kogleschatz block handsomely fitted up for them, two former shops there being thrown into one.

The removal to Sarnia of Mr. Thomas Wood, merchant, of Tilsonburg, is noted by the *Liberal*, which regrets his leaving as a public-spirited citizen. He has bought the stock of books, stationery, fancy goods, pianos, organs, sewing machines, etc., belonging to the estate of J. G. McCrae, Sarnia, amounting to \$7,185, and left for the tunnel town last week.

In old-fashioned days, thread and hooks-and-eyes used to be the "inducement" to buy a dress, since these "trimmings" were always thrown in with the calico. But to-day novel modes of inducing custom are heard of. There is a firm in St. John, New Brunswick, which advertises free hemming of all cotton and linens, declaring that housekeepers will find many attractive lines in table linens hemmed to order.

Storekeepers are not always in hard luck, though they seem now-a-days to have more than their share of adversity. A. M. Aubin used to be in business at Comber, in the county of Essex. He was burned out and presumably ruined, and then removed to Detroit. It is now announced that he has received a windfall of \$10,000, as his share of his grandfather's estate, at River Rouge, below the city. Nor is this all; Mrs. Aubin has just received a cheque for \$1,000 back pension due to her father by the United States Government, in whose army he served.