

is as it should be. We are only on the threshold of this trade. It is capable of enormous expansion. It has not been to our credit that so far we have sent Great Britain so little of our leather compared with the large quantities sent from the United States. Other things being equal, the Motherland would naturally prefer to do business with her own kith and kin, who are now giving freely of her best young life, for the protection of that vast Empire, of which we are proud to form a part. The manufacture of leather for the Old Country market must grow with the growing time. In this connection, permit me to make a suggestion. The action of the Government in insisting upon Canadian logs and pulpwood being manufactured in the country is a most popular one. It would be quite consistent and equally popular for them to take another forward step and say, "Canadian tan-bark must be used in the manufacture of Canadian leather." The Toronto Board of Trade could use its powerful influence in bringing about this desirable reform. We must to-day nominate a representative of the Tanners' Section to the Council. He should be charged with the duty of asking the Board of Trade to petition the Government to make this change.

EDGAR A. WILLS
Secretary-Treasurer.

C. J. MILLER,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE WHOLESALE GROCERS' SECTION OF THE BOARD OF TRADE
OF THE CITY OF TORONTO.

The grocery business during the year has been only moderately satisfactory. The turnover was perhaps the largest in the history of the trade, and values had an upward tendency throughout the most of the year. Competition has, however, kept the wholesale selling prices below reasonable figures.

Excessive freights have also seriously cut into profits. Our business is affected more by freight rates than any other branch, and unfortunately we have suffered severely in the past by railway discrimination and still have cause to complain. As a distributing centre Toronto is by far the most important in Canada as statistics show, and by universal practice should receive first consideration. By the constant efforts of the Board of Trade the rates as compared with Montreal are now more reasonable, although in some respects they still require further adjustment. On heavy goods the slightest advantage in transportation secures the trade. In local traffic this is the best revenue-producing district on the Canadian Ry. system, and the Companies appear to impose on the traffic all the freight it will bear. It is timesome means were devised to examine into those exorbitant local charges.

That Toronto is the chief distributing centre of the Dominion is daily becoming better understood, and there is a corresponding disposition throughout the country to do business here. I look forward to a steady advance in the city's progress, in which I have no doubt the grocery trade will to some extent share.

EDGAR A. WILLS,
Secretary-Treasurer.

JOHN I. DAVIDSON,
Chairman.