

REPORT.

To the Members of the Montreal Board of Trade:

GENTLEMEN,—

In compliance with by-law 36, your Council herewith submits a general report of its proceedings during the past year.

The anxiety regarding the tariffs in both Canada and the United States, which marked the close of the year 1896, unfortunately extended into the early months of the present year, and business was for a time thereby considerably crippled. Upon the settlement of the tariff question in Canada without the violent changes that had been feared by many, business became more than usually active, and the volume in the latter part of the year made up in most branches for the dulness of the earlier months.

The celebration of the completion of the sixtieth year of Her Majesty's reign, known as the Diamond Jubilee, afforded Canada the occasion for a display of loyalty to the Sovereign and to the Empire which was enthusiastically taken advantage of in this city by all classes of citizens, and it was very satisfactory to note that the position occupied by the Dominion at the imposing and unique ceremonies in London was a foremost one, and that the results to this country have not only been very satisfactory from an imperial point of view, but great material advantages have also accrued from the interest awakened thereby in this Dominion.

The discovery of enormously rich mineral deposits in British Columbia and other provinces has called the attention of the world to Canada, and it is already evident that this will result in a large amount of capital being invested here, and in an enormous increase in the number of immigrants,