

be made in the Winnipeg Customs House, which will, we hope, remove all cause for friction between the Board and that Department, and thus leave the Board, as its members desire it to be, working in harmony with every department of the Dominion Government.

Very early in the year your Board were brought face to face with the annoying question of discriminating freight rates against Winnipeg on the C.P.R. The Winnipeg City Council very considerably appointed a committee from their number to co-operate with the Council of the Board upon this question, and render any assistance within their power. The joint meetings of the two bodies resulted in the determination to send a deputation from both bodies to the C.P.R. authorities at Montreal, to press for a readjustment of freight rates, and to wait upon the Dominion Minister of Public Works, to press upon him the necessity for improvement of the Red River so as to give free navigation from Lake Winnipeg to the International Boundary Line.

In dealing with this question of discriminating rates on the C.P.R., your Council had to guard against what C.P.R. officials evidently wished to place upon the Winnipeg Board, namely, the odium of trying to secure better rates for this city at the expense of other cities and towns west of here. Every effort was therefore made against such a course being adopted, and a committee was appointed to draft a circular, explaining the position of the Board, a copy of which was mailed to every person or firm in trade west of this city.

The result of the Board's long-continued efforts in this direction was, that on June 1st the C.P.R. management conceded to this city and other leading points on their main line west of here, a reduction of fifteen per cent off freight rates to all points in the west. This concession, while falling considerably short of anything like what was due to the wholesale trade of this city, was at least an acknowledgement of the justice of the claims so persistently maintained by your Board.

Your Council kept steadily in view the necessity of securing some amendments to the dishonest and mischievous legislation in connection with the relationship of debtor and creditor passed during the 1885 session of the Local Legislature, and appointed an efficient