

details with which they are now crowded, and in order to secure for the various industrial interests of the country the benefits of a systematized, experienced and permanent Board, it is the judgment of this convention that a Government Board of Trade should be formed, for the especial oversight and care of all questions relating to our agricultural, manufacturing and commercial interests, for the compilation of statistics, for inquiry into casualties, and for such other objects as may properly be included in such a department.

“That the Secretary of the Board of Trade of Boston be requested to prepare and present, in behalf of this convention, a memorial to the Congress of the United States, asking, in view of the immense industrial and mercantile interests involved, its early consideration of, and action upon, the subject.”

The National Board of Trade has urged the establishment of such a department as was recommended in this city in 1865, upon Congress and the General Government, almost every year since it came into being.

Our retrospect today would be incomplete, if we failed to make mention of our friends—how large the number—who were our fellow members in the Detroit Convention, and who have passed on before us “to the land of the great Departed, into the Silent Land.” We might name them one by one, and recall what was accomplished by each in his own Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce, in his own community, and in the country. The record would be an honorable and an inspiring one. Two have died since the annual meeting in January, who assisted at the formation of the National Board of Trade in 1868, and took part in its earlier proceedings, and to whom it will be proper to refer particularly. Theophilus C. Hersey, of Portland, was a modest, quiet, self-possessed, intelligent man, and a leader in the group of enterprising and far-seeing merchants, who, by their indomitable energy and will, did much for the beautiful city by the sea of