

commend the action of the Council in drawing the attention of the Government to the facts. Providence may, by giving an abundant crop of oats this year come to the aid of the millers and this may obscure for the time being the curious clause of the Customs law, still I think it would be wise for the incoming Council to press for change, if our efforts of last year should fail.

MAIL SERVICE.

You will notice from the report of the Council that we had much to do with the Post Office department during the year. The Department acted promptly on our request for mail service between Winnipeg and Port Arthur and intermediate points on Fridays and back on Tuesdays. The Government also granted the prayer of our petition for mail service on the Dauphin Railway, although not quite so promptly. Other matters of minor importance pertaining to the City service were improved, but I regret to state our repeated efforts to secure mail service on the Portage branch of the Northern Pacific have up to the present been unsuccessful. A man on horse-back with a mail bag paralleling the line of railway may be an amusing spectacle but it is not up to date, and I hope the new Council will take the matter up again with better results, as the present method of serving the Post Offices on this line and the ones adjacent to it is hurtful to the development of this important district. I would also commend to the attention of the new Council an urgent request from Cardston, Alberta, for increased mail facilities. There are now 1300 people in the Leey's Creek settlement and they only get one mail a week. A mail at least twice a week from Lethbridge and by a livelier conveyance than now used would be of practical service to Winnipeg wholesale merchants who are doing a constantly increasing trade with this progressive district. At present