

B. C. BOARD OF TRADE.

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trade council was held in the Bank of B. C. building, Tuesday afternoon. There were present: Vice President Flumerfelt (in the chair) and Messrs. A. B. Gray, R. Ward, C. E. Renouf, W. F. Bullen, G. Leiser, H. F. Heisterman, D. R. Ker and E. A. McQuade.

A letter from Robert Ward, accepting the appointment as delegate to the second congress of chambers of commerce, to be held in London, was read and received. Mr. Ward's resignation from the position of chairman of the committees on finance and fisheries was accepted. He resigned owing to his intended absence from the city.

The resolution of the Vancouver Board of Trade with reference to the bonusing vessels of 600 tons and over built in the province came up for the third time. The secretary reported that he had not yet received a reply to his communication to Vancouver, asking for further particulars, and the resolution was filed.

A letter was received from the Board of Trade of Winnipeg asking the organization to join them in the proposed monopoly bill suggested by the Montreal board, and pointing out certain features in it objectionable to Winnipeg business men. The local board had already pronounced itself in favor of the bill, and the secretary was instructed to so write to the Winnipeg board.

A letter was read from Col. Howard Vincent, M. P., inviting the delegate who might be chosen to represent the Board at the Board of Trade congress, to represent the Board also at the convention of the United Empire Trade League to be held in London at the same time. The list of subjects to be discussed is as follows:

A discussion on the productive capacity of Canada, Australia, South Africa, India, Ceylon, West Indies and other British colonies and dependencies.

A discussion also on meat, fish, sugar, cotton, wool, timber, tobacco, wine and other articles required by the Mother Country and grown in British Colonies, and now obtained in a large ratio from foreign countries instead of from within the Empire.

"Also the advisability of a preferential basis of trade on mutually advantageous terms."

The delegate was also invited by the writer to the United Empire Trade banquet.

A letter was read from Colonel Prior as follows:

OTTAWA, April 21, 1892.

SIR—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your printed letter of the 20th March, in regard to resolutions passed by your Board, calling on the representatives of British Columbia in the Dominion House to commence to use their influence to have British Columbia exempt from the influence of the cattle quarantine law.

In reply, I would state that Mr. Earle and myself, along with the other British Columbia members, waited on the Hon. Mr. Abbott, and expressed our views very strongly in respect to this matter. Mr. Abbott, however, proved to us that it was a question that affected the whole of the

cattle trade of Canada, as they undoubtedly showed from England, that unless the whole of Canada was strictly quarantined, the Imperial Government would not allow any live stock to be shipped to that country. As the cattle trade is of immense importance to the country, we do not feel justified in unduly pressing our opinion. We still think that if the matter had been properly placed before the English public, they might have been brought to see that British Columbia was not in the same position as the rest of the Dominion, but we are also aware that to have done this would have taken time, and, before that time had expired, Canadian cattle might have been shut out of the market. As it is now, Canada is the only country in the world that is allowed to send live stock into England.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
EDWARD GAWLOR PRIOR.

The following communication was also received from the same gentleman:

OTTAWA, April 21, 1892.

SIR—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 9th inst, in regard to the alleged misunderstanding as to the steamer Sir James Douglas.

I am perfectly aware that you merely asked that the Dominion Government should place the steamer in service for exploratory service in the deep sea fisheries, but I am also aware that the Provincial Government strongly urged on the British Columbia members to ask the Dominion Government to hand over the steamer to them so that they could use her in connection with the Crofter scheme. This, in our opinion, was preferable to letting the boat continue the property of the Dominion Government, as by its working in connection with the Crofter scheme the deep sea fisheries would be explored. That is the reason the Dominion Government has handed over the boat to the Provincial Government.

I feel sure that when you look at this matter again you will see that we acted for the best.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) E. G. PRIOR.

The next matter taken up was that of the duty on steel rails for the electric car tracks, which are at present taxed 10 per cent., while steel rails for steam motive power are free. The Board resolved that a request be sent to Messrs. Earle and asking them to urge that the duty on electric tramway rails be removed.

A STARTLING EXHIBITION.

A Chicago correspondent of the *American Architect* writes as follows:—The cornerstone of the great Masonic Temple here in our city has been laid. Just a year has elapsed in the construction of the twenty stories which compose the building. The ceremony, without doubt, was interesting to the brotherhood of white-plumed knights, but to the world at large a much more interesting performance was one which took place a day later in the same structure, when a successful experiment was tried by the inventor of a pocket fire escape. The stairs in the building are not yet completed, and it was a tremen-

dous operation; the climb to the top story enabled the spectators to fully realize the height from which the test was to be made. The machine which played the principal part of the experiment is a simple device. It consists of a metallic tape one-quarter of an inch wide and a thirty second of an inch thick, running on a steel reel which is fastened to a web belt that passes around the waist. The reel is provided with a break where the person using it can control the speed of his descent. There is also an automatic brake to keep a required tension on the tape and thus prevent a sudden drop. The end of the tape is provided with a thumb screw which can be fastened to the windowsill or any object in the room. The machine in appearance is like a fisherman's reel, and is about twice the size of a spool of thread. The experiment was entirely successful, but, to say the least, decidedly ghastly at the commencement, when, after having placed the thumb screw and adjusted the webbing belt, the inventor stepped off apparently into space from the twentieth story. He at first descended slowly, then faster and faster, till it seemed as if he must have lost control over the little machine, the slender tape of which could scarcely be seen, and at any time looked no larger than an ordinary cord. At the tenth story the man stopped suddenly, gave the crowd beneath time to compose itself, and then made another run to the seventh story, from which he descended, running and stopping by turns, till he reached the scaffolding, where he took three men on to the line with him and dropped to the ground with them. If the invention is what it appears to be, it is a very ingenious one, and one which will be of great use to mankind.

THE JUNIOR CLERK.

The following, which is clipped from the *New York Daily Commercial Bulletin*, though it names a particular class of clerks, is broad enough to apply to all young men whose hopes should lie in their chances of promotion, and whose chances of promotion depend on the sincerity of their own efforts:—

Where will the fifty-dollar-a-month clerks one sees in fire insurance offices be twenty years from now?

This is a question which the fire underwriter asks himself as he passes through the large fire insurance offices of this city. It is, however, of much more importance to the junior clerks, although but few of them appreciate it. To the junior clerk, therefore, we address ourselves, in the hope of bringing him to a clear realization of his position and the necessity of bestirring himself if he wishes ever to amount to anything. What are you doing to qualify yourself for a better place than you now have and one which will be in line of promotion? The day has gone by when mere "pull" could be all powerful. Your father, uncle or friend may be a director, or even an officer of the company, but that will aid you little if you are not helping yourself.

As you sit at your desk do you think about your work or lawn tennis, the furnishing of your mind with insurance information or the decoration of your feet