

again bring the matter to the attention of his colleagues, and have a report on the surveys already made and the plans prepared by the Department of Public Works, brought before the members of his government.

EFFICIENCY OF THE FIRE BRIGADE.

In April the Board of Fire Underwriters asked the co-operation of this Board in urging on the City Council an investigation into the water supply for fire purposes, and the general efficiency of the Fire Brigade. The Underwriters made some grave statements in connection with the matter. This Board, while not passing upon the merits of the matter, which gave rise to considerable public discussion, expressed the opinion "that the City Council should hold an investigation, either to substantiate the charges made, or exonerate their officials upon whom suspicion was thrown." An investigation was held, and, as a consequence, several changes were made in the Fire Brigade and many of the city fire tanks have been connected with the water mains in such a manner that it is believed the water supply for fire purposes has been greatly improved.

INSURANCE TAX.

Early in last year the Council opened communication with the Manitoba Board of Fire Underwriters on the subject of a tax of 5 cents per \$100 of insurance imposed by the companies represented in the Manitoba association, which tax was imposed for the purpose of recouping the companies for a business tax levied on them by the Manitoba Legislature. The Council protested against this action of the Fire Underwriters Board and they replied that the head offices of their various companies had instructed them to pursue this course. Strong representations, it is learned, were made to the general offices of the companies and it is satisfactory to know that the tax is no longer levied.