

Provinces, which I am sure they will attend to,—their representation in the Board is not sufficient. Only St. John, Charlottetown, and Halifax are represented; but, now that we have succeeded in securing the passage of a General Board of Trade Act, enabling every place with over 2,500 population to get a Board of Trade incorporated without any expense whatever, there will be no excuse for any important place in Canada being unrepresented at this Dominion Board at its annual or other meetings. It may be observed here, that hitherto the Executive Council have not rigidly construed that part of the Constitution of the Dominion Board which requires affiliated Boards or Chambers to be incorporated,—in consequence of the expense which might thereby be entailed upon the smaller bodies. I now expect that such of the constituent organizations as are not incorporated or established under special legislation, will be requested to register under the new law. On the part of the Executive Council, I have to give notice of motion that the ex-Presidents shall in future be full members of the body. There are such men as the Hon. John Young, Mr. McGiverin, and Mr. Fry, of Quebec, to whom this would apply. I took the liberty to send an invitation to Mr. Fry, and to try to get one to Mr. Young. It seemed to be very necessary that Mr. Young should be here, as, in the discussion of Reciprocity, the Caughnawaga Canal will probably have the fewest friends; and it is only right that those who have an interest in it should be heard. Another notice of motion will have reference to a Department of Commerce in the Dominion Government. Now, very frequently, we are sent from pillar to post, and from department to department,—and sometimes it is very difficult to have anything fully carried out, just for want of such a portfolio in the Cabinet. I think there should be a department devoted to the interests of commerce, and that there should be men connected with it, able to fully comprehend matters which are brought up. Another notice of motion will relate to Tribunals of Commerce,—considered to some extent at the annual meeting in February last. I may briefly describe them as a system of dealing with commercial cases according to facts and usage of trade. Of course, when we come to test a business transaction at law, if any technical legal point should arise, which interferes with the usage of trade, that usage has no effect; and it is most important that when so large a number of transactions are based upon usage of trade, we should have a ready and cheap method of determining them, instead of the present tedious, and often vexatious process through the courts. I am very happy to inform you that we have received from the Associated Chambers of Commerce of Great Britain, a most hearty invitation to send delegates to their Autumnal Meeting in September next, and also a promise that they will endeavor to send delegates to us. I think it extremely important,—in view of the fact that, in some things, we are rather misunderstood on the other side of the Atlantic, and that there are many things in which people are not well acquainted with our circumstances here,—that we should by Delegates be able to represent Canada at the large commercial conventions which they hold every year. We would be able to understand each other better; and

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