

HIDE AND LEATHER EXAMINERS.

To the President and Members of the Winnipeg Board of Trade:

Your Committee of Hide and Leather Examiners present herewith their Second Annual Report:

The calls on your Committee during the past year have been but few, the Inspection Act working smoothly and giving satisfaction. The Inspector, Mr. W. J. Bird, has performed his duties in a manner that amply demonstrates his fitness for the position.

The Inspector reports that the quality of the hides and calfskins marketed by the city butchers has greatly improved. On the contrary, the hides and calfskins reaching here through country dealers are very inferior, chiefly owing to mutilation of the hides. If the country dealers only fully recognized that all shipments made by them are inspected by the Official Inspector and payments are based entirely on his certificates, they would impress on farmers and country butchers the necessity for more care in skinning. It is a common case to find ten per cent. of damage to the hides, which the Inspector grades accordingly, and the shipper is the loser on weight and freight charges. Some country shippers seem to be unaware of the fact that men in the trade here purchase on the Inspector's certificates. Still, on the whole, very encouraging progress has been made through the efforts of the Inspector.

Your Committee are pleased to report that no appeals have been made from the Inspector's grading.

F. OSSENERUGGE, *Chairman.*

CHAS. N. BELL, *Secretary.*

HIDES INSPECTED 1887, WINNIPEG.—No. 1, 8,128; No. 2, 6,535; No. 3, 676; total, 15,339; fees collected by Inspector, \$766.95.