

Board of Trade Council.

A meeting of the council of the board of trade was held Tuesday afternoon. The board recently urged on the minister of public works to increase the present post office building, and to concentrate therein all the Dominion public offices of the city.

A reply was received from Mr. Tarte that he would be unable to take up the matter at this late stage of the session, but that he would deal with it during the recess. The board then wrote all the members resident in Winnipeg, asking them to urge upon the minister that he come to some decision in regard to the enlargement of the building. Messrs. McCreary, M. P., Richardson, M. P., and Puttee, M. P., have replied, stating that they have interviewed the Hon. Mr. Tarte and that he has informed them that he fully recognizes the necessity of new premises for Dominion offices in Winnipeg, and will give the subject full consideration before the next session of parliament. Mr. Puttee writes the board: "I have interviewed the Hon. Mr. Tarte, minister of public works, on the subject, and while explaining that he found it impossible to make provision for the work in this year's estimates, he assures me that he is convinced of the desirability of the improvement and will provide for it and proceed to carry it out next year."

Mr. C. H. Newton wrote the council thanking the members for their recommendation which secured his appointment as official assignee for the province of Manitoba.

Telephone Rates.

The Toronto board of trade had communicated with this board asking for information regarding the rates charged by the Bell Telephone company for business and private telephones in Winnipeg, also asking if this board is in favor of having the present schedule of rates in Canada maintained subject to revision by the governor-in-council, and not raised as petitioned for by the telephone company. The information asked for by the Toronto body had been wired, and they were informed that the board had already signed the petition to parliament that the present schedule of rates be not increased.

National Telegraph System.

A communication was received from the British Empire League in Canada, asking the board to petition parliament to nationalize the telegraph and cable system. The matter was laid over for further consideration.

A communication was read from the Vancouver board of trade, asking this board to endorse and pass the following resolution. Resolved that this board is of the opinion that the metric system of weights and measures should, as recommended by a select committee of parliament in 1895, be legalized in all parts of the empire, excepting India, for all purposes, and, after a period of two years, be everywhere rendered compulsory by Act or ordinance, and that meanwhile the system should be thoroughly taught in all public elementary schools, as a necessary branch of arithmetic. Some two years ago the Winnipeg board endorsed the general principle of the metric system, but the council could not see its way clear to ask that it be made compulsory.

Visitors to Winnipeg.

A letter was read from the Canadian club of Boston, Massachusetts, asking the board to designate some particular period during the year when special attractions would be provided to welcome in the city visiting Canadians who are resident in the United States, and especially in the state of Massachusetts. It was resolved to recommend the Canadian club that exhibition week would be the best time for visitors to come to Winnipeg, and that the communication be forwarded to the Exhibition association for such action as they might deem necessary.

Grain Inspection System.

The general grain committee of the board reported on an interview which they recently had with Hon. Mr. Sifton in connection with the bill now before Parliament to amend the general inspection act by abolishing the right of the board of survey as the final appeal from the grading of grain by the inspection staff, the proposed amendment, it being understood, being due to some changes proposed in the inspection system at the port of

Montreal. The committee had strongly urged that the system as now established in Manitoba should be left alone, as it was giving satisfaction now, and Mr. Sifton had promised that the minister of inland revenue would be fully advised by him of the desire of the trade.

Bounty on Pig Lead.

A communication was read from the Nelson Board of Trade in connection with their proposal that the Dominion government should give a bounty of \$5 per ton on pig lead, the product from ores mined, smelted and refined in Canada. As the Nelson board had been asked for some specific information, action on their communication was delayed until the receipt of word from them.

Tannery and New Boards.

A communication from the West Tanning company of West, Shropshire, England, was read, asking for information they desire to obtain in connection with the possible establishment by them of a tannery in Winnipeg. The secretary was directed to forward the communication to the city council, with such information as he had collected, as the matter of exemption from taxation was included in their communication.

Notice was given the board of the organization of new boards of trade at Moosemin and Strathcona in the Territories.

Insurance Rates.

The matter of greatly increased rates of insurance for the city was discussed at some length. A committee, consisting of Messrs. D. K. Elliott, Wm. Georgeon, E. L. Drewry, A. L. Johnson and J. H. Ashdown, was appointed to look into the whole question, both of the increase in the rates of insurance and the plan of raising the Winnipeg properties for insurance purposes adopted by the fire underwriters' board, the committee to have full power to act in making representations to the underwriters.

After attending to some routine matters, the council adjourned.

Territorial Legislature.

Regina, N. W. T., May 14.—In the assembly yesterday S. McLeod moved for a return relating to public companies doing business in the Territories. His object, he said, was to find out whether such institutions as the Canada Mutual Loan and Investment company could be allowed to do business, and if so to alter the law so that they could not. He quoted instances to show that parties, who had paid up the full amount loaned with interest, insurance and all charges yet found themselves owing more than ever. He characterized the transactions as a swindle.

R. B. Bennett seconded, and corroborated the statement as to the indebtedness of persons to the company after they had paid up everything that equity demanded.

Hon. Mr. Bullock admitted the grievance, and would not oppose the motion which was then agreed to.

Premier Haultain moved the second reading of a bill to remove certain doubts as to the effect of the Local Improvement ordinance. He said that in certain suits against the Hudson's Bay company, other companies and some individuals to recover taxes on their lands the great corporation had raised certain technical points by a construction of the ordinance that was never intended by the assembly when it passed the ordinance. The hon. gentleman quoted precedents in the imperial parliament for such declaratory legislation.

Thos. Mackay objected to the retroactive character of the bill. Legislation was still pending, and he objected to it, as a measure that sought to interfere with the cases not yet decided. If the House had made a mistake it must abide the consequences, but he would support a measure to remedy the mistake in the future.

R. B. Bennett spoke strongly against the bill. Even if the assembly had power to pass such a measure it was a power that should be used very carefully. Cases were still pending, and what the bill proposed was really to tell the judges what the law was, and to tell them that unless they decided a certain way they were deciding wrongly.

Mr. A. L. Sifton, for the government, replied that the most desperate efforts were being put forward by the great corporations to evade their taxes, while the ordinary settlers had to pay, and in the interests of the settlers the law on the subject should be declared. The bill was read a second time, and after several bills had been

advanced a stage the House adjourned.

The members, however, kept their seats, and considered as private persons an invitation from the city council and board of trade of Calgary asking the lieutenant-governor and the assembly to visit this city as its guests on May 24. It was decided that the members of the assembly should accept the invitation, and a committee was appointed to draft a suitable reply.

New C. P. R. Lines.

Construction work on the C. P. R. this year will be, so far as can be learned, in continuing the lines that were started last year and in running a few spur lines in the west. Among the new lines to be started will be a spur line to the Qu'Appelle valley. A trial line is now being run from Moosemin which will go as far as Scissors and eventually to the valley. It was expected that the line would run from Elkhorn to this locality but it now looks as if the company had decided in favor of the former place.

The Waskada branch will be continued across the Souls and Antler rivers, fifteen miles being the amount to be built this year. The Snowflake branch will be continued toward the boundary, a distance of nine miles. Grading on the Lake Winnipeg branch is now progressing, and a distance of fourteen miles will be built this summer.

Grain Boats for the Lakes.

Montreal, May 15.—C. F. Dezola, Canadian representative of Swan and Hunter, the famous shipbuilders of Tyne-side, says his firm are planning to put a fleet of grain carriers on the Canadian canals as soon as Montreal is equipped with elevators and the improvements at Port Colborne are carried out. The designs for the boats and barges have already been decided upon. It is intended to build steamers and barges in proportion of one to two. The two barges will be towed by each propeller. Their dimensions will be the same but the space in the steamers occupied by the machinery makes their carrying capacity less than that of barges. The boats will be about 160 feet long, 12 feet beam and will have a draught of 14 feet. Each of the steamers will have a capacity of 80,000 bushels and each of the barges will carry 100,000 bushels. Therefore each fleet, steamer with two barges in tow, will have a capacity of 280,000 bushels. With a number of these fleets in the canals grain can be moved eastward from Port Colborne at a pretty rapid rate and very cheaply. Some of the steamers and barges will be built on the other side of the Atlantic but probably a shipyard will be established in Canada if it is found business will warrant expenditure for construction.

Wheat Stocks Decreasing.

Wheat supplies in the leading producing and consuming countries usually decrease heavily about this time of the year, and it is therefore no surprise to learn that the world's supply fell off more heavily in April than it did during the entire first quarter of the year. It is of interest to note, however, that the decline has been relatively greater in the United States this year than for any corresponding period for at least five years past. European supplies likewise decreased, and the result is a quite bullish exhibition of the statistical side of the wheat situation.

The total stock of wheat in the leading countries of the world on May 1 compares with preceding periods as follows:

(000's omitted.)				
	May 1, 1901	1900	1899	1898
U.S. & Canada	15,352	18,426	17,814	15,713
Europe & Africa	18,100	18,000	17,500	16,500
Australia	10,820	10,200	7,500	7,500
Argentina	3,200	3,520	3,680	5,520

Totals . . . 157,532 173,776 159,194 130,533
The following table shows the decreases in the world's visible supply in April for four years past:

(000's omitted.)				
	1901	1900	1899	1898
U.S. & Canada	16,414	9,983	3,846	10,277
Europe	100	4,500	2,200	9,400
Australia	620	700	700	
Argentina	320	2,288	2,576	1,104

Total decrease . 16,244 16,571 4,170 19,781
Increase.

The decrease in the United States and Canada in April was 16,414,000

bushels, an aggregate slightly larger than the entire net world's decrease, owing to the increase in Australian stocks. The decrease in America, it will be seen, is more than 7,000,000 bushels larger than in April a year ago, about four times what it was in 1898, and about 6,000,000 bushels larger than the decrease in April, 1898, which witnessed the start of the Letter boom. While the supplies in this country fell off heavily, those in the rest of the world decreased but slightly, the result being that the decrease in the world's supply this year was slightly smaller than a year ago, and about 3,500,000 bushels less than the decrease in 1898.

In the following table are given the details of the movement of stocks in the United States and Canada, monthly, since January 1, 1901.

East of Pacific Coast, U.S. & Canada.			
	1901	1900	1899
January	87,311,000	8,658,000	36,597,000
Feb. 1	86,321,000	8,717,000	35,041,000
March 1	85,704,000	8,972,000	37,070,000
April 1	85,501,000	9,257,000	31,826,000
May 1	86,248,000	9,081,000	35,826,000

Stocks here and in Canada, it will be seen, fell off 16,414,000 bushels this year in April and decreased 31,215,000 bushels since January 1, whereas a year ago the decrease in April was only 9,081,000 bushels, and the decrease from January 1 to May 1 was 1,117,000 bushels. In 1898 the decrease for the first four months was only 26,744,000 bushels, but it will be recalled that this latter decrease was on a considerably smaller total stock. The situation on May 1 for a period of years past is shown in the following table:

East of Pacific Coast, U.S. & Canada.			
	1901	1900	1899
May 1	86,248,000	9,081,000	35,826,000
1900	70,764,000	7,650,000	27,814,000
1899	47,258,000	4,555,000	21,713,000
1898	31,029,000	3,051,000	14,000,000
1897	49,681,000	1,014,000	51,208,000
1896	80,200,000	3,152,000	83,572,000
1895	80,454,000	10,150,000	90,601,000
1894	82,085,000	9,378,000	91,463,000
1893	95,719,000	9,537,000	95,217,000
1892	49,382,000	2,188,000	51,870,000
1891	33,662,000	4,211,000	37,873,000
1890	33,327,000	3,828,000	37,155,000

The total American stock on May 1 this year, 65,352,000 bushels, is 12,432,000 bushels smaller than a year ago, but is 13,609,000 bushels larger than in 1899 and 31,001,000 bushels larger than, or almost double, the stock held in 1898. It is worth noting, however, that the present stock is from 18,000,000 to 35,000,000 bushels smaller than it was in the depressed years 1893 to 1896 inclusive. The position of European supplies on the first day of May compares with preceding months and years as follows:

(000's omitted.)											
	1895	'96	'97	'98	'99	1900	1901	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1
Jan.	75	89	79	71	61	68	74	68	74	74	74
Feb.	81	73	77	71	61	67	74	67	74	74	74
Mar.	84	73	70	69	68	62	74	67	74	74	74
Apr.	79	69	64	69	67	74	78	67	74	74	74
May	81	61	55	61	65	70	78	67	74	74	74
June	85	62	55	67	70	75	81	67	74	74	74
July	84	64	50	59	69	64	64	64	64	64	64
Aug.	88	48	38	48	63	61	61	61	61	61	61
Sept.	78	46	43	47	63	62	62	62	62	62	62
Oct.	80	58	57	39	69	67	67	67	67	67	67
Nov.	82	78	61	49	71	74	74	74	74	74	74
Dec.	89	89	70	51	71	74	74	74	74	74	74

European supplies, it will be seen, showed practically no alteration in April, against declines of from 2,000,000 to 9,000,000 bushels in the years from 1900 back to 1895, and the total supply on May 1, 78,100,000 bushels, which is 8,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago, is likewise the heaviest stock held on May 1 since 1895. The combined American and European stocks on May 1 make the following comparison:

(000's omitted.)											
	1901	1900	1899	'98	'97	'96	Jan. 1	Feb. 1	Mar. 1	Apr. 1	May 1
Jan. 1	169	167	117	132	156	194	169	167	117	132	156
Feb. 1	167	162	118	127	148	177	167	162	118	127	148
Mar. 1	162	159	124	118	133	172	162	159	124	118	133
Apr. 1	169	161	123	114	122	163	169	161	123	114	122
May 1	143	148	117	95	107	146	143	148	117	95	107
June 1	132	116	99	84	101	133	132	116	99	84	101
July 1	128	110	80	78	124	124	128	110	80	78	124
Aug. 1	128	116	58	64	108	108	128	116	58	64	108
Sept. 1	135	117	53	68	107	107	135	117	53	68	107
Oct. 1	154	134	67	85	127	127	154	134	67	85	127
Nov. 1	166	159	88	111	162	162	166	159	88	111	162
Dec. 1	170	166	106	127	172	172	170	166	106	127	172

The combined stocks fell off about 17,000,000 bushels during the month, against a decrease of 13,000,000 bushels a year ago, 6,000,000 bushels in 1899, 19,000,000 bushels in 1898 and 15,000,000 bushels in 1897. The said stocks are 5,000,000 bushels smaller than a year ago on May 1, but are 26,400,000 bushels larger than in 1899 and 48,000,000 bushels larger than in 1898.—Bradstreet's.

An ant, they say, can draw twenty times its own weight, but a good, healthy mustard plaster can give the ant cards and spades and beat it at its own game.