

Provinces and the Dominion Department of Agriculture, for the consideration of quarantine and other health matters. It would appear that the Dominion authorities have authority in quarantine matters only at the seaboard and International Boundary Lines and the Joint Health Committee (see also Mr. Thompson) to bring this matter before the conference and endeavor to have an understanding arrived at, first, in a case of emergency at least, Winnipeg shall be recognized as a quarantine point under Dominion regulations and expense.

DOMINION INSOLVENT ACT.

The following letter from the Montreal Board of Trade, accompanied by a printed draft of a proposed insolvent Act was referred to a Committee of the Board.

MONTREAL, 26th March, 1892.

"DEAR SIR,—

"I am to inform you that the Council of this Board, believing that the time has arrived when Insolvency Legislation may be favorably considered by the Dominion Parliament, has given the subject attention through a special committee.

"That Committee decided to prepare a draft bill, and for that purpose took the old Insolvency Act of 1875, the 'Curran' Bill of 1885, prepared by this Board and approved by other Boards of Trade and the present Local Acts of Ontario and Quebec, and drafted a bill which the Committee believes embodies the best points of all of these.

"The Council has generally approved this draft bill, and has had it printed for circulation to the several Boards of Trade throughout the Dominion, in order that, if possible, their united support may be obtained to procure its adoption by Parliament, six copies being sent you under another cover.

"It is asked that your Council give the draft bill consideration, and that you thereafter advise me of the result. If, as is hoped, the draft is generally approved, it will be amended to meet, as far as possible, any suggestions received, and then taken up by the Government to make the bill a Government measure.

The Council hopes that you will give this important matter early consideration, as it is very necessary to have prompt action.

"I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

JOSE. MADRIEL,

"Secretary."

"Chas. N. Bull, Esq.,

"Sec. Board of Trade,

"Winnipeg."

The Committee has carefully considered the proposed measure, and with the assistance of A. D. Bertrand Provincial Engineer and M. J. R. Hough, Solicitor, prepared an elaborate and exhaustive report, which was decidedly adverse to the Montreal Board's Bill, which was adopted by the Board, and copies mailed to the Montreal, Toronto, Victoria, and Vancouver Boards, and to the Hon. Sir John Thompson, the Attorney General, and H. J. Macdonald, M. P.

A letter was received from the Vancouver Board endorsing the report of the Winnipeg Board.

GENERAL DRAINAGE SYSTEM.

The committee on drainage of low lands, appointed at the last annual meeting, held several meetings, and interviewed the members of the Provincial Government, to urge the advisability of the Government's undertaking a topographical survey of the low lying districts of the province. The delegation received assurances that the Government realized the necessity for active steps in this direction, and that a commencement would be made during the summer. While the details of the work performed have not yet been fully reported, it may be stated that work has been carried on in the district comprised between the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, and Stonewall and Lake Manitoba.

FREIGHT RATES ON GRAIN.

The Council last month took up the matter of the freight rates prevailing on grain exported from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. A committee having prepared a report giving fully the opinions of the Council on the subject, it was forwarded to the president of the company through General Superintendent Whyte, in an interview. Mr. Whyte promised to lay the views of the Council before Mr. Van Horne personally. The Council took the position that a considerable reduction in the present rates was not only necessary in the general interests of the country and the railway company, and that if a material and permanent reduction is made at an early date it would encourage our farmers to continue faithful operations for the future and have a most beneficial effect upon the agricultural efforts of the authorities for 1893.

LECTURE ON IMPERIAL FEDERATION.

Advantage was taken of the presence in the city, in November last, of G. R. Parkin, a prominent advocate of the scheme of Imperial Federation, to secure from him, by his kind consent, a lecture on the above subject. A large number of members and others attended the lecture, which was a very able exposition of the arguments advanced by supporters of the scheme. A hearty vote of thanks was voted to the lecturer for his address.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH.

Arising from the general meeting with the Medical Association, was the formation of a joint committee of the two bodies, to consider the sanitary condition of the city and province, and in arranging for presentation suggestions as to the best steps to be taken to meet the situation. This committee has held many meetings, and after

securing a large amount of information relating to Public Health Acts and regulations, had a conference with the members of the Provincial Government, to urge that some necessary changes should be made in the Health Act of the province. Their advocate in this respect in the Government is a Provincial Board of Health, following the general lines of those existing in Ontario and Quebec, with district local boards. The members of the Government expressed themselves as favorable to a central and district boards of health, with a chief medical officer. The Premier informed the committee that the Attorney-General was drafting a new bill, and arrangements have been made that members of the Committee will meet with the Attorney-General and discuss with him the provisions of the contemplated Act before it passed through the House.

WINNIPEG TRANSFER RAILWAY.

Early last summer the connection of the track of the Winnipeg Transfer Railway with the Canadian Pacific Railway, in their yards in this city, was made.

In the 4th of last month the following resolution, recommended for adoption by the Council, was passed at a general meeting of the Board.

"Resolved—That this Council recommend to the full Board, that a memorial be forwarded to the Provincial Government, petitioning that the Board and right of way of the Winnipeg Transfer Railway be exempt from taxation, as is the case with other railways in the province."

GRAIN ELEVATORS FOR WINNIPEG.

At the formal opening of the new round the matter of securing the erection of a large storing and sorting elevator in Winnipeg was discussed at length, and was followed by the appointment of a committee, to act with one from the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, for the obtaining of information bearing on the advisability and feasibility of securing elevators in this city. The Grain Exchange was already in possession of a promise from the Canadian Pacific Railway authorities that if such an elevator was erected the company would give a site to their yards at a nominal cost. The joint committee held several meetings and had a conference with General Superintendent Whyte, who promised to lay before Mr. Van Horne, in Montreal, the request of the Committee that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company erect and operate the elevator. The Committee, in a report to the Board, outlined the following as some of the advantages to be gained by the establishment of a large elevator here—viz:

1st. It would enable shippers agents