

Report of the Council.

Your Council take pleasure in presenting this their eighth annual report.

Freed from the troubles and interruptions of the regular flow of business affairs, which the rebellion of 1885 brought during that year, your Council felt from their election in the opening of 1886, that they were entering upon a year in which the trade progress of the city of Winnipeg and the whole Northwest, could be materially aided by the efforts of those interested therein. They laid out for themselves and your Board a year of activity and persevering effort, and results have shown that their calculations were properly based.

Scarcely were the necessary changes in the by-laws of your Board made, which the altered circumstances of affairs dictated at the last annual meeting, when your Council were called upon to look after the Board's interests and the interests of the importers of the city, in connection with an investigation ordered by the Minister of Customs, in response to a report adopted at a previous meeting of the Board, and forwarded to said Minister, in which the removal of the Collector and Surveyor of Customs at this port was asked for.

Your Council undertook the duty of substantiating the Board's charges against these officials, by employing council and bringing forward witnesses, in support of every charge made.

The investigation—a lengthy one—was conducted by your Council in a spirit of fairness to all concerned, and only with a desire to get clear of the friction which existed between the importers and the heads of the Department here, and were careful to bring forward only witnesses of undoubted integrity.

As yet the Department of Customs has furnished your Board with no report upon the investigation, and given no intimation of any decision arrived at on the subject, although your Secretary has several times by letter asked for such a report.

It is satisfactory to note, however, that changes are about to