

cause for despondency on the part of Canada. By suitable legislation in cheapening the necessities of life, and thus attracting emigrants; by the opening of new channels of trade, promoting better postal arrangements, encouraging intercolonial traffic and removing all unnecessary shackles upon commerce, the Council are of opinion that the effects of the repeal of the Treaty may not only be to a great extent counterbalanced, but that the trade of the country may be increased and the general prosperity of the community promoted. In this connection the Council are happy to find that there is a prospect of the total repeal of the British timber duties being carried before our spring exports are likely to reach Great Britain, a measure which will be likely to increase the consumption of our spruce and lower qualities of pine. The Council beg to tender their thanks to the Hon. M. Cameron for his kindness in consenting to accompany the delegates, and for his able speech at the Convention. The Council would also record their sense of the great liberality shewn by the Grand Trunk Railway Company, the Great Western Railway Company, the Richelieu Company, the Michigan Central, Michigan Southern, and Alton and St. Louis Railroad Companies, for permission to travel free over their respective lines, and for their kind and liberal attention to the wants of the delegates. A proposal introduced by one of your delegates to the British American deputies, for the establishment of an Intercolonial Board of Trade, was warmly received, and referred to the Montreal Board for action. Two members of this Council attended a meeting held at Montreal for the purpose. Resolutions were there adopted, in pursuance of which a meeting of the Intercolonial Board is to take place at Montreal on the first Tuesday in June next. No action was taken in reference to the proposed Canadian Board. The Council heartily commend this matter to their successors.

*Chicago Celebration.*—An invitation from the Chicago Board of Trade, to assist in the inauguration of their new building, was accepted, and a deputation was named for the purpose; but the period at which the celebration took place happened, to the regret of the Council, at a time when merchants generally could not conveniently absent themselves from business.

*Intercolonial Railway.*—Amongst the papers before you will be found Sandford Fleming's Report of a survey for the Intercolonial Railway, together with a map illustrating the lines traced. The recent abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, and the prospect of a Union with the Maritime Provinces, will give additional importance to this enterprise.

*Steam Communication with the Maritime Provinces.*—A letter was addressed to the Government, urging the addition of another steamer on the Lower Port route, but without success. The Council are happy to learn that there is a prospect of the establishment of a weekly line by private enterprise this season. The Government of the Maritime Provinces being disposed to grant a supply to an effective line, it is hoped that our own Executive will be induced to do likewise, for the existing facilities for communication with the Lower Ports are totally inadequate to the wants of the rapidly increasing traffic.

*West India Commission.*—The appointment of a commission to visit the West Indies and South America to ascertain the possibility of reviving and extending the trade formerly enjoyed with these countries is a measure calculated, in the opinion of your Council, to produce the happiest results. The Trade of Canada look forward with the deepest interest to the publication of their Report, fully convinced that the enlightened policy of the Government on this point will result in material advantage to the British North American colonies.