

funeral as a body, in token of their respect for the deceased. At a subsequent meeting, Mr. F. B. Ross was elected to fill the vacancy in the Council, caused by the death of Lieut. Colonel Mackeand.

In December, Mr. Reid, a member of this Board, died suddenly at his home in Selkirk, whence he had removed from this city.

#### BOARD OF GRAIN EXAMINERS.

In July the Board of Grain Examiners presented to the Board their regular yearly report, which your Council recommended should be published as an appendix to this report. In September the Grain Examiners procured samples from all parts of the Province, after considerable difficulty, owing to the fact that with such an enormous yield of all grains, it was well nigh impossible to get threshing done in that month. As provided for in the Inspection Act, a deputation of three of the Examiners proceeded to Toronto and assisted in selecting samples to serve as standards for the season's crop. A full set of standard samples are on file in the Secretary's office, for use in the case of boards of arbitration being called for.

#### HIDE AND LEATHER COMMITTEE.

The Hide and Leather Committee presented their Annual Report in July, with the returns made by Hilda Inspector, who made suggestions regarding the distribution of information respecting the requirements of the Inspection Act. As ordered by the Board, the Committee prepared a circular addressed to country dealers, butchers and farmers, explaining the necessity of greater care being taken in the marketing of hides, as well as in the skinning of animals. This circular, to the extent of 1,000 copies, was distributed throughout the Province, and judging from the favorable comments made by the provincial press, and the fact that many papers have reproduced it more than once, your Council consider that the outlay was amply repaid.

#### THE GOVERNMENT EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Immediately after the last Annual Meeting of the Board your Council was called upon to take steps to secure, if possible, the locating of the Experimental Farm, which the Dominion Government proposed to establish in Manitoba, in the vicinity of Winnipeg. A large committee was appointed to act jointly with one from the City Council. Information was secured regarding several eligible sites, in the immediate neighborhood of the city, which might be purchased at, in each instance, a very moderate cost. A deputation waited on the Hon. Thos. White, Minister of the Interior, who was in Winnipeg in March on a visit, to press upon him the advantages of this locality as a site for the farm. A strong memorial was prepared and forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture, and copies of it to the senators and representatives of Manitoba in the House of Commons. The position of this city as a railroad, educational, commercial and agricultural centre was pointed out to the Minister, and after the visit of Prof. Savaders, Director of the Experimental Farm Department, when he consulted with the committee, and was accompanied by its members to different suitable sites close to the city, your Council have every confidence that the proposed Experimental Farm will be located in the immediate vicinity of Winnipeg.

This committee held six meetings, all of which were largely attended:

#### THE DRAINAGE OF LANDS.

Your Council appointed a committee to collect all the information possible regarding the extent to which the lands, within a radius of twenty miles of the city, might be most thoroughly drained by a comprehensive and economical system. The committee waited on Hon. Dr. Wilson, Minister of Public Works of Manitoba, and conferred with him on this subject. It was determined by the committee that the first thing requisite was the preparation of a topographical map of the district, which would show in detail the altitudes and natural waterways of the area. An estimate was made by the Chief Engineer of the cost of a topographical survey and the preparation of a suitable map of the lands situated within twenty miles of the city, the amount estimated being about \$7,000.

The committee was to have again waited on the Hon. Dr. Harrison, but the agitation in political matters rendered the attempt useless. Your Council leave to their successors the further investigation into this matter, which is of extreme importance to the city.

#### COLONIZATION AND IMMIGRATION.

A strong standing committee was appointed by your Council from amongst the members of the Board to act with a similar body appointed by the City Council, to take up the matter of devising the best means available for attracting the attention of settlers to the vacant lands in the vicinity of the city. After application the City Council provided the sum of \$500 to be expended in carrying out the object aimed at. Under the direction of the committee a brief description of the lands within a radius of twenty miles of the city, with a statement of the advantages offered to settlers by the Winnipeg markets, was issued, and under an arrangement with the Minister of Agriculture, distributed in Ontario to the extent of 12,000 copies. It is satisfactory to know that many enquiries have been made regarding our lands, in consequence. Attention may be drawn to the fact that during the past summer a considerable quantity of the lands in this vicinity has been settled on; and the abundant harvest, marketed at the highest provincial prices, will, without doubt, induce many farmers to secure these lands at the low price for which they are offered. The committee will submit a report to this meeting.

#### GRAIN ESTIMATES.

Your Council, in September, collected data regarding the yield in various grains throughout the Province, and from the information secured, prepared an estimate of the quantities of each description available for export. While exercising great care in compiling the figures, it was considered advisable to rather under-rate the totals, so that no imputation might be made of an attempt to boom the country on unreliable figures. It is satisfactory therefore to know that every indication at present confirms the estimates made by your Council of a grain yield per acre that is probably without a parallel in any country on the globe. The estimate as published was widely circulated in Canada, the United States and Europe, with the result that much attention has been drawn

to Manitoba as a grain producing province. Wherever commented upon, the figures given have been accepted as trustworthy, and your Council suggest that steps be taken each year to obtain necessary information required to issue an estimate of the amount of grain produced in the Province.

#### GRAIN STANDARDS.

In December a report was received from the Board of Grain Examiners concerning changes that were required in the Inspection Act of 1886, covering the legal standards of Manitoba hard wheats. Much discussion on the subject of our grain standards had taken place in the columns of the city and country newspapers, the consensus of opinion being, that they were too high, and placed the grain producers of Manitoba at a disadvantage, as the standards of Minnesota and Dakota do not necessitate the fixing of grades at the same altitude as in Canada. The Board of Grain Examiners recommended that your Council should memorialize the Minister of Inland Revenue to endeavor to secure a reduction of the percentages of Red Fyfe Wheat called for in Extra Manitoba Hard and Nos. 1 and 2 Manitoba Hard Grades, and also to establish a new grade to be known as "Manitoba Hard White Fyfe" wheat, which was not provided for in the Inspection Act of 1886. After fully considering the question, the Council adopted the report and recommendations and forwarded to Ottawa a memorial embodying the proposed changes as asked for. The memorial was in all its essential points at once acted upon by the Minister of Inland Revenue and by an Order-in-Council, dated 22nd December, 1887, the following grades were gazetted:—

#### SPRING WHEAT.

Extra Manitoba Hard Wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 62 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than 85 per cent of Red Fyfe Wheat grown in Manitoba or the North West Territories of Canada.

No. 1 Manitoba Hard Wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of Red Fyfe Wheat grown in Manitoba or the North West Territories of Canada.

No. 2 Manitoba Hard Wheat shall be sound and reasonably cleaned, weighing not less than 58 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of at least two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) of Red Fyfe Wheat grown in Manitoba or the North West Territories of Canada.

No. 1 Hard White Fyfe Wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than three-fourths of Hard White Fyfe Wheat grown in Manitoba or the North West Territories of Canada.

#### GRADES.

Immediately after the appearance of the Official Gazette, the Boards of Trade in Toronto and Montreal appointed a deputation to wait on the Dominion Government with strong protests against the carrying into effect at once of the provisions of the amended act. The result was that another Order-in-Council was issued, bearing date of 4th of January, 1888, cancelling that of 22nd of December, 1887, thus leav-