

PROCEEDINGS.

BOARD OF TRADE ROOM,
ST. JOHN, N.B., 16th July, 1874.

The DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE met at 12 o'clock, noon.

After the calling of the Roll by the Secretary, so far as the presence of Members had been reported, the PRESIDENT, (W. H. HOWLAND, Esq., Toronto,) rose and said :

I feel great pleasure in noticing the number of Representatives present on this occasion. When the Board determined to accept the kind invitation from St. John to hold an extra Summer Session here, we were somewhat doubtful as to its success,—the distance being so great ; but I am sure the result is gratifying to all of you, and it makes it quite possible for the merchants of Canada in the future, to take trips to other places,—even so far perhaps as British 'Columbia,—and hold a Session there. (Hear, hear.) I think I cannot speak too highly of the invitation which the St. John people have given us to meet them here. Their motives were not only to bring us hither for a summer trip, but were of a higher public character. They thought that by bringing together the merchants from all parts of the Dominion they were doing a great deal towards practically assisting Confederation—removing any differences which may arise from the want of meeting—getting rid of our Provincial lines, and bringing us together in the end as one country and one people. I may say, with reference to the Dominion Board of Trade, that its usefulness has turned out to be much greater than was anticipated. We find on the part both of the late and of the present Government many of its influential members telling us that, without the assistance of the discussions which take place at our meetings, they would have been very much at a loss to determine many important questions ; and the number of the Board's suggestions which have been adopted, proves conclusively that this is the proper method to influence commercial legislation in the interests of the whole country. In regard to the discussion which we had with reference to Commercial Agencies, I am happy to say that Messrs. Dun, Wiman & Co. have commenced to do the right thing, by instructing their agents to accept service all over Canada in case of a suit. I may mention one matter to our friends in the Maritime