

Winnipeg, October 14th, 1896.

To the Council of the Board of Trade, City.

Gentlemen :—Your Committee, to whom was referred the communication from the Department of Trade and Commerce asking as to the methods whereby, in the opinion of the Board, existing trade could be increased or new traffic developed in any direction, beg leave to report :—

First. That, in the opinion of your Committee, a reduction in the customs tariff would aid materially in developing trade ; that in particular those duties which press harshly on the farming community should be materially reduced.

Second. It is most desirable that means should be taken by the Dominion Government to cause a reduction of charges on produce by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company on the Western Division, especially on outgoing produce, in order that our farmers should have the best possible encouragement, and not only be able to succeed themselves, but thereby to aid in the bringing in of their old friends and countrymen to share in their success.

Third. That means should be taken to prevent discrimination at Fort William in favor of or against any given boat or lines of boats, in order that the greatest possible competition should be had from that point eastward in the carrying out of our produce and bringing in of merchandise.

Fourth. That direct routes of travel should be opened into the interior of British Columbia, under Government control as to rates, in order that all sorts of produce, as well as merchandise, required in the mining regions, should be had from this country, thereby materially aiding our farmers in the sale of produce, which, in many cases, cannot otherwise find a satisfactory market, and also in retaining a large and growing trade within the Dominion.

Fifth. That a vigorous immigration policy should be