

and in two cases the decision of the judge was materially influenced by false evidence. Lawyers who were consulted, advised against prosecuting for the perjury, as it would be very difficult to prove the charge, and in the event of failure a counter action for damages might be instituted. Now this is all wrong. The integrity of the courts should be maintained at all hazards. Perjury is continually practiced, legal gentlemen tell us, and that apparently with impunity. What is the use of seeking for justice through the courts, if wholesale lying is to be permitted to continue. The whole cause of justice is thereby subverted. The prosecution for perjury should evidently be undertaken by a special officer of the law, and wherever there is any suspicion of perjury, an investigation at least should be made.

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THE treaty between Great Britain and Venezuela for the settlement of the long pending Venezuelan boundary dispute, was signed at Washington on February 2, and this troublesome question has at last been settled, provided of course that the treaty is ratified by the Venezuelan congress. There seems little doubt but that this will be done.

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THE United States senate has so altered the arbitration treaty with Great Britain that it is said to be rendered useless. It is a matter for much regret that this effort to establish permanently friendly relations between the two great English speaking nations, has been thus rendered abortive. Now that the movement in favor of arbitration has reached such a point, however, it will without doubt be carried successfully through at some future date. Jealousy between the senate and the United States executive is probably the main cause of opposition to the treaty. The senate is anxious to deprive the executive of the honor of securing the passage of the treaty.

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IT is said that the Dominion government will carry out this year Prof. Robertson's plan of exporting dressed meats to Great Britain. The plan is to establish cold storage facilities in connection with slaughtering establishments, and ship chilled meats to Great Britain, where retail shops will be opened to sell the meat direct to consumers until the industry has been established. Abattoirs will likely be established at Montreal and Winnipeg, and later on possibly at a central point in our western range country.

### Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade was held on Tuesday afternoon, Feb. 2, President F. H. Mathewson in the chair. There was a large attendance of members, and the meeting was characterized by a brisk discussion of several important matters.

The first business was the president's address, which was declared to be one of the best ever given at any annual meeting of the board. The address and the report of the council will be given in a special issue of The Commercial which will shortly be issued, thus giving it a much wider circulation than it would secure in any other way.

A. M. Nanton moved that the president's address be printed and included in the annual report of the board. This was agreed to, and many complimentary references were made in this connection to the earnest efforts of the retiring president in behalf of the board and its work.

T. A. Anderson moved that the report of the council as printed and distributed be received and adopted. Mr. Webb seconded this motion and it was carried.

Mr. Strang moved the adoption of the treasurer's report and in doing so congratulated the board on the satisfactory state of its finances. This was adopted.

T. A. Anderson retiring vice, was nominated for president, but though urged to accept the position, he firmly declined.

Under the circumstances A. Strang then nominated D. W. Bole for president. This was seconded by Mr. Whitla and the nomination was made unanimous.

A. M. Nanton was unanimously chosen vice-president on motion of J. H. Brock, seconded by S. A. McGaw. A. Strang was re-elected treasurer, by acclamation and Mr. Bell was likewise re-elected secretary.

A committee was appointed to select a representative council and reported in favor of the following gentlemen, the nomination being confirmed: F. H. Mathewson, D. E. Sprague, R. H. Agur, John Galt, J. A. Mitchell, F. W. Thompson, J. H. Ashdown, T. A. Anderson, John Russell, A. C. Archibald, D. K. Elliott, E. L. Drewry, M. Bull, W. R. Baker, D. S. Johnson, J. Y. Griffith.

Following the election of officers there was a discussion on the session of the tariff commission, and Secretary Bell read telegrams from the boards of trade of Toronto and Montreal stating they had not as boards submitted evidence to the commission, but the evidence had been prepared by their individual members.

F. W. Thompson moved that the same course be followed in Winnipeg. Mr. McGaw seconded this motion to the following effect: "That this board take the same steps to bring evidence before the tariff commission as was adopted by the Montreal and Toronto boards, viz., that members and others be invited as individuals to present any evidence they may desire to the commission and that the board afford every facility possible to the commission in its work. This motion was adopted.

Thos. Gilroy moved, "That in view of its great importance this board would recommend to the earnest and favorable consideration of the Dominion government the early establishment of an efficient Atlantic steamship service between Great Britain and Canada.

Mr. Gilroy made a strong appeal but after some discussion it was withdrawn.

J. H. Brock moved, seconded by Mr. Whitla, the following resolution: "That in the opinion of this board the question of immigration is the most important one that engages the attention of the people and of the governments of the province and the Dominion, that we therefore desire to express the satisfaction we feel in learning that those in authority are preparing to take vigorous steps to promote the settlement of this country, and in this connection to again affirm the opinion of the board that the most important factor in the settlement of the country is the securing of low rates of transportation for the products of the country to the markets of the world, and that in the opinion of this board an immediate announcement of a reduction in the rate on grain from a central point in Manitoba, say Portage la Prairie, to Lake Superior points, from 18 cents per 100 pounds to a maximum of 12½ cents per 100 pounds, and proportionately from other points in Manitoba and the Territories, would do more to en-

courage the farmers and promote immigration to the country than the annual expenditure of the amount of such a sum as this reduction would give if expended in any other manner."

This resolution led to considerable discussion, but it was finally adopted without amendment or dissenting vote.

The statement of Treasurer Andrew Strang for the year ending Dec. 31st, shows receipts of \$2,163.87 and expenses of \$1,144.23. The balance in the bank is now \$703.11, with no liabilities.

### Canadian Fire Insurance Co.

The annual meeting of the Canadian Fire Insurance company of Winnipeg was held at their head offices here on Tuesday. The balance sheet for the year 1896 was submitted, showing that \$370,000 of capital stock was subscribed, and a little over \$30,000 had been collected in premiums, \$1,139 paid out in losses, and \$59,190 was held on deposit by the company in cash.

In moving the adoption of the report, the president, J. H. Ashdown drew attention to the great good that had been accomplished by the company in getting fire insurance placed on a fairer basis in the territory in which it is operating, showing that during the year the obnoxious adjustment clause had been abolished in the Territories, the rates of fire insurance had been materially reduced at several points where fire appliances were in the possession of town councils, that had not previously received any recognition in rating from the board of underwriters.

A dividend at the rate of six per cent per annum was paid up to the 31st December last, and after providing for the carrying of all policies to maturity, an account of over \$9,000 was carried at reserve.

The motion for the adoption of the report was seconded by the vice-president, F. W. Stobart, who drew attention to the careful distribution of the business and to the fact that the losses of the company were light during the past year.

In discussing the report many of the shareholders present expressed gratification at the progress that had been made, and some attention was given to the proposal to obtain a Dominion charter and the putting in force of a general reduction of rates, both these matters were finally left to the discretion of the board of directors, and the report was unanimously adopted.

On motion the board of directors were unanimously re-elected, and A. D. McKay was appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

### Dairy Trade Notes.

Prof. Robertson held a meeting at Moosomin recently regarding the establishment of a creamery, under government management, and it was arranged to start a factory at once. It is probable that skimming stations for the separating of cream by a centrifugal cream separator and the drawing of it to the central creamery at Moosomin will be established at Fleming and Spring Creek. The cost of the buildings would be from \$1,000 to \$1,800 and the cost of the plant about an equal amount. The government will charge four cents per pound of butter to cover all manufacturing expenses, the cream or milk being delivered at the creamery by the patrons.

Arrangements are completed for the eleventh annual meeting of the Manitoba Dairy association to be held in the council chamber, Winnipeg, on Tuesday, February 16, and Wednesday, February 17. Prof. Jas Robertson, Dominion dairy commissioner, will be present. Special railway rates have been arranged.