

object of securing from them authentic information of the movement of grain and the facilities offered by the railroads to handle the business. In most cases returns have been received and a fair understanding of the car supply rendered has been kept up.

The returns of the Grain Inspector show the amount of wheat and other grain inspected at this point, where the C. P. R. require that all grain shipped "all rail" to the east should be inspected, but as practically all of the wheat shipped during the season of open navigation on the great lakes passes Winnipeg without inspection, the Winnipeg Inspector's returns give no indication of the total exports. On account of the re-inspection of a small quantity of wheat inspected here, on its arrival at Port Arthur, no total of the complete returns of the two inspectors will represent the actual exports, a state of affairs which is very unsatisfactory. The Canadian Pacific Railway tonnage returns would supply all the information required but access to these is denied by the railway authorities.

CUSTOMS MATTERS

Your Council have to express their thanks to Lieutenant-Colonel Scott, Collector of Customs, for the prompt assistance he has given to your Council, in supplying customs statistics and information on several occasions.

A memorial was addressed by the Council to the Minister of Customs on the matter of discrimination in the extension of time to importers in British Columbia, in which to make entries of dutiable goods "in transit" when the duties were increased. An explanation was made to your Council that the discrimination applied only to goods "in transit," via Cape Horn, to British Columbia.

The question of the duty charged on certain descriptions of fishing twine also occupied the attention of your Council.

A committee was appointed by your Council to enquire into the question of the refusal of the Canadian customs authorities to grant certificates which would permit of the shipping of Manitoba grain in bond through the United States *via* the Northern Pacific Railway from Pembina. This matter is now being investigated.