

INCREASE OF THE BOARD'S MEMBERSHIP.

The immediate effect of the amalgamation of the Corn Exchange Association with this Board, and the prospective imposition of the \$100 entrance fee, was a large accession of new members during the early months of the year, which raised the number from 385 on 1st January to 634 on 1st May. Thereafter the Council took special measures, by issuing circulars, &c., to further increase the membership, with the gratifying result, that when, on 1st July, the entrance fee came into operation, the total number, including applications received up to that date, was nearly 1,400. A few of this number failed to take up their memberships, but, nevertheless, the books shew that, on 31st December, 1887, the number of members who had paid their subscriptions was 1,352. Of these, 169 are members of the Corn Exchange Association, and 28 of the Wholesale Grocers' Association.

With such a membership, the Council anticipates that the Montreal Board of Trade will possess the prestige and influence which, as the chief organization of business men in the commercial metropolis of Canada, it is entitled to; this anticipation will not, however, be realized unless its members, by interesting themselves in the election of officers, and by their presence at, and taking part in, the general meetings, make it evident that the Board is a live and united body, and resolved to be a power in the land. In the past, too many of the members have been content to leave the choosing of office-bearers, and attendance at the Board's quarterly and other meetings, to a few regular attendants, a practice that, for more than one reason, is greatly to be deprecated; and the Council hopes that, in future, this reproach may not be justified.

CONCLUSION.

The Council, in concluding its report of the work done during the past year, feels justified in saying that its duties have been unusually onerous, demanding much time and attention. It has to acknowledge with pleasure, the ability, zeal, and industry of the Secretary, (Mr. Geo. Hadrill) to whom the best thanks of the Board are justly due.

The whole respectfully submitted.

GEO. A. DRUMMOND,
President.

MONTREAL, 24th January, 1888.