

By the terms of a recent order of the Governor General-in-Council, the inspection and other arrangements connected with the grain handling in Manitoba are practically entrusted to the care of this board, and through the medium of your board of examiners these have been carefully looked after. Two of their number were sent to Toronto, in October last, to look after Manitoba interests in the fixing of grain standards for the present season. They have also examined and recommended a candidate for deputy inspector at this city, the ratification of which will be asked from this board. Applications for similar officers at other points have been made, and the work of examining and recommending such will have to be attended to and the results brought before you for ratification.

Numerous other matters have received the attention of your board and council during the past year, among which may be mentioned the efforts put forth for securing reduced freights on grain on the Canadian Pacific Railway by all rail to the east; the efforts late in the season for the organization of an elevator company, and construction of a storage elevator, which, while unsuccessful for the time, had the effect of causing the work to be taken by another party, a member of your board, to whom is due the credit of supplying the first storage elevator for Winnipeg; also the efforts for the establishment of a system of daily trading meetings of the board, which, if not yet reached, promises to be in the very near future.

These and other efforts have contributed to make a year of activity for your board, and a year in which the good work of organization has made great progress; so that in entering upon 1886 with the prospect of the commencement of construction of the Hudson's Bay Railway and other great public works, and the certainty of open railway communication to the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, the machinery of your board stands in order to enable you to grapple with questions affecting the city's trade interests in connection with these great undertakings.

In looking back over the events of the year, your board will find much cause for congratulation, but also some cause for regret,