

enquire into the causes of certain shipwrecks which occurred in the St. Lawrence in the autumn of 1864, was published on its receipt by the Council. This investigation was held under the special Act 27 and 28 Vic., cap. 14. It is to be desired that some regular tribunals should be appointed for such purposes, the expense and delay attendant upon the present system being calculated to defeat the objects of the act.

Road to Exquimaux Point.—The Council addressed the Government on the necessity for opening a road of communication along the North shore towards Pointe-aux-Exquimaux, and in reply received from the Department of Public Works a copy of an official report on the subject made in 1864, and an assurance that the matter would receive attention. They also urged the opening of a winter-road from Quebec to Lake St. John, which, it is believed, would be productive of much benefit to the city as well as to settlers in that region.

Free Ports.—A deputation of three members of the Council was appointed to "wait upon the Hon. the Minister of Finance, explain to him the injurious working of the free port system and request him to introduce a bill to abolish the same." In reply to their representations, Mr. Galt informed the Committee that the Government were aware that the free port system was not working satisfactorily and had determined on making a change, but that he was not then in a position to state the precise nature of the measure, which would probably either abolish the system after due notice, or restrict the limits very materially.

Detroit Convention.—The Council having been invited to send delegates to a convention held in Detroit in July last, a deputation consisting of the President, the Vice President, and Mr. Wm. Withall visited Toronto in the month of June, and there met delegates from various Boards throughout the Province. Sundry resolutions were agreed to, with a view to a uniform mode of procedure at Detroit. The Hon. Malcolm Cameron and Messrs. Ross, Fry, Dunn, Tetu, Grant, Garneau, Dinning and Turnbull attended the Detroit Convention on the 11th, 12th and 13th July, as delegates from the Board, and were received with the utmost courtesy by the members of the Board of Trade of Detroit, and the citizens generally. The convention was very numerously attended by delegates from all the Northern States and British America. The main topics of discussion were, the Reciprocity Treaty and the Transit question. With regard to the former, although some local opposition from Maine, Pennsylvania, Buffalo and Chicago was pressed, a resolution in favor of its renewal with some modification to meet the altered financial position of the United States was unanimously carried. On the transit question a very general desire, on the part of the U. S. delegates, was evinced in favor of the continuance of the free navigation of the St. Lawrence, and the enlargement of the canals, and appropriate resolutions were also unanimously carried. Your delegates urged in Committee the injustice of colonial built ships being refused registry in the United States, and excluded from the coasting trade (privileges enjoyed in all British ports by United States ships), and pointed out that the State Canals had never been opened to British craft. The Committee, however, were of opinion that a general resolution was most likely to be carried and that the details were better left to the two Governments. The Council regret the failure of the recent negotiations at Washington and trust that the U. S. authorities will speedily discover that they are too deeply interested in such a magnificent trade to permit the question to remain in its present very unsatisfactory position. If, however, non-intercourse is the fixed determination of the people of the U. S., the Council see no

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