

The Lumbermen Meet.

The annual meeting of the Western Retail Lumbermen's association was held in Albert Hall, Winnipeg, on Wednesday evening, February 9, President T. A. Cuddy, of Minnedosa, was in the chair. A telegram was read from Vice-President J. B. Mather, of Glenboro, that he had been detained in the west, on account of the break in the railway service, and would not be able to reach the city in time to attend the meeting. About seventy-five persons were present, including city and country members of the association. D. C. Cameron, of the Rat Portage Lumber company, Geo. A. Graham, of Graham, Horne & Co., Fort William; R. A. Mather, of the Keewatin Lumber company, and D. Ross, of the Whitemouth Lumber Mills, were also present, representing the wholesale interests, as honorary members of the association.

President Cuddy opened the meeting and read his annual address, which congratulated the members upon the improvement in business during the year past and the favorable prospects ahead. He also referred to some of the difficulties which they had been obliged to contend with during the year.

Secretary John Dick read his financial report, showing that though the expenses had been somewhat heavier than the previous year, there was still a good balance in the bank. The membership in the association was stated to be 164, an increase of four during the year.

Mr. Black started an informal discussion as to the value of the association to the members. With very slight exception, the opinion seemed to be that the association had resulted in advantage to the members, though considerable violation of the rules, to the disadvantage of the association, was admitted. It was agreed that if the rules and by-laws were more rigidly carried out, the value of the association would be greatly increased.

The honorary members present were called upon for speeches, and they all declared their willingness to do all they could to assist the retail association.

Reference was made to the quantity of lumber being brought in from the United States. Nearly all of this lumber, it was said, is the cheapest class of stuff. Much of it simply rubbish, yet it has a considerable sale because it is cheap. It seemed to be the feeling of those present that the home industry should get the preference, as that would be the way to build up the country and help one another by advancing the general prosperity of the home interests. In the discussion it was brought out that lumber is being sold throughout the country on a very small margin, the profit being much smaller than is usually secured in other lines of business.

OFFICERS FOR 1898.

The election of officers was then proceeded with. J. B. Mather, of Glenboro, was elected president by acclamation, and H. Byrnes, of Winnipeg, was elected to the vice-presidency, also without a contest.

A committee was appointed to select a council or executive, and the following were elected on the recommendation of the committee: D. E. Sprague, Winnipeg; R. H. O'Hara, Brandon; D. C. Jackson, Rapid City; D. McMillan, Morden; G. Miller, of Virden, and A. L. Campbell, of Melita.

The question of fire insurance for retail lumbermen was next discussed, at considerable length. It was stated that the Northwestern Retail Lumbermen's association, covering the states to the south of Manitoba, had established an insurance feature, by which they secured safe insurance at half the price formerly charged them. The suggestion to unite with the Northwestern association for insurance purposes, was not received with favor. The feeling, however, seemed to be almost unanimously in favor of some system of insurance for lumbermen, in connection with the home association. This feeling was crystallized into a resolution to the effect that the executive should take immediate action to investigate the matter and formulate a plan of fire insurance for the association, and that the members be notified of the decision arrived at by the executive as early as possible.

It was recommended that the executive should increase the salary of the secretary to enable him to devote his entire time to the affairs of the association.

The Lumber Trade.

L. Ironside, lumber dealer, Miami, Man., has sold out to Mr. Shaw.

L. Anderson, manager of the store at Red Jacket, is adding lumber to the business.

Over 3,000,000 feet of timber will be cut in the Dauphin district of Manitoba this winter, according to a local report.

The red cedar mills at United States Pacific coast points, which were closed for two months, resumed on Feb. 1. St. Paul are quoted at \$2.10 Minneapolis.

The intimate in a speech in parliament at Ottawa that the government might consider the question of re-imposing a duty on lumber, has aroused considerable interest here.

The firm of Marlatt & Housser, lumber dealers, Portage la Prairie, Man., will be dissolved. It is understood that H. Byrnes, formerly in the sash and door trade at Winnipeg, has purchased Mr. Marlatt's interest in the business.

D. Ross, of the Whitemouth saw mills, reports that upon his limits the snow, while sufficient for working purposes, is two feet less than last winter, and he is banking a large cut of logs with much less labor and time than was spent in past years, owing to the good roads in the bush.

Grocery Trade Notes.

The European sugar bounty conference, which was announced to begin on February 15, is indefinitely postponed, France having renewed her objections.

Refined sugars advanced 1-8c at New York on Saturday. A dispatch says the previous estimate of the production in Cuba had been reduced by 60,000 tons.

According to The American Grocer, efforts are being made by Columbia river cannery to form the packers on that river into an association. Some ten packers have agreed to come in.

Lipton's teas have been on draft, so to speak, in Winnipeg lately. A lady expert at tea infusing, has devoted one week each at several city stores, for the purpose of serving customers with a cup of this fine tea. D. W.

McLean, Hargrave & Co., Hardy & Buchanan's and Jerry Robison's were the stores selected. Mackenzie & Mills who have recently secured the agency for these teas, report already a good demand for them.

Dairy Trade Items.

R. A. Lister & Co., Winnipeg, manufacturers of cream separators and dealers in dairy supplies, have issued a large catalogue, giving particulars regarding the great variety of dairy supplies handled by them, with testimonials from from users of their dairy goods.

The Manitoba Dairy association will hold its annual convention at Winnipeg on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 15th, in the city council chamber and will continue all day Wednesday with a grand joint meeting of dairy, cattle, sheep and swine breeders' associations on Wednesday evening.

The annual meeting of the Turtle Mountain Butter and Cheese company was held recently at Ningo, Man. The past season was not as satisfactory a one as usual, owing to the farmers not patronizing it as they should. The following were elected directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. Brown, Pilkington, Sage, Edwards, Wade, Durston and Scott.

Leather, Hides, Wool, etc.

The feature of the hide market of late, says the Montreal Gazette, is in the fact that United States buyers have been taking all the best hides at country points obtainable in their green state, and shipping them to different points in the United States. They can do this profitably, as the duty on hides in their green state is only about half of what it is on the same trimmed and cured. No. 1 are quoted at 3c to 9 1/2c per lb., at Montreal.

London wool sales closed February 2, with the market strong at 12 to 15 per cent above previous auction sales. Purchases for the United States were about 10,000 bales. About 30,000 bales were withdrawn out of about 180,000 bales offered. The wools bought in London will cost about 75c, scoured, laid down in New York, and this is causing offerings to be held higher at Boston. Territory wools hold firm on the scoured basis of 70c for fine medium and fine, with medium at 45c. Some unwashed fleeces are being taken at about 28c for three-eighths bloods.

Binder Twine.

Winnipeg is not the only point which has received an influx of twine recently, for fear that a duty would be put on the article during the present session of parliament. The Montreal Gazette says:

"In expectation of the duty being replaced on cordage by the Dominion government, United States manufacturers have lost no time in making shipments to this market, and during the past few days some large lots of their surplus stock manufactured last season have arrived, and been put into store. It is not being offered on the market for the present, and local manufacturers state that they do not think it is the intention to cut prices later on when the demand sets in but that it will sell at the market price. Local factory prices for sisal to-day are 6 1/4; manilla, 7 1/4; and smaller prices 1-2 to 1c higher."