

WINNIPEG BOARD OF TRADE.

Annual Meeting—Election of Officers—Retiring President's Address.

Mr. F. W. Drewry has been elected president of the Board of Trade for the ensuing year in room of Mr. E. D. Martin, the retiring officer. Mr. Martin gave an able address, in which he summed up the work and activities of the board for the past year. One of the subjects referred to with satisfaction was the report of the Insurance Committee, which, in conjunction with a committee of the city council, had declared in favor of the appointment of a salvage corps on condition that the insurance companies reduced their general rate three per cent. In addition to Mr. Drewry as president, the other officers elected were as follows:—

Vice-president, Mr. H. Bruce Gordon; treasurer, Mr. Andrew Strang; secretary, Mr. C. N. Bell. Council—Messrs. E. D. Martin, George Fisher, D. E. Sprague, H. M. Belcher, H. Annis, A. Congdon, R. R. Scott, John Aird, G. V. Hastings, J. T. Gordon, A. T. McMillan, J. Y. Reid, N. F. McMillan, M. F. Christie, W. A. Windatt, E. Cass. Chairmen of committees were also elected members of council as follows: Grain and milling, Mr. S. A. McGaw; agricultural implements, Mr. E. A. Mott; insurance, Mr. A. L. Johnson; legislation, Mr. J. B. Persse; shippers, Mr. H. W. Hutchinson; manufacturers, Mr. William Martin; postal, Mr. A. A. Gilroy; customs, Mr. J. H. Ashdown.

Retiring President's Address.

In his report to the council, the retiring president presented some statistics showing the progress and industrial development of Winnipeg. Bank clearings, which give a reliable indication of the prosperity of the country in 1909 amounted to \$770,649,342, while there was every expectation of reaching the billion dollar mark before the close of the present year. Industrial development keeps pace with other lines of growth. Some thirty-three manufacturers have established plants since 1908, bringing the total manufacturing concerns up to 185. A careful estimate of the manufacturing output of Winnipeg places the amount at \$25,000,000. The city power plant, when completed, will undoubtedly do a great deal to promote the industrial development of the city by reducing the cost of power to the consumers.

Population and Civic Improvements.

The increase in population between 1905 and 1906 was 21,082, the largest recorded gain in a year. For 1909-10 the figures showed a gain of 15,482, and the next count will probably amount to 130,000. Civic improvements have kept well up to the mark demanded by the rapid growth of the city. For the years 1909 and 1910 an expenditure of over a million dollars will have been made on asphalt pavements alone. Park extensions during the year bring the area in public parks up to 450 acres. Public schools have partaken of the general expansion, and now number thirty-three, the value of school buildings and sites in Winnipeg being estimated at \$2,300,000. The proposed Exposition of 1914 may now be looked upon as assured, as there is in sight a sum of five million dollars for the purposes of the Exposition, which is expected to be of great practical value to Winnipeg and to Canada.

BACKING THE SHIRKER.

By C. Money, London, Eng.

"I see the settler with his modest capital and his family facing the wilderness for the first time, and perhaps for the first time realizing what the wilderness is. Before him rolls the illimitable prairie, a Sea of Land, the settler a speck upon its bosom. There are few or no trees. The 160 fat and fertile acres are without form and void. The nearest neighbor is miles away; the nearest township is many miles away. The cruelty of Nature is revealed, and the man realizes how grim and how everlasting is the battle which has to be fought with her. The civilized framework, which at home was a matter of course, and therefore unregarded, is left behind. There is no doctor or chemist or shop or club or public house round the corner. The meaning of the word cold is for the first time understood. In a little while the man has either found that he has that in him which can subdue the wilderness or he flees to curse those who prompted him to the enterprise."

BACKING THE WORKER

By a Western Old Timer

Canada is not a country for the man whose ideal is to lie under a tree drowsing beneath a tropical sun and waiting for the fruit to drop into his mouth. Canada's vast prairies, awaiting the plough, her mountains pregnant with mineral wealth, her rivers and forests—these are the heritage of the old-Norse blood. Empire is not for the loafer. In Canada, we see an Empire in the crucible—a people lean and hard from strenuous toil, not soft and sodden with the cheap comforts of the tenement; a people fighting a hard fight, and happy because the fight is worth while. To me there is no sight more full of meaning than the oft-repeated glimpse one gets on the prairies of a curious little collection of dwellings rising in size and importance until they reach the dignity of a modern house. They are little monuments of prosperous years, which, like the rings of a giant tree, tell the story of growth and gathering strength. A people who, while still living in humble shacks and even in tents, will cheerfully tax themselves to erect a splendid brick-school have a great future before them. A great country is the heritage, not of the whiner and the shirker, but of the fighter and the worker.

Systematic mineral search is to be continued in British Columbia by the Department of Mines at Ottawa, and this year there will be a large number of mining engineers and geologists in that Province. The work of these men is helpful to the prospector, and will do much toward bringing the resources of the country to the attention of those who can handle the development. What is being done now in coast mining is an indication of the possibilities of this territory. Profitable mines are being operated on Texada Island and Valdez Island, while the Portland Canal district is going ahead fast. The ore bodies are large, continuous, and have good values, and the prospect is that the immediate future will see great activity in mining on the coast.



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