DISCUSSING THE CONTRACT

The Winniper Board of Trade Pronounces on the Railway Contracts.

The adjourned special general meet ing of the Winnipeg board of trade to consider the committees' reports and the railway question was held Tuesday in the grain exchange board room. Ald. Russell, vice-president of the board, presided at last night's meeting in the absence of President Georgeson. The attendance was Georgeson. large, the following members being present: John Russell, J. H. Brock, A. Macdonald, D. W. Bole, T. D. Robinson, T. Gliroy, A. L. Johnson, A. D. Irlsh, G. A. Muttleburry, A. Strang, D. W. Buchanan, A. H. Balley, T. D. W. Buchanan, A. H. Balley, T. Balley, H. Bellveau, J. E. Ruby, D. E. Sprague, D. D. Wood, T. H. Webb, J. Aird, J. H. Oldfield, J. Porter, N. J. Alrd, J. H. Oldfield, J. Porter, N. Bayly, J. Love, H. W. Hutchinson, W. R. Rutherford, W. W. Scrimes, W. R. Mackines, R. P. Manning, B. P. Dewar, C. H. Cordingly, H. S. Crotty, Captalla Johnsson, G. Olafon, A. F. Markell, J. M. Chisholm, M. G. Markell, H. A. Markell, H. A. Markell, H. M. Chisholm, M. W. Ruble, A. M. Nanton, J. R. Grant, R. T. Riley, Alex Reld, J. Persse, T. Bulman, E. H. Macklin, John Stovel, H. E. Sharpe, C. H. Enderton, J. C. Crome, A. A. Andrews, W. A. Black, Jos. May, J. G. Morgant, Capt. Robbinson, W. W. McMillan.
In calling the meeting to order Ald.

In calling the meeting to order Ald. In calling the meeting to order Ald. Russell exp. essed regret that the president was out of the city. In Mr. Georgeson's absence he had been requested by a number of members to call a special meeting and he had accordingly done so. As all those present had been at the meeting last week when the reports of committees appointed 10 confer with the government were received, he thought no further introduction was needed, and declared the meeting open.

were received, he shought no further introduction was needed, and declared the meeting open.

Mr. J. H. Brock first took the floor. He said that at the adjourned meeting he had moved a resolution which he had moved a resolution which he had not have a received the floor. He was the meeting and which he had before him. Since the last meeting the questions they had met to consider on that occasion has changed to some extent. At that time the bills had been brought before the house, and as printed they did not contain the samendments they had been given by the premier to immember of die besend. Consequently they had the unamended bills to consider. The honovable pst., to the premier to immember of the besend. Consequently they had the unamended bills to consider. The honovable pst., to the premier to immember of the besend. Consequently they had the unamended bills to consider. The honovable pst., to the premier to income the discussion of the premier of the second state of the premier of the controver. It was a surprise to life in the premier of the control of the premier of the control of the premier of the premier of the control of the premier of the control of the premier of the premier

Linkle for Some \$18,000,000

in addition to the amount of the bonds. The enormous amount which in the course of certain events may find the province liable for, requires some consideration. The members of the government were careful to explain that the consideration received was the right to fix the rates and to say that Mr. Mackensie would have to live 30 years before he could get any-

thing out of the sale of his bonds. More public attention has been turned upon this clause than any other; and it has been shown to be a most important consideration, yet the premier passes it off as of no effect, and the attorney-general as an act of courtesy. "I say," said Mr. Brock, "it is a disgrace, that the members of the board of trade and our representatives in the legislature should be treated as school children, and saked to swallow such an extraordinary statement." The opinion of the government, he said, is not even backed up by the solicitor for the contractors, Mr. Lash, and he had no hesitation in saying that the opinion of no reputable lawyer in the Dominion can be procured to back up the opinion of the premier or the attorney-general.

Mr. Alex. Macdonald saked it a large amount of the stock had not been sold. Neither Mr. Brock nor the chairman were prepared to answer the question. Mr. Brock then reed his motion seconded by Mr. Gilroy, as follows: "Resolved, that this board disapproves of the contracts and the acts affecting the Northern Pacific Rail way proposals recently made to the government and the uncertainty as to future railway proposals recently made to the government and the uncertainty as to future railway extension, this board is of the opinion that the Acts confirming the contracts should not be passed at this session of the legislature, but that ample time should be given the country to study fully the whole railway situation."

Proceeding with his remarks, Mr. Brock pointed out that a dividend on the stock is requested in fixing the area. If the words in the clause are not understood, why not with new of the province. In taking his seat, Mr. Brock was given a hearty vound of anology drawn in the interests of the railway company and loosely drawn in the interests of the railway company and loosely drawn in the interests of the railway company and loosely drawn in the interests of the and hearty wound of anology are wen hearty wound of anology are wen and the province. In taking his

railway company and loosely drawn in the interests of the province. In taking his seat, Mr. Brock was given a hearty round of applause.

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Mr. Glirey.

The seconder to the motion, Mr. Gliroy, was the next speaker. He cossistered the matter should be viewed from a business standpoint, and if they could do nothing better could agree to disagree. The matter is one of the utimost importance; never has the province shad a more important question, and he thought it, should be considered on its merits. Proceeding, Mr. Gliroy dwelt upon the large mortage, the adoption of the contracts would incur on the province. In round numbered; would amount to \$17,000,-(9,0), and; a little more, a very large sum-for a yeng province like Manitobs, with a limited population and a future to make. Care should be taken to protect the future, and leave the prevince in the best coadition to work out its great possibilities, which could listerity the done by leaving off that estowabus invertages. Mr. Gliroy said he'had given careful study to the matter, and tried to form a fair conclusion, and could come to no other conclusion but that the province is assuming too large a debt. It is he'you'd the resources of the province and will take away all its possibilities of development. Next year if the provinc is called upon to pay the interest on the mortgage, involving \$100,000, R would not be in a position to pay, as there is no surplus and the interest on the province is called upon to pay the interest on the mortgage, involving induces could not be saked to lend money on the species of accommodation paper which the bonds represent on the part of the province to the railway company. But not only one yearhas to be considered and if the province has not the money in hand then it would not be wise or prudent that the payment of the money in dand then it would not be wise or prudent that the payment of the money in dand then it would not be wise or prudent that the payment of the money in dand the position to the resources have long ago been explored. It would likely have it is a matter which should receive the fulles Mr. Giroy concluded by saving that in the face of such a financial aspect the government is not wise in ratifying

the contracts. Mr. Gliroy was heart-lly applauded.

Mr. Sereras

Mr. D. E. Sprague did not propose to discuss the merits of the question, as he considered that unnecessary. Since the last meeting of the board, these bills had been up in the House, and a division had taken place on strictly party lines. One bill has been given its third reading and notice of motion has been given for the other. He considered that, as the board have got the required information and made their reports, that should end the matter, as far as they are concerned. If Mr. Brock's notice was pressed it would introduce party politics in the board of trade. Cries of "No, No!"
Mr. Sprague repeated that it would and he was informed that it would not.

and he was informed that it would not not may part," continued Mr. Sprague, "I am a supporter of the local government, and you don't suppose I am going to vote for a motion of censure against that government; have as much confidence in the members of the government as I have in the members of the government as I have in the members of the board of trade." He retierated the motion meant the introduction of politics into the board. He saw no reason why the contracts should not pass. He advised the members to use their influence, one way of the other, individually, and to receive the other, individually, and to receive the reports without passing any vota. "Would you forward the reports to the government?" seized Mr. Andrew Mr.

Strang.

Mr. Sprague answered in the affirmative. He added that he had been up to the buildings, where he ascertained that the government is incorporating several of the recommendations of the

board.

Mr. Gilroy: "Mr. Mackensie is reported as saying in St. Paul the contracts are going through as they are; is that so?" I am not responsible for what the nowspapers say," was the answer received.

Mr. Macdenald.

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Mr. Alex. Macdonald said the recommendation to the government that the best available legal talent be employed that not been acted or. Christopher Robinson, said Mr. Macdonald, states definitely that the contraot, the statute and the mortgage must be thoroughly in accordance, otherwise it will fall to the ground, that is, that the first part of it would hold because is was a written contraot, signed and sailed, and when it had passed the House it would be delivered, and an inortgage could possibly change the written contract paragraph said that whatever the abortone was the best paragraph and chat whatever the abortone was a sufficient with several other status and the company should be relieved and the factor that the said and the factor is the said and the said and the said and the macdon service relieved and the factor is the said and the said a next paragraph said that whatever the deflot as the and of two years, it should he written off. Mr. Brock and Mr. Gilroy with several other gentlemen were elearned, said Mr. Macdonald, at the eccumulation of interest that there would be if the company falled to make ends meet, but he was not afraid of that because this had to be paid off yearly by the cliticus of Manitoba; and there would only be the one way, direct taxation. It went on further to say that anything short of double tracking might be charged to expense account, and from the samples of book-keeping from the N. P. R. It could easily be seen that there would be a deficit to cover the whole of the interest guaranteed. The action of the board of trade had been used and represented as being in favor of that contract, but he did not think that the board of trade had ever supported that contract, but he did not think that the that contract, but he did not think that the board of trade had ever supported that contract, but he did not think that the board of trade had ever supported from the form the fall of the board of trade had been used and represented as being in favor of that contract, but he did not think that the board of trade had ever supported from the form the fall of the board of trade had been good of what it was going to be. The majority report condenmed the contract from beginning to end and he would ask any man who was on that committee to stand up and say in a ward whether they were, or are, in favor of the contract as submitted and se could say, most semphatically "No."

Mr. Ashdewan, Mr. Ashdewan,

Mr. Achdown,

Mr. J. H. Ashderga,
Mr. J. H. Ashderga,
I. H. Ashdery maid be was
sorry to see the motion brought up
in its present shape, because he
thought they were to-continue the
discussion on the adoption of the report. His own impression was that,
having threshed the matter out thoroughly; it would probably be better
not to attempt to adopt either the majority or minority report, but simply.

to have the reports filed. He knew of no good object to be served by this motion, especially at such a late time in the day, and while they agreed on a commany points, there were some in the day, and while they agreed had been a compared to the compared

promise.

Mr. Brock shere interrupted the speaker and asked whether, if the government accepted the suggestions made in the resolution to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing the matter fully, they would not be the store.

government accepted the suggestions made in the resolution to adjourn the House for the purpose of discussing the matter fully, they would not be in time.

Mr. Ashdown replied that they would, but from the conduct of the government he would not be inclined to think that the government would act on that request. Their action so far in pressing it through the legislative showed otherwise. He was politically opposed to the government, but their promises to the board of trade were sufficient in the promises to the board of trade of trade of the government of trade of the government of trade of the government ownership and he was with that gentleman in that desire. He was not afraid of government ownership because it would be necessary for anybody operating over 1,200 miles to take that risk, but he thought that would be fully compensated for by the probability of obtaining large benefits for the inhabitants of the province. While they had been fighting the C. P. R. for a number of years for better freight rates, there was one thing to be said in favor of the C. P. R., that both to the west and easily that the two continues to be said in favor of the C. P. R., that both to the wast and easily that the two continues to be said in favor of the C. P. R., that both to the wast and easily that the two downers of the C. P. R. for a number of years for better freight rates, there was one thing to be said in favor of the C. P. R., that both to the west and easily that the road would be made a thorough paying road from the first year it was in operation and the committee seemed to be astished to the condition of the con

Mr. Joseph Maw said he was of the same opinion as Mr. Ashdown and he thought that it would be very undesirable to pass such a resolution as suggested, as they would be placing themselves on record as interfering when it would be ussless and their active would not in future be asked for.

Mr. Manton.

when it wound not in future be asked for.

Mr. A.M.Nanton said the did not agree with all that Mr. Ashdown had said. He believed that the public had considered that the board had practically endorsed the contract with certain immaterial changes. He did not thing from the reports that they had done envision that changes. He did not thing from the reports that they had done envision title chart. "Mr. Ashdown milled," said Mr. Nanton. In the report that he (left. Ashdown) signed in effect it was stated that the committee thought that the contract could be succeed into provided these changes were made and provided that the figures were correct. He contraded that the object of the contract of the c