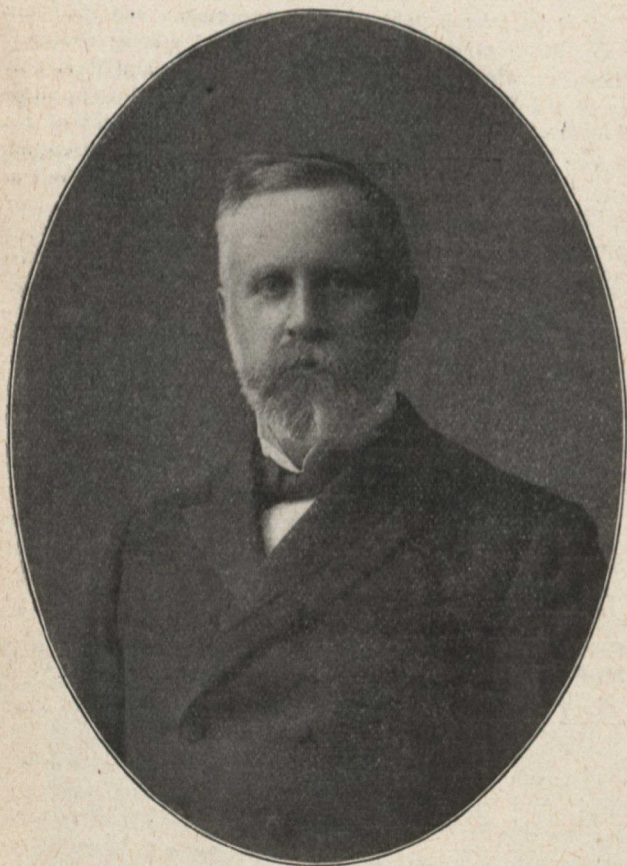


TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE.

THE SIXTIETH ANNUAL MEETING.

On Friday last was held the sixtieth annual meeting of the Toronto Board of Trade, and about fifty members were present. In his address the retiring president, Mr. J. F. Ellis, called attention to the marvellous changes that had taken place in Toronto in a lifetime. At the time the board was first incorporated there was not a railway entering the city, nor a telegraph service. In winter the mails from New York and Montreal were weeks in reaching Toronto. The founders of the institution, said Mr. Ellis, mentioning the names of George Percival Ridout, Thomas Clarkson, Peter Paterson, John Mulholland, and William Leadly Perrin, were far-sighted, patriotic, unselfish citizens, working for the public welfare.

In reviewing the year 1904, the Toronto conflagration of April 19th was mentioned as the striking event. Many members of the board were heavy sufferers, yet despite this handicap the board could point to the year as being fruitful in measures of importance to the city. The president ex-



JAMES D. ALLAN, PRESIDENT TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE.

pressed satisfaction that money had been voted for installing high pressure water mains in the business section of the city. This would lead to a reduction in rates.

Speaking of the proposed Esplanade expropriation, Mr. Ellis said, and we agree with him, "I hold that the railway company should be obliged to grant substantial damages to the men whose property is thus to be confiscated, sufficient in fact to compensate them for the disturbance of their business plans during the time the land has been tied up in dispute."

The questions of level railway crossings was one that pressed for immediate action, and the speaker urged that legislation should be sought for the incorporation of an independent commission on a permanent basis, clothed with full power to deal with the whole question of level crossings, as now obtains in the city of Buffalo. He further declared that a recent visit to the Western Cattle Market convinced him that the removal and amalgamation with another institution on a fair business basis as to rates, and the

utilization of the property for other purposes, would be in the best interests of the city.

Speaking of the purchase of gas stock by the city council, which was authorized by the ratepayers, he thought the civic investment should be limited to enough to give the Mayor representation on the board of directors. Indiscriminate speculation in Consumers' Gas stock by the corporation of Toronto, would, he believed, be a very unwise move.

A paragraph about Canada and Mexico contained the following:—"The growing importance of Mexico as a field for profitable investment has been recognized by Canadian capitalists, who have been exploiting it. I feel that the Government is alive to the fact that Canada should do all in her power to foster the trade, and I am sure the Board of Trade can be depended upon to render every assistance towards that end."

The Imperial unification of the Empire, Mr. Ellis reminded his hearers, was a question that had engaged the attention of the board for years. In October, 1903, resolutions favoring Mr. Chamberlain's policy were unanimously adopted. And he took it upon himself to say that if a comprehensive preferential tariff were arranged this country would be among the first to approve of it."

A tribute to the secretary, Mr. F. G. Morley, and the incoming president, Mr. J. D. Allan, concluded the address.

The following are the officers of the Toronto Board of Trade for the current year, all having, except the Exhibition Board, been elected by acclamation: President, James D. Allan; first vice-president, Peleg Howland; second vice-president, R. C. Steele; treasurer, George Edwards. John F. Ellis, Joseph Oliver, Charles S. Meek, John Fagsley, Hedley Shaw, W. J. Gage, John D. Ivey, Noel Marshall, W. D. Ross, C. W. I. Woodland, Hugh Blain, Archibald Campbell, M.P.; R. J. Christie, E. J. Dignum, W. F. Cockshutt, M.P.

Board of Arbitration:—D. O. Ellis, J. N. Hay, W. E. Milner, D. Plewes, Jr., H. N. Baird, J. C. McKeggie, Thomas Flynn, W. D. Matthews, D. O. Woods, S. McNairn, C. B. Watts, John L. Fisher.

Representatives on Harbor Committee:—J. H. Hagarty, J. T. Mathews.

Industrial Exhibition Board:—C. W. Band, S. E. Briggs, John Carrick, R. Y. Ellis, Andrew Gunn, Andrew Duncan.



THE NEW PRESIDENT TORONTO BOARD OF TRADE.

Mr. J. D. Allan, who was last week elected president of the Toronto Board of Trade, spent his early days gaining a knowledge of lumbering, milling, and general merchandise, shipbuilding, etc., and to this wide and close experience with various forms of business life may perhaps be attributed his versatility, which has often been noticed. He has been connected with Toronto business life for thirty years past, and has always taken a deep interest in matters concerning its commercial and general progress. He first became prominently identified with the work of the Board of Trade in opposition to the life assurance scheme of ten or twenty years ago, assailing it on the ground that insurance was no part of the legitimate business of the Board of Trade. Ever since that time Mr. Allan has been on the Executive in one capacity or another. During four years he represented the Board on the Executive of the Technical School, and had much to do with introducing the Commercial Department which has proved so successful. He only retired from that position when the school was merged into the general educational system of the city. Most of our readers will remember his address on the subject of Technical Education, which was widely quoted, not only in this country and the United States, but in Great Britain. The London Chamber of Commerce sent over for several copies. Mr. Allan has always been a busy man and has connected himself with several interests outside his own business. The Union Stock Yards at Toronto Junction is an instance in