

cent. surplus be divided among shareholders. Finally, after not a little wrangling between Mr. Swinyard and the president, the former agreed to withdraw his amendment and allow the report to be adopted, on the understanding that the committee he proposed be received by the new board, and the company's affairs and matter of the dividend discussed between them. This was agreed to, and the committee and the board will now decide what is to be done with the surplus.

It would seem that some consideration is due to the interests of shareholders to whom a dividend is a real need, a fact not felt by directors who, we are told, get \$6,000 a year divided among them. No wonder Mr. Swinyard made a fight to get this 22½ per cent. distributed in part among shareholders. It was surely time.

The old board of directors was then re-appointed as follows:—Messrs. Thos. McGreevy, John Patterson, J. Grenier, Wm. Wainwright, N. K. Connolly, W. G. Murray, Hector Mackenzie, M. Connolly, Joseph Louis. Mr. Thomas McGreevy was re-elected president.

CHARLOTTETOWN BOARD OF TRADE.

The adjourned annual meeting of the Charlottetown, P.E.I., Board of Trade took place on the 21st January. Owing to the absence of Mr. Carrell, the president, Mr. T. Handrahan, was called to the chair. The report of the committee appointed to consider the future of the board, and to nominate officers, was submitted by Mr. Arnaud. It reads as follows:

The committee appointed on the 13th inst., to consider the best means of carrying on the Board of Trade for the ensuing year, and to nominate officers, etc., beg to report that: Owing to the prevailing indifference regarding the future of the board, and the consequent difficulty of providing means for its maintenance upon the present system, and recognizing the importance of keeping the corporation in existence, they recommend that arrangements be made forthwith to vacate the premises now occupied by the board, and that such of the furniture as may not be required for future use be sold. Further, that the services of Mr. B. D. Higgs be re-engaged as secretary, he to provide board room in his own office, fuel and light, together with his services, at a total cost of \$50 per annum. Your committee further beg to nominate the following officers: President, L. L. Beer; vice-president, Patrick Blake.

The report was adopted and some discussion followed. Mr. Farquharson approved the report and said it should have been made two years ago. Mr. Peak declared that the failure of the board to go on as first intended was due to the indifference of the merchants of Charlottetown. Years ago when we had a board with the advantages of affiliation with the Dominion board and brisker times, the board failed for the same reason. Messrs. Crabbe and McEachern also spoke.

The election of officers was as follows:

President—L. L. Beer.

Vice-President—P. Blake.

Secretary—B. D. Higgs.

COUNCIL.—S. W. Crabbe, John Newson, F. H. Arnaud, Horace Haszard, L. Carvell, T. Handrahan, Hon. D. Farquharson, M.P.P., W. L. Cotton.

ARBITRATORS.—Hon. D. Farquharson, S. W. Crabbe, F. H. Arnaud, John McEachern, John Newson, R. B. Norton, Rob Angus, F. W. Hyndman, T. J. Harris, Horace Haszard, L. C. Owen.

A member gave notice that at the next

meeting he would move for a reduction of the fees from \$5 to \$2 per annum. Some discussion ensued respecting the amended report of the council about the proposed tunnel from the island to the mainland of New Brunswick

CHINA, INDIA AND CEYLON TEAS.

The present somewhat peculiar position of the tea trade, as compared with former years, attracts attention beyond the precincts of Mincing Lane. Besides merchants, planters and brokers, the general public in England is taking an interest in the subject, and so the *Daily Telegraph* has been interviewing a well-known firm of tea brokers on the relative prospects of India, China, and Ceylon teas. In answer to questions, members of the firm said: "Our own possessions now contribute about 75 per cent. of the tea we consume, and only 25 per cent. is supplied by China. The home consumption in 1891 exceeded any previous record, and amounted to 202,000,000 lbs." A table of statistics shows that less China tea was used in 1887 than in 1866, twenty-one years before. Not only this, but in 1887 an almost equal weight of India and Ceylon tea was drunk in addition to the China. In 1891, the consumption of Indian and Ceylon tea amounted to 150,000,000 pounds, and that of China to 52,000,000. In answer to an enquiry by the interviewer, why China, which in 1849 monopolised the supply, now occupies in this country its third-rate place, the firm reply: "China tea of the first quality is of a very delicate flavor and very fine drinking; but the proportion of that class of tea is so small that it is practically unobtainable by the general public, except at certain seasons of the year and at very high prices. The best of the crop goes direct to Russia, but the greater part of the growth is of very poor quality, and contains a very small portion which is soluble in water. It was owing to this deterioration of China tea which caused, years ago, a demand for Indian tea, and, more recently, for Ceylon tea. Had China continued to be able to send tea of really good quality, and comprising the whole of its crop, we should probably never have heard of Indian and Ceylon teas. Then, too, they are more economical. According to the Customs testing, 1 lb. of China leaf will produce five gallons of liquid tea; but 1 lb. of Indian tea will give seven and a half gallons or fifty per cent. more."

"What have you to say of Sir Andrew Clark's condemnation of Indian tea, which he alleges disorders the nervous system, and produces a state of tea intoxication?"

"Ah! he did not say Ceylon tea! But the general mistake made by the public is to infuse Indian tea too long. It contains a much stronger body in the 'extract'—that is, in the amount soluble in water—than China tea does. You obtain in five minutes' infusion of Indian tea perhaps as strong a cup as with ten minutes' infusion of China tea. Consequently it is unnecessary to draw out the total strength possessed by the tea. Ladies should never allow Indian tea to stand more than five to seven minutes, and certainly not as long as ten to fifteen minutes. By the first method they would get the flavor of the tea without the tannin, because tannin is not so soluble in water as those constituents which give the quality and delicate taste."

"Does that advice apply also to Ceylon tea?" asked the reporter.

"Speaking generally, Ceylon tea contains

far more strength than Indian, and the same observations apply in an almost equal degree. The public, in purchasing either Ceylon or Indian, obtain a great deal more for their money than they did when they bought China tea, and they do not require to use the whole of what they buy. Let me add that a 'cozy' is a very bad thing, unless to keep the tea warm after it has been poured into another vessel, which is the proper way to treat tea after it is brewed."

After this interview, declares A City Man in the *Telegraph*, I thought it just to the representatives of the China trade that they should have the opportunity of explaining their position in face of the threatened extinction of the old-established source of supply. The reply of one gentleman—the best authority upon the subject—was: "There is no doubt that Indian tea has supplanted China tea; but at the same time there are some symptoms of a reaction, which is attributed to the medical aspect of the question. You have seen what Sir Andrew Clark has said. Dr. Hale White, of Guy's Hospital, made an analysis of Assam, finest China, and common Congo teas, with the result that he found in the Indian, after fifteen minutes' infusion, 17.73 per cent. of tannin, as compared with 7.97 per cent. in the best China, and 11.15 per cent. in the common Congou. The result is what might have been expected, as tannin is very soluble in hot water, and nobody who has drunk Assam, or any other Indian tea, and the choicest China, would require any scientific analysis to tell him which would be most likely to disorder the stomach and nerves.

"The doctors," continued the speaker, "are beginning to differentiate between Indian and China teas, and to see there is a superabundant quantity of tannin in the teas from India and Ceylon, due to the mode of preparation. The tea the Russians drink is a divine tea. We, as a people, are notorious for our coarse taste. Do not the lower classes smoke shag tobacco? Now Indian tea is a pungent, strong, coarse-flavored article, and it has been forced upon the public and popularised because it is 'British grown' and economical. But look at this tumbler. It is full of muddy yellow liquor; that is due to the excess of tannin, for it is an infusion of Indian tea; but see this clear port wine fluid—quite cold—that is China tea similarly prepared."

"Where can you get good China tea?"

"Unfortunately, owing to the course of trade, there is scarcely a shop in London where you can get good China tea; for they will tell you it does not exist. Another prejudice against it is that it requires much greater care in making, and the water must be just on the boil. You cannot expect to buy China tea such as is drunk in Russia under 3s. per pound retail. They sometimes give as much as 12s. for it."

But neither the interviewer nor his informants have any fear that the export of China tea to England is deemed to extinction, even although the arrivals up to end of May next are estimated at ten million pounds less than in the preceding twelve months. The report of J. Lewenz & Hauser Brothers, dated London, 22nd January, says that China teas are still greatly neglected, the better demand of last month for good black leaf first crop teas having subsided. They will have to compete with Indian and Ceylon teas for home trade uses, there being no outlet for them to Russia. Terminal market—stocks in million pounds:

	Total.	Congou.	Indian.
31 Dec., 1890.....	90½	35½	36½
31 Dec., 1891.....	97½	23½	45½