

The Lumbermen Meet.

The annual meeting of the Western Retail Lumbermen's association was held in the McIntyre block hall, Winnipeg, on Wednesday evening last. In the absence of president Campbell of Melita, vice-president A. Black of Winnipeg occupied the chair, and called the meeting to order. He expressed pleasure at seeing so many present, stating that it showed the interest that was still taken in the association. About sixty members were present, representing retail dealers from all parts of Manitoba. There were also present D. C. Cameron, manager of the Ontario and Western Lumber Co. R. Mather of the Keewatin Lumber Co. D. Ross, of Whitemouth, and D. Sprague of Winnipeg. The latter gentlemen, as manufacturers, are honorary members of the retail association.

The secretary was called upon to read the minutes of the previous annual meeting, which were adopted.

The chairman then read a letter from the president, who was absent in Ontario, and thus unable to attend the meeting. It read as follows:

To the members of the Western Lumbermen's association.

Gentlemen,—It is a matter of pleasurable satisfaction to all, that our association meets this year under conditions more favorable than have existed for one or two years past. The abundant harvest, with which our farmers have been blessed, has brought prosperity not only to this the most important class of our population, but also to the general public. In this renewed prosperity, the members of our association, both honorary and active, I am pleased to say, have participated in a satisfactory degree.

Our association has made substantial progress in the way of solidification. It is true that during the past year, we have had some disturbing conditions, but notwithstanding these, I am convinced that we stand stronger than ever. The immense advantages accruing to the members, both honorary and active, is becoming to be more and more appreciated. The general public, too, are recognizing more clearly the laudable object of our association; and are recognizing as well, that while we wish to guard our own interests, we are not unmindful of their welfare, as instance the liberal reduction in the price of lumber the past year. This wider knowledge has considerably dissipated their prejudices, and they are coming to believe that, if we have faults, "they lean to virtues side."

You will notice from the financial statement submitted to you, that our balance is respectable and on the proper side. I would recommend, however, that the fees be restored, if not to their old figure, as nearly so as possible. With a commendable object in view, the fees last year were reduced 50 per cent. We find now, that while the strictest economy has been observed, our expenditures exceeded the accruing dues for the year by a few hundred dollars. It is exceedingly unwise for the depletion of our funds to continue. A strong treasury is an element of general strength, and, as no one can tell when our strength can be tested, I trust you will give this your very serious consideration.

During the past year a number of questions for adjustment, have come before your directors. In every instance they have endeavored to obtain the fullest possible information bearing upon the various questions, and in every instance their conclusions have been based upon a conscientious desire to deal justice to all parties. If they have fallen short in any respect, I am sure your generous nature will forgive what your good sense may have seen wrong in their judgment.

It affords me much pleasure to bear testimony to the indefatigable attention our

secretary has given to the affairs of our association, I do not presume he needs any apology at my hands, but if there be any who have misunderstood his intention, I should simply ask to quote the words of president Tutbill of the Mississippi Valley Lumbermen's association:

"There seems to be in some quarters a disposition to think our secretary is a little too persistent and pushing in the presentation and collection of claims sent to him for adjustment, but you must remember that behind every one of these claims there is a red hot retailer, with every hair turned the wrong way, impatient of his ten per cent regardless of any explanation. It has been a wonder to me, as well as others of the directory, that he gets along with so little friction."

When he gets a claim from any of our members he must ask the accused of making the shipment for an explanation of it in writing so a complete record may be kept of all cases. We have not found our secretary guilty of unbusiness-like or ungentlemanly conduct in his way of doing business, still if he fails to collect the claim promptly he is liable to be accused of being in league with the wholesalers, or on the other hand, is criticised by the wholesaler for over activity in his efforts to get replies to his communications, which are not unlikely to receive as tardy attention as any which come to the wholesaler's desk."

But, as I have said, I am not aware our secretary requires any justification at my hands. The results of his labors are a sufficient commendation.

I cannot omit to make mention of the loyalty of our honorary members to the association. The closer arrangement entered into last year, I believe, has been faithfully observed on their part. Perhaps as much cannot be said of all active members, but I believe any breach of arrangement has been surrounded by extenuating circumstances. Taking it all in all perhaps the new conditions of mutual fidelity between honorary and active members have been as well observed as could reasonably be expected under a change so complete and so sudden.

Several matters will come up for your consideration. As good always comes of discussion, I trust your deliberations will be full and cordial, exemplifying the good sense and harmony that have always characterized our meetings in the past."

Mr. Black took exception to the recommendation of the president as to an increase in the dues. He thought that so long as they had a good balance to their credit, and there was no special object in view to raise a fund, it would be unwise to increase the dues to the old fee of \$10.

The secretary read his annual report and presented his financial statement. It showed that only \$65 in dues was outstanding out of a total collectable of over \$1,000. The financial statement was discussed at length, but no serious objections were made to any item. The statement showed that expenditure last year had exceeded income by about \$200, owing to the reduction in the dues, but there was still a balance on hand of about \$800 carried over.

The membership of the association was shown to be 147. There were twenty withdrawals during the year, nine of whom were parties going out of the business. Twenty-three new members were added, including three re-instated. Five of the new members were honorary.

Much harmony has prevailed among the members of the association the secretary says in his report. He further made reference to the demoralization of the lumber trade at Brandon by the senseless war among the dealers there, and the belief was expressed that the cutting would not likely be continued this year.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows: D. M. McMillan, Morton, president; T. A. Cuddy, Minnedosa, vice-president. Directors: A. Black and J. Arbuthnot, Winnipeg; C. E. Pieper, Greta; J. M. Taylor, Portage la Prairie, J. M. Neilson, Carberry, J. B. Mathers, Glenboro.

Toronto Grain and Produce Market.

Wheat.—Holders of red west are asking 82c and 83c for white. Spring wheat is quoted at 80c east. Manitoba wheat is a trifle easier. No. 1 hard is quoted at 79c North Bay and No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern at 78c North Bay. On "change to-day No. 1 hard was offered at 77c on track Collingwood, Midland freights, with 76c bid.

Flour.—Cars of straight roller are quoted at \$3.80 Toronto freights.

Millfeed.—Cars of shorts west are nominal at \$13 to \$3.50 and bran at \$11.50.

Barley.—Holders of fine malting lots are firm, and 45c is quoted for No. 1, 46 to 47c for No. 1 fancy and 89c to 40c for No. 2 east.

Oats.—Cars of mixed sold on the track here to-day at 26c and white at 27c. Cars of mixed north and west are quoted at 22½c and white at 23½c.

Butter.—Dairy tubs, 14 to 15c; medium and low grade dairy tubs, 2 to 12c; dairy pound prints, 15 to 16c; large rolls, 18 to 14½c; creamery tubs, 19 to 20c; creamery rolls, 20 to 22c.

Eggs.—We quote: New laid, 18 to 19c; limed, 18½ to 14c; good cold stored, 12 to 18c; held fresh, 15 to 17c.

Poultry.—Turkeys, 8 to 9½c; geese, 7 to 8c; chickens, 85 to 50c; ducks, 60 to 80c.

Baled Hay.—The sale of a car of gilt edge hay at \$15 was reported to-day. For car lots on the track we quote:—No. 1, \$14.50 to \$14.75; No. 2, \$13 to \$14.

Dressed Hogs.—The market is rather dull, as some of the large packers are not buying, with the idea in view of bringing the market down to at least \$5. Car lots are quoted at \$5.10 to \$5.15 delivered here.—Globe, Feb. 12.

Live Stock Markets.

At Liverpool on February 10, the tone of the market was weak for both cattle and sheep, and prices declined ½c per lb. for the former and ¼c to 1c for the latter. Trade was slow at 10½c for best States, 9½c for Argentines, and 11½c for sheep. A private cable quoted cattle at 10½c. The decline was owing to heavy supplies.

At the East End abattoir, Montreal, on Feb. 10, the demand was limited and trade slow. The quality of the stock offered showed a decided improvement. Good heaves sold at 3½c; fair, 3c to 3½c; fat cows, 2½ to 3c; common steers, 2½ to 2½c, and inferior, 1½ to 2c per lb. Sheep sold at 3½c to 3½c, and lambs, 4 to 4½c per lb. live weight. The feature of the Point St. Charles market, Montreal, on Feb. 10, was the stronger feeling in live hogs, and prices advanced 25c per 100 lbs., due principally to the short supply. Sales were made at \$4.25 per 100 lbs.

At Toronto on February 11, the cattle market was dull and easy. Receipts were fair, and 10 cars were left unsold. Butcher cattle were dull, and prices were easy. Good to choice sold at 2½ to 3½c per lb, and common at 2 to 2½c per lb. A few head of fancy cattle sold about 8½c, but there was a scarcity of really choice stock. A few bulls were taken for export at 2½ to 2½c. Stockers and feeders were quiet, at 1½ for light, 2½c for better class and 3c for good feeders. Lambs were a little better, selling at 3½ to 4½c per lb. Sheep were dull at 2½ to 2½c per lb. Hogs were weaker. There were 700 offered, and prices were \$1 per cwt. for choice bacon hogs, and 8½c for stores and light.