

# Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the above board was held on Tuesday afternoon of last week. About seventy-five members were present. The annual report of the council, which will be found appended, was adopted.

The treasurer's report was presented and adopted, as follows:

RECEIPTS.	
By cash on hand.....	\$443 19
" entrance fees and subscriptions.....	1,655 00
" interest on bank account .....	10 93
	\$2,109 12
DISBURSEMENTS.	
To address to J. M. Egan .....	\$47 00
" Secretary's salary.....	900 00
" expenses of delegates to Ottawa, re "Disallowance" .....	180 00
" James E. Steen, printing account .....	242 10
" postage, advertising meetings, etc., .....	177 77
" telephone subscription.....	30 00
" furniture .....	169 48
" rent to 31st Dec., 1897 .....	48 01
" collecting grain samples in 1895.....	10 00
	\$1,824 00
Balance in bank.....	504 96
	\$2,109 12

The report of the secretary, in substance as follows, was read and adopted:

Seven meetings of the Board, twenty of the Council and over forty of committees were held during the year in addition to a large number of sub-committee meetings. The calling together of these bodies necessitated the issuing of 1,900 notices.

Over 300 statistical and general letters were mailed, some of which it required days of steady work to compile the information given.

Over 500 letters were received and filed, many of these being from correspondents in Europe, the United States and Eastern Canada, seeking information regarding the natural resources and mercantile and manufacturing interests of Manitoba. Others were answers to circulars sent out from my office.

The large number of 26,000 pamphlets issued over the name of this Board on disallowance and Winnipeg's vacant lands were distributed at the cost of much labor and time.

Circulars on the subject of hide inspection, car shortage, grain estimates, grain movement, disallowance, etc., to the number of 3,000 were mailed.

The difficulty of obtaining access to data relating to the resources of this country and to statistical records, such as are constantly required in compiling petitions, memorials, etc., on matters affecting the Province, has long been experienced by members of this board. During the year I have donated, or collected without cost to the board, 370 volumes of Canadian and United States Government reports of value, with 109 volumes of annual reports of boards of trade in Canada and the United States, which are full of valuable statistics for business men. Most valuable maps to the number of 73 have also been procured from many sources without cost to the board. The list of pamphlets, daily, weekly, and monthly newspapers, trade journals, official gazettes, weekly prices current, etc., regularly received is a considerable one.

Though there were two deaths and fifteen members vacated their seats by default in dues or by leaving the Province, the membership, through the addition of new members,

stands the same as last year, namely, 148 paid up members.

President J. H. Ashdown then delivered an interesting and stirring annual address, which was received with enthusiasm, and a vote of thanks was unanimously voted him. The address will be found in another column.

A bonus was voted to the secretary on account of last year's work, and George Hastings and Jos. Davis were elected members of the Board.

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers was then proceeded with and resulted as follows, W. J. Aikin and J. H. Brock acting as scrutineers:—

Geo. F. Galt, President; Jas. Redmond, Vice-president; Ed. Powis, Treasurer; Chas. N. Bell, Secretary; Council—J. H. Brock, J. H. Ashdown, R. J. Whitla, G. R. Crowe, K. Mackenzie, Wm. Hespeler, L. M. Lewis, W. F. Luxton, F. W. Stobart, Alex. Macdonald, J. E. Steen, S. Nairn.

The following resolution was carried unanimously:—

That a committee composed of the president, secretary, Messrs. Ashdown, McKilligan, Whitla, Brock, Lewis and Steen be appointed to draft resolutions on the question of the present unsatisfactory state of the country, the same to be submitted to the adjourned meeting of this Board.

The board then adjourned until Thursday, the 9th February.

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

Your Council have much pleasure in presenting this their Ninth Annual Report.

Twenty meetings of the Council and seven of the Board were held, with about forty meetings of Committees, so that your Council can assure the Board that great activity has been shown in carrying out the objects for which the body was organized.

On every occasion offering, your Council has announced that it is a fixed principle of this Board to do all in its power to advance the interests of the farmers, recognizing that the commercial interests of Winnipeg are wrapped up with those of the agricultural community.

## DISALLOWANCE.

Your Council will not attempt in their report, to enter into a full description of the steps taken by the Board generally on the question of the disallowance, by the Dominion Government, of our local railway charters. Several pamphlets have been issued by this Board which cover the matter very fully, and a mere reference to the Council's action in the premises will suffice at this time.

In April, a request was made to your Council to nominate a delegate, to act with a joint deputation appointed by the City Council and the Liberal Conservative Anti-Disallowance League, to proceed to Ottawa to endeavor to induce the Dominion Government to allow the charters for railways reaching to the International Boundary Line, granted by the Legislature, to stand.

The President was appointed by your Council to act as delegate. He proceeded to Ottawa, and on his return made a full report of the action taken by the deputation. His report was adopted by a unanimous vote.

In July, owing to the many misstatements

made by interested parties both in this and in the eastern provinces, that the freight and passenger rates in force in the Northwest on the Canadian Pacific Railway were fair and not excessive, your Council caused a pamphlet to be prepared, which, under the title of "Plain facts regarding the disallowance of Manitoba Railway Charters," clearly exposed the injustice and wrong done to the people of the Northwest by the exorbitant charges made by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. Tables of rates were given, and the tariffs quoted from referred to. The correctness of the statements advanced in this pamphlet were uncontrovertible and have never been seriously challenged nor contradicted. Ten thousand of these pamphlets were rapidly circulated in Manitoba, the Territories, the Eastern Provinces and Great Britain, and the issue caused a clearer understanding of our true position to be arrived at by thousands of people, who before had seen only the misstatements promulgated by that portion of the press in the Dominion interested in supporting the Canadian Pacific Railway.

In August, Mr. Van Horne, the vice-president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, after a visit to Manitoba made publicly gross attacks on members of this Board, in regard to their position on disallowance, and also to the object this Board had in view in agitating for the cessation of the disallowance policy of local railway charters. Your Council immediately replied to Mr. Van Horne's misstatements, and as on former occasions, took care to publish the facts that the people of Manitoba were only desirous of getting roads to the International Boundary to meet connections that would give lower freight rates to the eastern provinces, so that greater purchases might be made there, and a closer business connection established. A circular letter on this subject, which was mailed to the principle newspapers of Canada, was widely read and commented on—especially that portion drawing attention to the fact that under the high tariff now in force, it would be impossible for us to import most lines of goods from the United States, even if they were carried free of freight charges.

About the first of October your Council was called upon to answer an open letter addressed by Sir George Stephen, president of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, to the shareholders of that Company. Many of his statements were so utterly devoid of fact and so many misquotations from the terms of the Canadian Pacific Railway contract were made, that your Council had no difficulty in preparing an answer that was so conclusive, that the eastern press, with the exception of a few papers, acknowledged the justness of our contention. Four thousand copies of this pamphlet were printed by the Manitoba Anti-Disallowance Association, the Board of Trade of Brandon joining with our Board in publishing it over their names, an answer of itself, to the untrue statements made by wire pullers, that the agitation was confined to Winnipeg. Copies of these pamphlets were mailed to all the Shareholders of the C. P. R.

## VACANCIES.

A fortnight after the annual meeting, Lieut.-Colonel MacKeand, a member of your Council died very suddenly. The Board attended the