

tem of insurance in this country finding particular fault with the board of underwriters as now constituted as it was to the interests of the underwriters who were the insurance agents to keep up rates. He also took exception to the forms of policies and advocated the formation of a local company. If such a company were formed it must have no connection with the board of underwriters. He thought that at least the convention should enter a vigorous protest against the way of conducting insurance here and bring the board of underwriters in Manitoba to their senses.

Mr. Ashdown made a vigorous speech declaring that the time had come for decisive action. He advised an agitation against the insurance companies and no surrender in the matter. The business men of Manitoba would be themselves to blame if they did not get their rights in this matter.

Ex-Mayor Ryan also favored a vigorous course of action against the companies for lower rates.

Mr. Labonde advocated the wholesale and retail merchants forming a co-operative insurance company. He went at length into the details of this proposition pointing out the experiences of other cities in co-operative insurance.

Mr. Ashdown desired to mention the importance of obtaining copies of applications for insurance in duplicate, and also of carefully reading over the policies when obtained.

After some further general discussion the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Messrs. Baird, Pilot Mound, Reed, Neepawa, Ross, Rapid City, Hamilton, Neepawa, and Hemenway, Carman, were appointed as the committee to co-operate with the Winnipeg board of trade.

Mr. Riley suggested that before the members of the committee left the city they should wait on the government and see if some legislation could not be obtained which would further the important object. This suggestion was adopted, a motion of Mr. Rollins instructing the committee to interview the government being adopted.

EXEMPTIONS.

The matters of excessive municipal assessment and the Manitoba Exemption Act next came up for discussion. Mr. Whitla spoke strongly against the system of assessment in this country contending that great injustice was being done to the business community by it.

As to the Exemption Act, Mr. Ashdown was afraid they would never succeed in getting the government to abolish it, but he thought perhaps they might succeed in getting it modified.

Mr. Steen denounced the Exemption Act and gave some pointers as to the reasons which led to the passage of the measure.

Mr. Hamilton did not think the Exemption Act was as iniquitous as some seemed to think. He thought the farmers in the country who might be unfortunate should have some protection. He thought the convention should not undertake to much lest they accomplish nothing. The retailers, he was afraid, would be antagonizing the farmers.

Mr. Morton moved, seconded by Mr. Herbert, that this convention desires to bring before the notice of our legislators the anomaly in local taxation whereby the merchants' stock is taxed to its full value while the personal property of farmers and the capital of financial con-

cerns and other accumulated funds are exempt from taxation entirely, and this convention hereby appoints a committee to work in harmony with the Winnipeg board of trade in getting this anomalous state of affairs brought to an end. This motion was carried.

It was also resolved, "That the convention desires to express its decided disapproval of the exemptions from execution or seizure guaranteed to debtors in the act known as an act for the administration of justice, especially in so far as they take away the means of recovering by process of law of debts for goods actually necessary for household supplies, and the convention pledges its support to the Winnipeg board of trade in any efforts made by its members to have these exemptions abolished in connection with debts incurred for family necessities."

It was decided to endeavor to induce all retailers throughout Manitoba and the Territories to join the association, and form local associations to work in harmony with the general association. If this can be accomplished great good will result. It will aid in overcoming the local jealousies which unfortunately prevail among merchants in many communities, and which sometimes result in great injury to trade. If these jealousies can be overcome, a great deal will have been accomplished in the direction of placing trade on a better basis.

After the close of the convention, a number of the delegates were asked privately as to their opinion of the convention. Each and every one so spoken to expressed pleasure at the result of the meeting. The work accomplished had been fully up to their expectations, and all felt satisfied that great good would result from the meeting. The merchants now understood each other, and all were prepared to work together to bring about the necessary reforms. Altogether the feeling among the delegates seemed very hopeful, and they all go home imbued with the belief that the movement which has been inaugurated, will result in correcting the evils connected with the system of conducting business in this country.

After some discussion it was decided to hold the next convention during the month of September of this year, at the call of the president. If the proposed exhibition is held, the association will meet during exhibition week.

Resolutions of thanks were passed to the officers of the convention, to the railway companies and others, after which the convention was dismissed.

Fur Prices.

The following prices were realized at the January sale of the Hudson's Bay Company at London, England. Prices in shillings:

Beaver—Yorkport; firsts, large, 43½, small, 18½; wetted, 18 to 38; seconds, large, 37½, small, 16½; wetted, 15½ to 34½; thirds, large, 22, small, 9½; cubs, 4½, and kits, 3½.

M. K. R., firsts, large, 40½, small, 18½; seconds, large, 35, small, 15½; thirds, large, 21, small, 9½; cubs, 5½.

M. R. & E. M., firsts, large, 46½, small, 23; seconds, large, 33½, small, 18½; thirds, large, 23½, small, 14, and cubs, 7.

F. G., firsts, large, 56½, small, 26½; seconds, large, 42, small, 22.

B., firsts, large, 42, small, 29½; seconds, large, 36½, small, 17½; thirds, large, 23½, small, 14.

N. W., firsts, large, 44½, small, 16; seconds,

large, 34, small, 14; thirds, large, 23½, small, 9½, and cubs, 5½.

Canada, firsts, large, 43, small, 22½; seconds, large, 36, small, 17; thirds, large, 22, small, 12½, and cubs, 6½.

Musquash—Prices given in pence:

Yorkfort, firsts, 11; seconds, 9; thirds, 7½; fourths, 5, and kits, 2½.

M. K. R., firsts, 9½; seconds, 8; thirds, 6½, and fourths, 4.

M. R., firsts, 12½; seconds, 9; thirds, 7½, and fourths, 5½.

E. M. and L. W. R., firsts, 13½; seconds, 10½; thirds, 8.

N. W., firsts, 9½; seconds, 8½; thirds, 6½; fourths, 4½.

Canada, firsts, 13½; seconds, 10½; thirds, 8½; fourths, 6, and kits, 3½.—*Fur Trade Review.*

Minneapolis Markets.

Following were closing quotations for wheat on Wednesday, March 5:

	Mar.	April.	May.	On track
No. 1 hard.....	78½	78	80	70½-80
No. 1 northern.....	77½	77½	78	78½-79½
No. 2 northern.....	75½	75½	76	75½-77½

These prices were 1½ to 2c above those of a week ago.

FLOUR.

Patents, sacks, to local dealers.....	\$4 60 to \$4 65
Patents, to ship, sacks, car lots.....	4 15 to 4 50
In barrels.....	4 25 to 4 50
D. Evered at New England points.....	5 05 to 5 35
New York points.....	4 95 to 5 25
Delivered at Philadelphia and Baltimore..	4 90 to 5 20
Bakers here.....	2 90 to 3 25
Superfine.....	1 70 to 2 25
Red dog, sacks.....	1 00 to 1 20
Red dog, barrels.....	1 25 to 1 50

Wheat and shorts—These products moved out fairly at about \$7.50 for bran f.o.b. and at \$2.25 to \$3.75 for shorts.

Corn—The corn receipts were larger but offerings were not very free on track and holders mostly asked from 25c for fair mixed to 26c for No. 2 yellow with buyers about 4c under for on track cars. Cars put f.o.b. and switched were held at 25½ to 26½c.

Oats—The offerings were fair in amount with holders asking 20 to 22c for the general run of samples on track. Nice seed lots held above.

Feed—Quoted at \$10 to \$10.50 on track; \$10.50 to \$11 f.o.b. and switched for billing out.

Hay—The hay market remained steady with wild quoted at about \$4.50 to \$6.50 for fair to choice cars, the latter mostly fine upland.

Apples—\$3 to \$4 per barrel.

Hides—Hides, green, per lb. 3½ to 4c; green, salted, per lb. 3½ to 6½c; sheep pelts, 25c to 3½.

Butter—Quotations range as follows: Creameries—strictly fancy, 20c; fair to good, 14 to 16c. Dairies—good to choice, 11 to 14c; medium to fair, 8 to 10c. Roll—good to choice, 7 to 8c; medium, 3 to 6c.

Eggs—Unsettled and weak, with large receipts. Quoted at 12 to 13c per dozen for fresh.

Potatoes—Car lots moving at 25 to 30c per bushel.

Dressed meats—Beef, 2 to 4c; mutton, 7 to 7½c; hogs, 4½ to 5½c; veal, 2 to 6c.

Live stock—Quoted: Corn or still-fed steers, \$2.75 to \$3.60; Dakota grass-fed steers, \$2.40 to \$3; stockers, \$2.10 to \$2.65; feeders, \$2.50 to \$3; cows, \$1.60 to \$2.65; calves, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs. The hog market generally held firm: Heavy, \$3.75 to \$3.90; mixed and medium, \$3.75 to \$3.90; light, \$3.75 to \$3.90. The sheep market is reported firm, quotations being: Muttons, \$4.75 to \$5.25; feeders, \$4.50 to \$4.50; lambs, \$4.50 to \$5.50.