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DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

At the recent banquet given by the Toronto Board of Trade in compliment to Lord Strathcona, replying to a toast, discussing the general welfare and interests of Canada, having suggested the desirability of the reviving of the Dominion Board of Trade, once a most important and influential organization, his Lordship said: "By this means you would be able to bring to the notice of the Government many things of which they themselves would have very little knowledge, because being of the business, the commercial and the professional men, you must necessarily have more intimate and practical knowledge of what is required than any body of men sitting at Ottawa, or, for that matter, at Westminster."

The causes that led to the disintegration of the old Dominion Board of Trade need not now be discussed, but it may be said that whatever the conditions which called it into existence long years ago, and they were certainly of an imperative character, they are at this time more poignant and forcible than then; and now that Lord Strathcona has in so emphatic a manner brought the matter to the attention of the business community, it should be taken up and pushed to its legitimate and natural conclusion. There is no business man in Toronto, or in Ontario, who does not recognize the good and lasting effect of the work done and being done by the Toronto Board of Trade, and these influences are not bounded by provincial lines, and the same may be said regarding the Board of Trade of Montreal, and in fact the boards of all the other cities and commercial centres of the Dominion. But these organizations are isolated each from the others, and whatever good they may exert within their respective spheres of influence, they are incapable of accomplishing as much as affecting the interests of the whole country as would be possible were they merged into and forming important units of a great central body—a Dominion Board of Trade such as that suggested by Lord Strathcona.

It is quite remarkable that the old organization should have ever been permitted to fall to pieces—it is even more

remarkable that it has not before this been revived by the earnest business men of Canada. Local Boards of Trade and similar organizations are all well enough in their way; in fact they are indispensable, but their influence is but local at best, and, as we have often observed, petty jealousies which should never exist prevent the general adoption of ideas and suggestions which, if carried out, would be of much value to the community. This would not be the case in the presence of an organization covering the whole Dominion. It would be entirely within the province of local organizations, and their duty, to look after local interests, but such larger matters as the regulation of railway freights, the establishment of routes of transportation towards which public moneys are appropriated, all matters affecting tariffs, patent laws, banking insolvency, copyright, the adoption of uniform systems of weights, measures and values, etc., should be for the consideration of the Dominion Board of Trade.

OVER REPRESENTATION vs. UNDER REPRESENTATION.

The argument has been advanced by some of the directors of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association to the effect that the numerical strength of that Association, and the different bodies and societies constituting it, is quite as large as it should be, and that there should be no increase in the number of directors, for the reason that any such increase would tend to unweildiness.

The answer to this is that while admitting the correctness of the argument, considering the composition of the Association, there are certain general interests, all very meritorious of themselves, which have undue representation, while other interests, equally meritorious, have insufficient representation or no representation at all. Times and circumstances change, and conditions that might have been entirely favorable to the success of the Association twenty years ago are found not so propitious at this time. We quite agree with the argument that a hundred business men selected from the several leading interests of the community are quite sufficient numerically to constitute the Association, and we also think that a board of directors not exceeding twenty in number, (fifteen would be better) sufficiently large to attend to all the details of it.

But we find, unfortunately for the Association we think, that there is unnecessarily large representation of some industries, as the Toronto Electoral District Society, for instance, whose only excuse for existence is to cultivate a taste for chrysanthemums, and the Toronto Gardeners' and Florists' Association, with like esthetic excuse, with a combined representation of fourteen members and six directors; the Beekeepers' Association; the Ontario Poultry Association and the Toronto Poultry Association, with four members and one director, Toronto Horticultural Society and the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, with four members and two directors, (Toronto is a great fruit producing region); Ontario Veterinary Association, with two members one of whom is president, and two directors, representing these horse doctors of the province, Butter and Cheese Association of East Ontario and Butter and Cheese Association of West Ontario, with three members, Educational Department of Ontario, Toronto Natural History Society, Canadian In-