

and Europe have called at the Board's office in search of information relating to Manitoba and the Northwest.

REVISED BILLS OF LADING.

Mr. F. E. Gautier, Consul for France in this City, forwarded to the Board a proposed form of bill of lading submitted to Boards of Trade by the French Government for their consideration and notation, the principal object being to secure a form which would prevent the fraudulent negotiation of bills of lading. A committee of the Council reported in favor of the following of the forms outlined; viz.:

"The captain of the above mentioned ship or steamer, acknowledges— bills of lading, all of the same tenor and date, which he has signed and delivered, and one of which only is transferable, this one being accomplished, the others to stand void."

CUSTOMS REGULATIONS.

Early last year a communication was received from the Quebec Board of Trade requesting this Board to memorialize the Dominion Government on the following matters:

"1° That all the customs officers and Boards of Trade in Canada, should be immediately informed as to any change, alteration or modification to the Customs tariff which from time to time may be sanctioned by Order-in-Council; and that said changes, alterations and modifications should be posted up in conspicuous places at the said Customs offices, Boards of Trade and elsewhere for the information of the Trade; that such Orders-in-Council should have no retroactive effect and should be published a certain number of days before the official date when they come into operation;

2° That Appraisers should be in a position to give every information on the Customs tariff, whenever required to do so; that after entries are made by a merchant in conformity with the instructions received from the Appraiser, after duties, if any, are paid, and on a regular permit being issued to the merchant for the withdrawal of his goods, the operation should be considered as final, and should not be subject to any further departmental claim, which is very injurious to the trade; that your Petitioners are of opinion that it would be only fair that Customs Appraisers, as is the case in the management of any private financial, commercial and industrial establishment, should be held responsible for any error which might take place in the management of their office;