

Cope, T. Dunn, H. Bell-Irving, H. T. Ceperley, J. C. McLagan, W. Taylor, W. Skene, John Hendry, R. C. Ferguson, R. A. Anderson, F. C. Cotton, Sol. Oppenheimer, E. E. Penzer.

NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the board, adjourned from the previous week, was held in the board room on Tuesday, 1st March, Mr. T. J. Trapp, the president, in the chair. The annual report, dated February 23rd, was read, announcing the membership of the board to be 72. A balance on hand of \$732.71 is shown, of which \$700 is invested, the remainder being cash. Four general meetings and ten meetings of council were held during the year.

Improvement in the navigation of the Fraser River is a matter to which the board has given attention since its formation. The Dominion Government's chart of the river dated 1889, being defective, a new survey was made in 1890, but the chart based upon this "proved to be even worse than the old"—we quote from the secretary's report—as it represents the channel "as unnavigable for even the smallest class of sea-going vessels." The defective copies were called in by the Government and others issued which are fairly accurate. Eleven sea-going vessels have entered the port during the year. The satisfactory completion and operation of the Great Northern Railway between Westminster and Seattle is referred to; and the Northern Pacific Railway is likely to touch Westminster by 1894. New steamers for local traffic have been built, but it is regretted that no improvement has been made in the steam service to Victoria.

Letters have passed between the board and the various Australian Chambers of Commerce on the subject of better classification of British Columbia fir in Australian markets, B.C. fir being classed as Oregon pine, whereas it is claimed to be superior to Oregon pine. The fishing industry of the Pacific Coast is another matter to which the board has given attention. The report was adopted and thanks rendered to the secretary, Mr. D. Robson, for his care in its preparation. A thousand copies were ordered printed in pamphlet form.

PETERBORO BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the board was held on the 2nd March, on which occasion the president, Mr. Meldrum, congratulated those present on the steady progress and prosperous condition of the town. The failures among the traders of Peterboro in 1891 were few and unimportant. "A marked feature," said the speaker, "is the number of new buildings erected, and they were of a better class than usual. Then, too, the building of an electric railway has been begun, part of which is to be in operation by 1st July next. The Water Company has enlarged its capacity, uniting with the Light and Power Company in building a new dam."

Mr. Alan Macdougall, sanitary engineer, of Toronto, has made a report on and submitted plans for taking up the sewage of the town. That such a step should be contemplated is creditable to the public spirit of its governing body. The paragraph of Mr. Meldrum's address referring to the telephone service is good enough to quote:

"Another inducement to people to locate and make our town their home is the telephone service. Thanks to some of our enterprising

citizens, the Ontario Telephone Company has, so far, proven a success not only in giving a cheap service, but a good one, and I understand from the president it is financially a success. Our business people have loyally supported it. In saying this I do not wish to say one word against the Bell Company. They are the only company, God bless them, that think we are in need of charity. Long may their benevolent hearts keep open."

The president has a farewell word to his hearers in their capacity as members of the Peterboro Board of Trade. It is this: "You owe a duty to your town, and should give a portion of your time to the interests of your citizens. It is easy to find fault; there are any number of grumblers and fault finders. But all the fault finding will not build up a city—it needs pluck and push. Enterprise and time will do it. There is plenty of work for you to do, and if we are loyal to our municipality we will give the time, and see that nothing is neglected that will further the prosperity and growth of the town."

INSURANCE NOTES.

Simons, *alias* Harris, the insurance swindler, who was recently arrested at St. Thomas, and extradited to Buffalo, pleaded guilty and was sentenced to three years in Erie County Penitentiary. He said that after he got out he would work for the insurance companies at \$1,800 a year and save them twice that sum by exposing agents who are swindling them.

A firm in Birmingham, Eng., is manufacturing an ingenious device for indicating the existence of a fire or for regulating the heat in the preparation of food and drink. The fire alarm consists of very sensitive diaphragms which are connected with an electric battery in such a way that as soon as the temperature of an apartment in which the appliance is fixed reaches a predetermined point, an electric bell is set ringing and continues to ring for some hours if necessary, until a reduction of the temperature is effected. The instrument is capable of very nice adjustment, and on the occasion of a recent trial it is stated that the bell was caused to ring by breathing upon the diaphragms.

An alarm door knob has recently been invented in England, which is very effective as a warning that thieves are about. This only rings when the handle is turned from the outside. It will answer the purpose of an ordinary door bell and at the same time makes a good burglar alarm.

The Sullivan insurance bill, now before the New York State Assembly, provides that insurance companies (in more than one line of business) shall deposit with the State Superintendent \$100,000 for each additional line. It is vigorously opposed by the Fidelity and Casualty Company of New York city.

The names of Messrs. Jeffers & Ronne should have appeared in connection with the full page announcement of the Germania Life Insurance Co. in our issue of last week. They are the district managers of the company, with headquarters in this city, and naturally feel proud of the exhibit to which they have contributed no small figures.

The Marine Engineers' Association has resolved to petition the Minister of Marine to compel all engineers to exhibit their certificate in their engine rooms, and also to empower the customs' officers to enforce this rule and see that all boats have competent engineers.

Bill Nye, in descanting on the beauties of

life insurance, says: "I look upon life insurance as a great comfort, not only to the beneficiary, but to the insured. Twice I have almost raised my wife into affluence and cast a gloom over the community in which I lived, but something happened to the physician for a few days, so that he could not attend to me, and so I recovered."

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

The semi-annual convention of the National Union of the Textile Workers was opened on the 14th inst. in New York.

A syndicate is just about to commence operations at Bradford which promises to introduce an important new fabric into England this being a cheap weft pile plush, with either single pile or pile on both sides. As to single pile goods, all previous plushes have had a warp pile. The new goods will have a weft pile, and consequently a very much cheaper yarn can be used, while it is claimed that the class of goods will not suffer. Great interest is felt in the undertaking.—*British Warehouseman*.

It is stated that a German firm has perfected a means of making a profitable disposition of sawdust by which it is applied to a mechanical use, and has thus far been attended with success. An acid is mixed with the sawdust, and the whole mass moulded into blocks or any other form, resulting in a fine material for building purposes. The blocks assume extreme hardness of surface, and are practically non-combustible. The material in the moulded forms is said to be much stronger than timber in these forms, and much lighter than either iron or steel, and can be prepared cheaply.—*English Hardware Trade Journal*.

—Erastus Wiman, of New York, read a paper recently before the convention of the National Electrical Light Association at Buffalo, on "Electric Lighting from a Financial Standpoint." He stated that present prices for electric lighting were not profitable, and urged the friends of the electrical industry to endeavor to impress that fact upon the public, declaring that if perfect service is to be had better prices must be paid. Low prices have prevailed because the companies themselves have not, heretofore, appreciated and understood the cost of operation and the great loss due to accidents and rapid depreciation.

—Manufacturers cannot make a greater mistake, says the *Industrial World*, than in trying to economize on engravings. Nothing attracts readers quicker than finely executed pictures of machines and engines, and nothing repels more strongly than poor ones. There is no need of a long argument to show the soundness of these truths, for every one will admit them from their own experience. Money spent for poor engravings is wasted.

—The Vanderbilts are extending their lines in a most alarming fashion and accumulating their wealth in stupendous proportions. The \$200,000,000 left by W. H. Vanderbilt six years ago has increased to \$300,000,000 in spite of the theory propounded by some political economists, that distribution stops accumulation in the family. The increase of wealth is going on in a greater ratio than it did between the periods of the death of the old commodore and Wm. H., although at the death of the latter the increase seemed almost marvellous. In the railroad world the control of hundreds of millions of railroad property now seems within their grasp. The railroad property in possession of the family has probably increased 20 per cent. during the past year. At this rate o