

from Ottawa have visited this city, and your board have not been slow to impress matters in the interests of Manitoba trade upon such. A petition asking for the discontinuance of the railway disallowance policy of the Dominion Government, which has been such a burden on the trade of the province, was presented with the signatures of the best men of this city attached, to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior during his late visit, and elicited from him an expression of the hope and belief that the policy of the Government would soon cease to call for the maintenance of this railway restriction.

A deputation from your board also waited upon the same gentleman and the Honorable the Minister of Militia, to press upon both the necessity of the early settlement of claims for losses sustained by men in trade during the late rebellion, and for goods supplied and services rendered by the same class during its suppression. Both gentlemen promised that no unnecessary delay in such settlements should occur.

Your board have heard from time to time the complaints of the business men of this city regarding unnecessarily high rates of insurance, and have had a committee at work in conjunction with the city council to secure a reduction of those rates from the companies doing business here. Their efforts have in some measure been seconded by the local Board of Underwriters, and there is a probability that more or less of a reduction will soon be made. Your committee, however, deem it wise that this matter should be persistently pressed.

Complaints from the importers of this city against the uncivil and arbitrary conduct of the heads of the Customs Department here had become so numerous that a short time ago your board were compelled to memorialize the Hon. the Minister of Customs for the removal of the collector and surveyor at this port. A committee appointed to look into this matter reported most unfavorably with regard to both of these officers, and furnished voluminous correspondence of the most convincing character in support of their report. Your board, therefore, reluctantly forwarded the same, with a request for the removal of these officers, to the Minister of the Department.