



EASTER

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BOX 863.

Developing New Ontario.

Toronto, March 27.—The council of the board of trade at its meeting yesterday approved of the government assisting the opening up of roads that would benefit the province.

There were two railway matters before the council, one the report of the railway and transportation committee in reference to the New Ontario Colonization Railway, which it is proposed shall run north from Port Arthur. The committee reported they had not evidence before them to justify any particular project, but felt that the country which would be traversed by the road possessed resources that must prove beneficial to the older sections of the province, if care is taken to secure proper connections, and not allow trade to be diverted eastward. It approved, therefore, of the Ontario government taking reasonable steps to open up that country, provided proper independent communication is assured with the older sections of the province and this city. The other railway project was that of the Manitoulin and North Shore Railway, which is asking a subsidy from the provincial legislature. J. M. Clark, K. C., W. D. McPherson and John McKay appeared before the council to advocate the claims of the road.

A. E. Ames and J. F. Ellis were appointed to draw up a resolution which will be presented to the premier. The resolution states that the council is heartily in accord with any practical scheme for further development in New Ontario, and commends to the attention of the Ontario government the importance of the fullest inquiry into all bona fide enterprises that have that object in view. It was resolved, moreover, that the western part of Old Ontario is handicapped by the dearth of transportation facilities connecting it with the rich country at the north, and the government would be thoroughly justified in voting public moneys to assist such projects as after investigation commend themselves to their judgment.

Boston Shoe Market.

The Boston correspondent of *Hill and Leather*, of Chicago, reviews the trade in boots and shoes at that important centre, as follows:—

"It is currently reported and generally believed that we are on the verge of a decided upward movement in the boot and shoe market, caused by a natural expansion of trade in our own and foreign countries by the adoption of more modern business methods, based on the present condition of general wage-earning prosperity."

"To-day there is in progress a good volume of business. The large manufacturers have booked large contracts for fall, and many of them have hurry orders that will keep their factories running to their full capacity for at least two months before they will be able to settle down to filling their real fall orders that are booked for July, August and September shipments."

"One of the big manufacturers of medium and low priced men's and boys' shoes said last week that his house was receiving orders and telegrams daily, hurrying them up on immediate delivery orders. They are running full force and doing some night work, and yet if they get no more hurry orders, it will take them till May 1 to clear up those already booked. Last year these same manufacturers were not busy in April, but rather running on short time and waiting for fall orders to come along."

"It is claimed that the tenacity of the jobbing trade is growing more and more each season toward buying goods of the manufacturers in smaller quantities and more often than in past years, when the rule was to wait for them to visit this market but twice a year and to buy their season's supply largely in one order at each line of goods that they had decided to handle. They are inclined to work nearer to the manufacturer, but this practice gives them small stocks of staple goods on hand, and when the retailers get short and order freely, they soon find their supply unequal to the demand and this causes them to hurry up the manufacturer. And if goods are pushed through the works too quickly, some parts of the work is liable to be slighted and the goods do not give the satisfaction to jobber, retailer and consumer that they would if they were ordered earlier in the season and manufacturer given sufficient time to put them through their works in good order."