Wholesale Grocers' Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Dominion Wholesale Grocers' Guild was held recently in Hamilton. The following were the delegates present: From Montreal—Messrs. Hebert, (President), Childs and Geoffrion; from Toronto—Messrs. Blain (vice president), Ince, Davidson, Sloan, Eckardt, Larkin, Smith, Wills, (secretary); from Hamilton—Messrs. McPherson, Turner, Bristol, Stuart, Balfour, Harvey, Gillard; from Berlin—Mr. Roos; from Brantford—Mr. Watts; from London—Messrs. Masuret, Smith, Screaton.

The business programme was not lengthy, neither were the remarks of members. President Hebert is a model chairman. Not only does he know when and how to put a bridle upon speakers' tendency to be diffuse, but he brings to bear upon the proceedings the expeditiousness of a thorough business man. He is a popular, as well as efficient presiding officer, as his re-election and the terms in which the thanks of the Guild were conveyed to him must be taken to signify. This meeting probably breaks the record for despatch. The delegates assembled at 3 30 on Thursday afternoon and had virtually transacted all their business by 7 p m.

The report of their proceedings, as furnished by Secretary Wills, reveals nothing in the nature of a departure. The sugar situation was discussed, but it was resolved to take no action at present for the regulation of trade in that staple. The tobacco and starch agreements received some attention in the way of discussion, but there was nothing done in relation to either of them. The question of manufacturers, canners particularly, selling to retailers was before the meeting a while, and was disposed of in a resolution referring it to the local Guilds. An important matter was brought up by Mr. Blain. It was the question of railway discrimination between Montreal and Toronto This was shown to seriously handicap the wholesale grocers of the latter city. On dried fruit alone the difference was nearly 20c a hundred weight. The rate for dried fruit from Montreal to London, for example, is only 17½c, while from Toronto to London it is 28. Add to this 9c that Toronto merchants pay for ocean freight and the total freight to London from Toronto is 37c, or 19½c more than if shipped from Montreal. The Montreal delegates appeared to be as much surprised at this difference in favor of their city as were the Toronto Merchants, and showed no disposition to ask more than fair play. Their concurrence was as hearty as that of the other members of the meeting in the resolution authorizing Mr. Blain to bring this matter before the Council of the Toronto Board of Trade.

The Guild is evidently not in the low state of debility that it ought to be in, according to prediction, by this time. It was felt in many quarters that the relinquishing of the sugar clause would cause it to crumble to pieces. But it has more vitality now than it had when it limited the price of sugar, and the principle of union among its members is something stronger than a clause—it is the development of friendly feeling. That had really been hindered by the sugar clause, which tended to breed mutual distrust. The wholesale grocers now like to get together to enjoy each others' company, and if they liked each other less, such hospitality as the Hamilton Guild dispensed at this meeting could not fail to melt down mutual repugnances and drive out old grudges. After adjourning at 7 on Thursday evening the members assembled again at 7.30 at the Hamilton Club, upon the invitation of Mr. Balfour in behalf of the Local Guild. There they sat down to a capital dinner. Under its refining influence the spirit of speech making soon got moving itself aright in the company, and all waxed silver-tongued. But the centrepiece of the after-dinner proceedings was the presentation to Ex-President Ince of an address and a magnificent silver cabinet. That graceful act was very becomingly performed. Mr. Ince was the first President of the Guild, and had continued at its head for seven years. Thus he had guided it through the first and formative years of its life, and an almost filial tone was proper in an expression of that association's gratitude to him. Mr. Ince's reply well befitted the occasion.

An item of the closing business was the following well-deserved expression of thanks unanimously voted to and suitably acknowledged by President Hebert.

That the Dominion Wholesale Grocers' Guild desires to place on record its appreciation of the ability and zeal which the interestof the Guild have received from the hands of Pressident Hebert during his occupation of the position of President, and hereby tenders him its most hearty thanks for the many services he has so willingly and gladly rendered the Guild.

President Hebert, Vice-President Blain and Secretary Wills were re-elected to their former respective offices.

Upon the motion of Mr. Blain it was resolved to hold the next annual meeting in Toronto.

Timber Wealth of British Columbia.

British Columbia has long been famed for its magnificent scenery of mountain and river. Who has not heard of Mount Hooker, a part of the world famed Rocky Mountains, which in this province reach their highest point, 16,760 feet, with Mount Brown at 16,000 feet and Mount Murchison 15,700 feet, while there are others of nearly the same height. The Fraser river with its many remarkable windings, and the Columbia river, over 1,200 miles in length, flowing finally into the Pacific Ocean, are points of interest not quickly forgotten by the student of history and certainly not by those whose privilege it has been to visit this picturesque corner of the Dominion and view for themselves these strange sights.

But British Columbia, we opine, has acquired greater fame by reason of its wonderful timbers than through any other condition, physical or climatical. Canada's popular elocutionist, Jessie Alexander, has sung its praises, telling how she one day, along with some friends, stood in admiration viewing one of the big trees of Vancouver in which were located six gentlemen waiting to be photographed. Four were mounted, and the others were in a carriage. "The huge tree," Miss Alexander says, contained horses, vehicles and men, and yet there was room for our party."

A country on which nature has bestowed such wealth of attractions can live no hermitical existence, and as the Niagara Falls of our own province is sought for by travellers near and far, so we can understand that few take a journey on our national highway, the Canadian Pacific, without striving to go its full length and include a visit to the coast.

As Canadians, however, we consider this Coast province with admiration not only from an esthetic side, but as business people, from a strong utilitarian point of view. The wealth of its mineral and forest resources must bring wealth to our country as a whole. Are we not one united Dominion? The prosperity of each individual part is the prosperity of the whole. Especially the lumbermen of Ontario are interested in British Columbia's progress, for where better, as our Ontario forests become denuded, can they look, for safer investments, with larger possibilities in the investment, than in this corner of the Dominion? The truth is that a large amount of Ontario capital is already placed in the lumber business in that country. We are knit together now by a mutual interest. Few finer and more extensive saw mills are found anywhere than those of the McLaren-Ross Lumber Co., at New Westminster and Barnet, which have been erected chiefly with Ontario capital. Our news columns of the past few months have recorded the incorporation of the Toronto and British Columbia Lumber Co., with a capital of $1,000,000, and which is composed almost entirely of capitalists of Toronto and neighborhood, several prominent lumbermen from Barrie being interested. The managing men in many mills of the province in not a few instances hail from Ontario, and in the manufacture of Ontario's timber obtained the skill and experience that had made their services sought for elsewhere. And experience is a necessity with any workman who undertakes to handle the fine timbers that are grown on the Pacific coast. It is here that Douglas Fir is found, celebrated for its strength and straightness. It frequently grows over 300 feet high, and has squared forty-five inches for a length of ninety feet. Practically these timbers find no competitor either in our own country or across the border, evidenced in the fact that a growing trade is found for them in California and other points of the United States where Oregon pine had hitherto held the market Red cedar is fast acquiring a strong position as a commercial wood both at home and abroad. It grows to a large size and is frequently found 200 feet in height and twenty feet in diameter. For inside finish it takes a beautiful polish, and many of the most palatial residences in this section of the Dominion and elsewhere, as well as in the eastern states, are finished in British Columbia red cedar. Not the least essential qualification is its durability, causing it to be largely used in the manufacture of doors and sashes. Only two month ago we gave an account in these columns of the phenomenal growth of the trade in red cedar shingles. This wood would appear to be "par excellence" the material for shingles. In less than a year the trade in red shingles on the coast has increased more than 200 per cent., and large quantities of these are coming into Ontario and Quebec. The durability of the red cedar for shingles is its greatest recommendation, cases being cited of shingles that have shown little appearance of wear though in use for a score of years and more.

An obstacle to an extension of trade in the east has been the high rates of freight charged by the Canadian Pacific, but it is anticipated that the new railway, in connection with the Northern Pacific, about to be built, will have the effect of materially reducing freights east. A correspondent of the *Monetary Times*, writing on this point, has recently said: "Given satisfactory freights, the lumber trade of this province must grow to gigantic proportions, as British Columbia woods are superior to any in the world."

British Columbia relies for her lumber trade in a large measure on the export to foreign countries. The financial depression, which has overshadowed South America for the past two years, is fortunately disappearing, and this is an important field for British Columbia lumber. Naturally the people of the coast are anxious for the completion of the Nicaragua Canal. Today the journey from Victoria to Great Britain is about 16,000 miles. The consequences of a change to probably 8,000 miles would be so far-reaching in results that it is difficult to imagine the impetus this measure would necessarily give to commerce on the coast, and especially to the lumber trade. A lumber journal of Melbourne, Australia, from which we quoted last month, has intimated the boon it will be to the people of these colonies when they can receive their lumber from British Columbia via the projected canal in place of, as now, by the circuitous route around Cape Horn. British Columbia has an increased interest in Australian lumber trade at the present because of recent retaliatory legislation against the United States which practically shuts out Oregon pine, and, conversely, enlarges the field for Douglas Fir.

The provincial legislature of British Columbia has, by a recent order in council decreed that all sales of timber by the Government shall in future be conducted by public competition on lines similar to those adopted by the Ontario Government. This step may be taken as an evidence of the value placed by the province on its timber resources and the necessity to conserve this wealth to the province.—*Lumberman.*