

### Winnipeg Board of Trade

A meeting of the council of the Board of Trade was held on Thursday afternoon at four o'clock, when a deputation from the general grain committee of the board waited on the council and preferred a request that a special general meeting of the board be held to consider the provisions of the "Act to regulate the trade in grain in Manitoba and the North-west Territories" introduced in parliament by Dr. Douglas, M. P., at Ottawa and now before a committee of the house. The council acceded to the request, and a special general meeting will be held to-morrow afternoon at 3 o'clock in the board room.

A communication was received from Mr. L. C. Taylor, of Mine Centre, asking the board to assist the residents of that district in securing a Canadian tri-weekly service via Rat Portage. Mr. Taylor made the assertion that at present there is not one letter in 500 that goes by Canadian mail, but they pay \$150 a month for a special carrier to connect with the American mail service and in consequence only United States postage stamps are used to the loss of Canadian revenue. Mr. Taylor was present in person and gave information on the subject. The matter was referred to the standing committee on postal matters for action.

The secretary made the following report on matters which received his attention recently at Ottawa:

Winnipeg, 2nd May, 1899.

To the President and Council of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Gentlemen,—Having received instructions from you to take up certain matters with the departments and ministers at Ottawa, I beg to report as follows:

#### INSOLVENCY LEGISLATION.

Accompanied by R. L. Richardson, M. P., I had an interview with Hon. David Mills, minister of justice, and presented to him the views of the Winnipeg board of trade re insolvency legislation, as expressed at different times on the reports of committees inquiring into various bills presented to parliament. Having, with Mr. Bole, last year presented the same views to the minister, I had only to repeat our arguments then presented. As the result of our conversation I learned that except in Ontario and Quebec, few of the members of parliament, to any extent favored insolvency legislation as it has been presented to them and especially the members representing rural constituencies, seem to be very much opposed to insolvency legislation. Mr. Mills assured us that in any case, full opportunity would be given our board to appear before any committee of the house to which an insolvency bill would be presented, and plenty of time would be given before any final action was taken. I also had an interview with Hon. Mr. Sifton and members of parliament from different parts of the Dominion, with the result that I am satisfied that there is no chance for the "Fortin" bill now before the house, to be passed at this present session.

#### QUARANTINE.

I had an interview with the Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture; W. B. Searth, deputy minister of agriculture; Dr. Montizambert, general superintendent of quarantines; Hon. Mr. Sifton and his deputy Hon. James A. Smart, on the subject of quaran-

tine protection to Manitoba and the Territories. The Hon. Mr. Fisher informed me that they were doing everything possible to make the quarantine station and equipment at Halifax in every way up to date, and that when the improvements now under way were completed, that an expenditure of \$10,000 would have been made since this board took up the matter with him last year. I represented to the minister, and also to Mr. Sifton, that there was a strong feeling in the west that some form of check quarantine should be established to deal with foreign immigrants arriving in Manitoba, to be distributed from here. While the minister of agriculture adheres to the policy which has been adopted by the late government, that the quarantine authorities' duties begin and end at seaport towns—and in exceptional cases, along inland international boundary lines—that he was most anxious to assist so far as the law would allow him, in protecting the people of the west, and would do all in his power to that end. The Hon. Mr. Sifton will endeavor to place some disinfecting apparatus at Selkirk, where it may be utilized if occasion should require, to disinfect the persons and baggage of immigrants afflicted with contagious diseases that might from any cause have escaped the notice of the coast quarantine authorities, or which may occur amongst immigrants placed at Selkirk.

Unfortunately, Dr. Montizambert, after my first interview with him, had to leave Ottawa for the Grosse Isle quarantine, but Deputy Minister Smart will confer with him immediately after his return, and I have strong hopes that disinfecting appliances, to meet the necessities of the situation will be placed at Selkirk.

The Hon. Mr. Fisher personally requested me to assure the board that he will be glad to consider any suggestions they may have to make regarding the work at the various quarantine stations, and that he valued most highly the representations made to him by the board last year in connection with the Halifax quarantine, as to the requirements of Manitoba and the Territories.

#### POST OFFICE.

As instructed by you, I had a meeting with the Hon. Mr. Mulock, Postmaster-General, and the Minister of Public Works on the subject of the changes in the internal arrangements of the Winnipeg post office, designed to afford greater accommodation to the general public. These changes had been promised us last year, but have not yet been made. As the result of my interview, I was afterwards informed by the Deputy Minister of Public Works, to whom I was referred by Mr. Tarte, that funds were available, and instructions had been sent some days before to the Superintendent of Works in Winnipeg, to go on with the work.

#### ILLUSTRATION FARMS.

Having learned while in Ottawa that the estimates would include an amount to cover the cost of working some "Illustration Farms," I had an interview with Prof. Robertson, of the Agricultural Department, and afterwards with the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, and requested on behalf of this board that one of these farms should be situated in close proximity to this city. The object of these farms is not to experiment, as in the case of regular experimental farms, but they are designed

to show as an object lesson what good farming can do in the way of properly cultivating the soil, and obtaining the best results therefrom. Each farm will consist of, say ten acres, and will be farmed under the directions of a competent man, and will thus serve as an object lesson to farmers.

Mr. Fisher informed me that the exact location had not yet been determined on, but that he would place Winnipeg on the list as a proper point at which one of these farms should be situated.

#### DAUPHIN RAILWAY EXTENSION.

As directed by the council, I interviewed Mr. T. O. Davis, M. P., and other gentlemen interested in connection with the proposed extension of the Canadian Northern railway through the Red Deer country to Prince Albert, and on to Edmonton. Mr. Davis informed me that they are applying for an extension of their charter to include building as mentioned above, and that the promoters have no doubt that they will secure this as well as the ordinary and usual land grant. They then proposed to ask for an annual grant of \$80,000 per year for the term of twenty years on exactly the same basis and terms under which they secured a like subsidy for that portion of the road extending from Gladstone through the Dauphin country to Winnipegosis and the Red Deer, except that in this case and for this extension, the government will retain control over rates and running powers. Mr. Davis, as stated in his letters to the board, is anxious that this board should endorse the application for the subsidy mentioned.

#### ST. ANDREWS RAPIDS IMPROVEMENTS.

Owing to the fact that during my stay in Ottawa my time was so fully occupied in attending to matters in connection with the proposed changes in the grain standard system, I had but slight opportunity to make any inquiries in regard to the position in which the offer of the city of Winnipeg to take electric power from the government, on their constructing the necessary locks and canals in the St. Andrews Rapids, now stands. However, I had arranged with the Hon. Mr. Sifton to talk over the matter with him, but he had to leave the city unexpectedly two days before we left, and as we were advised that he would not return for some four days I did not think it necessary to remain at Ottawa especially for the purpose of again meeting him. In conversations that I had with members of parliament, I could not learn that any action was being taken by the government to provide a sum in the supplementary estimates. The original estimates do not provide any sum for the work.

#### PURE BRED SWINE.

I had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, on the subject of the providing by his department, of pure bred swine to improve the stock in Manitoba. He informed me that he had already considered the matter, and found it impossible to accede to the request, but that he was arranging that one of his staff should endeavor to act as an intermediary between would-be purchasers and sellers of pure bred stock of all kinds with the object that such persons might be brought together without delay or expense to themselves.

I gathered from his remarks that his idea was in a sense to establish a