

by them, no request has ever been received by the Board or the leading grain dealing firms of this city, from Mr. Larke, to be supplied with samples.

"Further, in regard to Mr. Larke's statement, 'I write this, as it may be of interest to some members of your grain section, who hitherto appear to have overlooked this market,' your committee have to report that, so far as they can learn, Mr. Larke's letter of the 8th October, 1896, was the first advice from him to the Board, or the trade here, that there was an opening in Australia for Manitoba's flour or grain though, as a matter of fact, wheat and flour have been shipped to Australia by Manitoba grain dealers and millers for nearly a year past, and in considerable quantities.

"3. Your committee find that, for the year 1896, the total shipments of Manitoba wheat and flour to Australia were as follows :—

Wheat		3,472 tons	=	115,733 bu. wheat.
Flour		2,946 tons	=	132,570 bu. wheat.
		6,418 tons	=	248,303 bu. wheat.

"We are glad to report that while no definite figures can be given as an estimate of the prospective trade of 1897, very large orders are now being filled by Manitoba millers, and all the available space on the regular steamships plying between Vancouver and Australia has been engaged for months ahead by Manitoba shippers, and, indeed, shipments of flour are being made via the Chinese route, on account of lack of vessel space.

"4. Owing to the character of the barley and oats produced last year in this province, the home demand, and existing scarcity of vessel space on the Australian route from Vancouver, it would not be possible to ship either of those grains to the Australian markets at present."

It will be seen from this report of the Committee that a considerable trade has sprung up between Manitoba and Aus-