

Freight Rates.

Two resolutions have been introduced in the Manitoba legislature regarding freight rates. One, by Mr. Siratt affirms that if the Canadian Pacific Railway company is granted the franchise of the Crow's Nest Pass railway, "it should be made only upon condition that the present freight rates chartered by the company, especially those affecting this province and the West, be materially reduced, and that the control of such rates for the future be ceded to the government of the Dominion, or to a permanent expert commission to be appointed by that government."

The other resolution by Mr. Young reads: "That in the opinion of this house, in order to advance the best interests of the province and induce settlement, in the event of any agreement being entered into between the Dominion government and the Canadian Pacific Railway company for further railway construction, any such agreement should include as one of its conditions a material reduction of the freight rates now prevailing on all lines owned or controlled by the said company in its western division."

Both resolutions are preceded by preambles giving reasons for lower rates etc. One of these resolutions was withdrawn and the other adopted, with some amendment.

Canadian Pacific Railway

The annual Canadian Pacific Railway report for the year ending December 31st, 1895, shows gross earnings of \$20,631,596; working expenses, \$12,571,015; net earnings, \$8,107,581. Total surplus, \$1,706,772. For the half year ending April 1st, a dividend of 2.6 cents will be paid on preferred stock and 1.6 cents on ordinary stock. The directors ask the approval of the expenditure of \$230,000 for the entire property of the Columbia and Kootenay Navigation company.

Concerning direct railway communication with the mining districts the report says: Your directors feel that they cannot too strongly urge the immediate construction of a line from Lethbridge to connect with the Columbia and Kootenay railway at Nelson, a distance of 225 miles, and anticipating your approval, have already taken steps for the commencement of the work on the opening of spring.

The report deals with the uncertainty in the United States which has caused stagnation there and reduced international traffic, causing the Minneapolis and St. Paul, Sault Ste. Marie, Duluth and South Shore and Atlantic to suffer shortage. The chief cause of loss in Canada was the short wheat crop in the west, furnishing 10,000,000 bushels less for carriage than in 1895.

Land sales showed an increase of \$109,618. During the year \$2,609,000, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste. Marie mortgage bonds, guaranteed by the company under the contract of 1893, were acquired by an issue of 4 per cent consolidated debenture stock. While the rate of interest on the bonds acquired is the same as on the debenture stock issued, the transaction enabled the M., St. P. & S.S.M. Co. to take up outstanding Minnea-

polis and Pacific 5 per cent bonds, thereby effecting a saving of \$25,000 per annum. Duluth, South Shore and Atlantic consolidated bonds amounting to \$53,360 were acquired in like manner, and for a like purpose, and \$31,000 of South Shore railway 5 per cent bonds were also acquired by the issue of 4 per cent debenture stock.

Regina Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the Regina board of trade was held on March 2. Mayor Eldy, president in the chair. Thirty-three new members were balloted for and elected. Mr. Wm. Trant, the secretary, read the annual report which among many other matters, pointed out that the board had had an influence in arranging for fire insurance more in the interest of the insurers than heretofore; and also had shown its interest in the dairy productions of the district by purchasing twenty paid-up shares in the Regina creamery. The report was accepted unanimously.

Mayor Eldy was re-elected president. G. Michaelis was unanimously elected vice-president, and Wm. Trant was re-elected secretary. The following were elected as the council: R. H. Williams, G. T. Marsh, D. Peterson, R. T. Ferguson, C. H. Black, J. K. McInnis, R. Sweet, High Armour, John Dawson.

It was decided that the council meet once a week and that the board meet once a month for the discussion of the various questions that are already over-crowding the order paper.

Hardware Trade Notes.

A Toronto report says: The metal trade has shown a slight improvement. Cut nails have again been reduced 15c per keg terms of delivery remaining as before. Import orders for galvanized iron, tin plate and glasses are being freely booked.

Early Closing of Stores.

At the meeting held in Winnipeg recently in the interest of the earlier closing of stores on Saturday evenings, it was resolved to interview the provincial attorney general to try and secure an extension of the principle of legal enactment, in enforcing the early closing of retail stores. Winnipeg retailers complain of the competition of auction rooms, which keep open after the stores are closed, and they want compulsory closing applied to auction rooms, the law not being clear on this point, as is shown by the decisions of the court in this respect. It is also thought that the law should be amended so that one by-law only would be necessary to apply to all lines of trade, with the exception of some special lines such as drugs, instead of having a separate operation to go through for each branch of trade, as at present.

Some of the speakers at the meeting advocated a compulsory provincial law, instead of the present local option law. At the meeting there were representatives of the Ministerial association, the Retailers' association and the labor organizations of the city. The

representatives of the labor associations repudiated the idea that it was necessary to keep open late in order to accommodate the working men.

A committee was appointed representing all three organizations, to act as a delegation to wait upon the law amendments committee of the provincial legislature, to impress upon the legislators the necessity of extending the scope of the early closing law. This delegation waited upon the law amendments committee on Thursday last. In introducing the delegation to the legislative committee, D. W. Buchanan read the resolution passed at the recent Business Men's convention, held in Winnipeg, in favor of early closing, with the object of showing the sentiment throughout the province was favorable to the principle of early closing. Mr. Culver presented the legal aspect of the matter very forcibly to the committee. Rev. Messrs. Podley, Hogg, Grant, Mr. Small, Mr. Fowler and others also pressed the matter upon the committee, after which the delegation withdrew.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The following shows the number of cars of wheat inspected at *Winnipeg for the week ended on the dates named, compared with the number of cars inspected for the corresponding weeks a year ago, as reported by Inspector Horn to the Board of Trade:

Grade.	Jan. 30, Feb. 6	Feb. 13, Feb. 20	Feb. 27, Feb. 28
Extra Man. H'd	0	0	0
No. 1 hard.....	07	54	74
No. 2 hard.....	12	6	22
No. 3 hard.....	11	4	11
No. 1 North'n..	1	0	0
No. 2 Nor h'n..	0	0	0
No. 3 North'n..	1	0	0
No. 1 white fyle	0	0	0
No. 2 white fyle	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring...	0	0	0
No. 2 Spring...	0	0	0
No. 1 frosted..	1	0	1
No. 2 frosted..	5	7	2
No. 3 Frosted..	0	1	0
No. 1 Rejected..	2	0	10
No. 2 Rejected..	1	0	2
No Grade.....	0	0	0
Feed.....	0	0	0
Total for week	101	78	122
Same week last year.....	219	305	227

*Wheat inspection at Emerson going out via the Northern Pacific to Duluth is included in Winnipeg returns. A considerable portion of the wheat moving is inspected at Fort William, and does not show in the figures.

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