

President's Address.

Winnipeg, 7th February, 1899.

To the Members of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Gentlemen,—You have now before you the report of the Council for the year, and in presenting it to you, and in retiring from office, I desire, following the example of my predecessors, to make a few remarks regarding our trade interests of 1898.

It is, I think, a generally accepted fact that the commercial and financial interests of Canada are to-day on a sounder and better footing than ever before. During the year just past we have had a bountiful harvest, and almost all trade industries show a large increase in the volume of business, and collections good.

Winnipeg, and Canada as a whole, prospered in 1898, but during the next few years I believe our city and country will prosper even to a greater extent. To this Board, of course, the position and progress of Winnipeg are of chief interest in discussing the conditions of trade.

The increase of the city's population, which is now close upon 50,000; the large increase in the wholesale and retail trade of our merchants; the improvement in our streets and the erection of numerous large and substantial buildings show conclusively that Winnipeg is growing, and point to an era of prosperity greater than we have ever before enjoyed.