

ber get themselves into business who have no knowledge of the lines they take up. In both cases, cutting of prices and other symptoms of decay soon set in to the prejudice of legitimate trade. On a former occasion I suggested certain legislation as a remedy for this evil, but we are told we are living in a day of free institutions, and the freedom of trade, above all things, must not suffer. My answer is the old maxim, "Too much freedom is the greater tyrant." So large a subject, of course, cannot be discussed here in detail, but I would recommend it to the consideration of thoughtful men.

In conclusion let me say that I would like to see a more wide-spread interest taken in the work of the Board. For some reason there is a feeling that the work is done by a few in the interests of a few, but this is a great mistake. Important things are very often accomplished which the public feel comes as a matter of course and not by any effort of the Board. The result is the work of the Board is often lost upon the larger public. I think that during the coming year the Board might very well consider the advisability of creating sections. An effort was made in this direction some years ago but did not succeed for the reason, I think, that the divisions were made too numerous resulting in sections too small. The divisions might consist of a wholesale, retail, financial, fuel and lumber sections, each of which could nominate their representative on the Council. I think this plan would have the effect of keeping the entire business community in touch with the Board and they would learn in turn the real work accomplished. It is, I think especially desirable that a larger representation of retailers should be had to take part in the active work of the Board.

I desire to thank the Board and Council for their very courteous and kindly treatment while I occupied the chair