

"Mr. J. C. Cuthbert exhibited to the Council a model and plans of a dry dock, which he proposed to erect here through the agency of a company to be established in Liverpool, respecting which the Council adopted the following resolution :

"*Resolved*,—That the Council are much obliged to Mr. Cuthbert for the very interesting details given them in reference to the construction and working of "Walker's patent hydraulic iron ship lift or floating dry dock," and would hail with satisfaction the introduction of such a work into Quebec.

"Harbor improvements are being proceeded with under the direction of the Commissioners.

"The Lumber Act has been made the subject of special enquiry by a Committee of the Legislature. It is understood that the abrupt termination of the session prevented the introduction by the Government of a bill for its amendment.

"A case of specimens of woods—the growth and produce of Canada—was sent to the Industrial Exhibition at Dunedin, New Zealand.

"The Corporation having again applied for the amendments to the Water-works Act against which the Council petitioned last year, the recommendation to place these works under the control of Commissioners was renewed and the objectionable clauses by which it was proposed to assess buildings devoted exclusively to the sale of goods at the same rate as dwellings was again resisted. The consideration of this measure and of the proposed bill to amend the acts incorporating the city was postponed by the Private Bills Committee. Your Council regret to observe that the Corporation persists in attempting to lay undue and heavy special burdens upon the commercial classes, as will be seen by reference to the bill, and they trust that repeated failures will induce that body to confer with a number of the leading rate-payers, with a view to the adoption of an equitable system of assessment, whereby the liabilities of the city, which all are interested in seeing honorably discharged, can be met, while at the same time the necessary reforms in the administration of city affairs may be secured.

"In February last, invitations were received from the Detroit Board of Trade to attend the inauguration of the splendid Board of Trade building recently erected in that city. A deputation (of four members) was appointed to be present at the celebration, which was made the occasion of the assembling together of delegates from all the chief commercial cities of the States and Canada. Every attention was shown to the deputies; free passes over the Grand Trunk and Great Western Railways were given them, sumptuous entertainments were provided in the city and no effort was spared to make their visit an agreeable one. The representatives of the Chicago Board of Trade having generously secured a special car for the conveyance of the delegates to that city, a number including those from Quebec availed themselves of their courtesy, and have every reason to feel gratified with the attentions of those gentlemen and with the friendly reception accorded to them by the merchants of Chicago.

"It is a source of pleasure to your Council to learn from the verbal reports of the delegates that in the interchange of opinion and sentiment, which took place at both Detroit and Chicago, so much good feeling was manifested towards Canada. Whatever may be the future political and commercial policy of the Government of the United States, it is, your Council have reason to believe, the desire of the enterprising mercantile community of the Great West to preserve friendly relations with this country and to extend rather than circumscribe the limits of free commercial intercourse. The abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty has few supporters west of Buffalo. On this subject, your Council have only to repeat opinions

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The PRESIDENT ernment Commission

Mr. SHAW move

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