

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

A meeting of the council of the board was held Tuesday afternoon. The committee appointed on the frontage tax system for improving the city's roads and pavements, reported that the representatives of several bodies had met the city council legislative committee, and discussed the matter in a preliminary way, and that another meeting would be held shortly.

The committee on the matter of the proposed business men's convention, to be held in Winnipeg, reported as follows:

"Your committee appointed to inquire into the advisability of having called a convention of business men of Manitoba and the Territories, beg to report. On the 16th November about 600 reply post cards were mailed to business men, asking if they approved of such a convention, to be held say the first week in February next, and also requesting them to suggest subjects for discussion at the convention. To date the following number of replies have been received: Will attend, 66; will try to attend, 45; cannot attend, 38; total, 149. Without an exception the persons replying favor the convention, and with one or two exceptions they find the date proposed satisfactory. The range of subjects suggested for discussion at the convention is very wide, and includes the following: How best to conduct a cash business? How best to compete with departmental stores? How best to discontinue credit? A cheaper means of collecting small debts than now prevails; the present customs tariff as it affects Manitoba and the Territories; freight and passenger rates; express charges; immigration; the existing exemption by-laws; how to stop the selling of staple goods at cost; deep waterways; how to prevent jobbers in the east selling to consumers in the west; construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway; high rates of fire insurance in country towns and villages; a better system of handling farmers' produce, especially butter; grain elevator monopoly; better system of auditing accounts; insolvency law; sale of bankrupt stocks; grain standards and who should select them; refrigerator car service to Winnipeg and Rat Portage from the interior; business taxation, special rates for merchants to business centres for purchasing of goods; weighing of cars on tracks scales; general development of the west; handling of flour in eastern markets, lowering of amounts subject to garnishee order; two cent letter rate of postage, uniformity of prices of grain at country points; better train service on western extension of M. & N. W. railway; irrigation for the Territories; jobbers selling goods to school boards, patrons, etc., not in trade; creameries and cold storage; H. B. Railway; the craze for cheap goods, early closing for stores in rural districts; the elements of success in business (to be read by some successful and experienced business man) how to secure the B. C. market for prairie farmers and ranchers; extension of our manufacturing interests; a lien law for grocery bills as in some American states; compromises and extensions; need of trade councils in smaller towns; experimental farms; improvement of Saskatchewan river for shipment of coal to Manitoba; extension of Manitoba's trade, how can it be accomplished; abolition of quarantine on settlers' cattle; development of our mines.

"Your committee beg to recommend as follows: That a convention be called to meet on the evening of Thursday, the 4th of February, and continue on next day, that invitations to attend be addressed to business men in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories direct from this board; that members of the board be requested to send to the secretary list of names of persons who shall be invited, so that the list prepared by the com-

mittee may be extended; that the city council be requested to allow the convention to be held in the city council chamber; that a representative committee be appointed to take charge of all preliminary arrangements connected with the calling together of the convention when organized to arrange its own proceedings as it may see fit."

The report was adopted and the following committee appointed to make all arrangements, viz: F. H. Mathewson, Wm George-son, D. W. Bole, R. J. Whittle, J. H. Ash-down, R. T. Riley, F. W. Thompson, Andrew Strang, J. Y. Griffin, J. T. Gordon, J. B. Somersot, D. S. Johnston, M. Bull, A. Car-ruthers and J. E. Steen.

The council decided to open up a correspondence with the British association with a view to having that body visit Winnipeg after their meeting next year, which is to be held in Toronto, being the second occasion on which the association has met outside of Great Britain.

Grain and Milling.

The Edmonton Herald publishes the following description of the new flour mill at Port Saskatchewan, Alberta: The building is 82x40 feet and 42 feet high, and has besides a stone basement of 8 feet. engine house 36x 30, and the whole covered with steel siding, the studding in the lower story is 2x12 and the upper 2x10, the whole being as complete and strong as it could be built, and a credit to any place. The machinery was supplied by Goldie & McCulloch of Galt, Ont. The purifiers in the mill are a new patent, they have also an automatic flour packer that works to perfection and will fill a 49 lb. or 93 lb. sack to an ounce, the only thing the man has to do is to lift the full sack off the platform and place an empty one there. The power is supplied by the 60 horse power Wheelock engine, and a 75 horse power boiler, and the total cost in round figures is \$12,000. The whole going to make the best and most complete \$6 barrel roller mill that stands in Canada to-day. The surrounding farmers bonused the mill to the extent of \$2,500, and to those they exchange wheat that grades 60 lbs. to the bushel, 35 lbs. S. B. flour, 10 lbs. bran and 3 lbs. shorts. The mill is owned by Percy B. Cunliffe, a young Scotchman.

At Montreal on Monday last oatmeal declined 10c per barrel for rolled, and sales of a carload lot in small quantities were made at \$3.50 to \$3.60 per barrel.

At Edmonton, Alberta, oats are worth 18 to 20c for feed quality and 23 to 25c for milling.

At Montreal on Monday the feature of the grain market was the weaker feeling in oats and prices declined $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ c. A round lot of 10,000 bushels of No. 2 white oats was offered at 25 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. without meeting with a buyer.

A sale of a cargo of No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat was made recently at New York at 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per bushel, afloat for export, this figure being 8c per bushel under Duluth.

Leave has been granted to the Northern Elevator company to raise its capitalization from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Supt. Leonard and other officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway, visited Owen Sound, Ont., recently, to confer with the mayor and council regarding the question of the construction of another large grain elevator there, with a capacity of a million bushels and for increasing the company's facilities for handling grain coming from the west. A bonus will be asked from the town.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1st to date are 22,056,988 bushels, against 19,501,699 bushels in 1895, and 27,-

875,470 bushels in 1891. The total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points since August 1st, the beginning of the crop year, foot up as follows: Minneapolis, 38,-103,770 bus.; Duluth, 29,459,150 bus.; Chicago, 12,429,681 bus.; Milwaukee, 4,756,-610 bus.; making a total of 79,809,214 bus. against 93,706,157 bus. during the same time last year and 78,581,239 bus. in 1891.

The Altona Milling company's flour mill, at Altona, Man., which was just completed, was burned to the ground on December 7. The cause of the fire is unknown. The mill was insured for \$3,000 in the Norwich Union and for \$3,000 in the Manchester.

The Ogilvie Milling Co., Winnipeg, contemplate the erection of a 750,000 bushel elevator in connection with their mill here. W. W. Ogilvie, of Montreal, is on his way to Winnipeg to inspect the plans of the proposed improvements. It is also contemplated to build a half million elevator at Montreal.

The Travellers.

The annual general meeting of the North-west Commercial Travellers' association of Canada was held on Dec. 5 in the board of trade rooms, Winnipeg. The president S. A. Binn, occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved, and the chairman then called for nominations for officers and board of directors. The following were received: President, A. L. Johnston, acclamation. Vice-President, J. Mundie, acclamation. Treasurer, L. C. McIntyre, acclamation. Directors, F. Drewry, J. Lindsay, E. L. Thomas, J. T. Perse, W. Hargraves, S. S. Cummings, H. W. Lathbridge, M. W. Rublee, K. McRenzie, C. R. Steele, A. P. Jeffreys, F. Couso, F. J. C. Cox. Seven of the foregoing will comprise the board. The result of the balloting will be known on Saturday evening, Dec. 19th. Auditors, S. S. Cummings, F. J. C. Cox.

The president appoint A. Strang, J. M. Lamb and T. H. Middleton as secretaries to count the ballots and report to the annual meeting to be held on Dec. 19. In former years the ballot papers were counted after the meeting was called to order, and it always caused a delay, waiting until the secretaries were finished with the work.

A. L. Johnston, chairman of the committee on by-laws, reported that they had revised the by-laws, as requested, and that a copy of the same had been mailed to each member, and will come up for discussion at the annual meeting.

After considerable discussion in regard to the annual entertainment, it was moved by E. L. Thomas, seconded by J. M. Lamb, and carried, that the annual celebration be the same as last year, viz., a conversazione and ball, to be held on Monday evening, the 28th Dec.

The following committee was appointed: E. L. Thomas, J. M. Lamb, J. Maw, F. M. Morgan, S. S. Cummings, F. Agnew, E. W. Low, F. J. C. Cox, A. P. Jeffreys, J. Y. Griffin, T. Black, A. Strang, A. McAllister, and the officers and board of directors of this year.

Tickets for the conversazione and ball will be \$2, including lady. An extra lady's ticket will be \$1.

Silver.

The market quotations for silver eased fractionally at the beginning of the week, and since then have remained almost stationary. The principal interest attached to the question whether the Indian government will buy silver in connection with the financial pressure in that country due to the famine. Silver prices on Dec. 4 were, London, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., New York, 65 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.