

iate and active attention. Nothing further has been done in the matter of the St. Andrew's locks, nor in the fast Atlantic steamship service, both of which were impressed upon the Dominion Government by the Board of 1893. Then there is the question of the settlement of vacant lands near Winnipeg. Many plans have been proposed but no progress seems to be made—and yet nothing would tend to the benefit of Winnipeg more than the settlement of the vacant lands surrounding it. Another matter which has taken up the attention of former Councils and been pressed on the City Council, is a system which will compel those intending to erect buildings of any kind to take out permits from the City. This will not only be a safeguard as to the class of buildings, but will supply reliable statistics as to the value of the City's progress. Still another matter to be dealt with is the action of the fire insurance companies in levying a tax on insurers to cover the license fee they pay to the Local Government. All these matters I commend to the attention of the new Council.

And now a few words as to the general outlook in the Province. The depression referred to in my predecessor's address still continues, but it is not due to anything inherent in the Province. It is world wide. Low as prices are here, some of our neighbors are much worse off. Nebraska has appealed to other States for aid to keep its people from starvation. Wheat is lower in Chicago to-day than it has ever been. The prices our farmers have obtained for all their products have been very disappointing, very discouraging; but depression, low prices and hard times are not an unmitigated evil. They teach reduction of expenses and curtailment of credit. The farmers and merchants of Manitoba have met the depression courageously, have accepted their lesson, and will come out all right. After all, looking to the future, what have we to fear if we are only prudent. On every hand there are signs of our progress, and that capitalists have faith in our future. New elevators are to be built this year, thirteen by two companies alone, besides what others may do. The volume of our grain products is yearly

increa
we gr
is inc
train
Our fi
increa
\$180,0
a larg
openi
fourth
fourth
gratifi
from
has be
opene
United
sales
Land
from l
what
stock
numbe
States
their
gratifi
from l
about
hundr
great
us not
and w
and w
Befo
ness to
valuat
did me