

In conclusion Mr. Alexander said he hoped that the members would do all in their power to promote the advancement of the city. It seemed to him that their principal commerce would lie across the Pacific, and that the majority of people desired greater commercial relations. In connection with this he would ask the board to think over the question whether they could not try and promote their wish, and get it enunciated in the House by their member, whether they could not get something like a commercial union, not with the United States, but with the mother country, and their sister colonies. Vancouver would be, he was sure, the place that would especially benefit by such an arrangement. Although the scheme of Imperial Federation had often been rallied at, the bugbear had principally been the question of tariffs. Although free trade was impossible he thought that if this idea took root, and gained ground, they might come to some arrangement whereby a certain advantage in the tariff might be given to the mother country and the colonies over other countries. It would give a tremendous stimulus to Canada, the Northwest and British Columbia in particular, if an emigrant in the old country knew that grain raised in the Northwest had an advantage over grain raised in the United States, and it tended to induce him to come to this country. They could all see the enormous trade that was done in lumber, their staple articles, with Australia. If they had any advantages in lumber over that of the country to the south, the whole lumber trade of Australia would come to them. Those facts had especially come in his mind during the recent elections when the question of reciprocity was so often discussed. He thought that what the boards of trade throughout the country should endeavor to do would be to work up some such scheme. A matter has been informally brought up before them during the year. He said he referred to the question whether they could not get reciprocity with the Hawaiian Islands. He did not know whether these people desired to abrogate their treaty with the United States, but he thought it expired next year. A treaty with the Sandwich Islands was in his opinion the key to trade with Australia. Nothing would at any rate be lost by it, as they did not raise anything that was produced in Canada. All things came from the United States to those Islands, and they might just as well come from Canada. He thought that this matter should be taken up as soon as possible by the board as it was one of the greatest importance. He then thanked them for the assistance they had given him a President, and said he would be most happy to work in any connection with the board during the coming year.

W. Skeene then said he thought they should pay a vote of thanks to their president for the very able manner in which he had performed his duties during the year. He then proposed the following resolution: "That this board desire to place on record their appreciation of the great attention given at all times to the commercial interests of Vancouver by the retiring president, R. H. Alexander, and request that he may be pleased to accept this resolution as an unanimous expression of their respect."

E. White seconded this resolution, which was carried unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Secretary, A. H. B. Macgowan, submitted his report, which is a very highly interesting document, and contains a vast amount of useful information concerning Vancouver and the province generally. The information is both statistically and otherwise, and this year's report cannot fail to be of a most interesting and instructive character. The following is a brief synopsis of the secretary's report which was presented to the board:—

Mr. Macgowan begins with numerous statistics as regards the city. The population is estimated at 17,500. The city assessment amounts to \$11,977,375, an increase of \$2,460,005 over the last year. Statistics are then given regarding the grading and improving of the streets, the schools, water supply, weather report, health supervision, customs, post office and inland revenue returns, business and trades of Vancouver and number of men employed. A short account of the British Columbia sugar refinery follows, after which Mr. Macgowan devotes some space to the shipping of Vancouver. The number of steamers owned at this port amounts to 25, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,032. The industry of shipbuilding is next touched on, and Vancouver is spoken of as being the probable centre of this industry at no very distant date.

An important portion of the work is that which deals with the lumber industry of Vancouver. Very concise statements and statistics are given of the amount of lumber turned out from each mill. The vessels that have come to this port as well as their destination are all mentioned, while the number of men employed at each mill, is also stated in detail. In another portion of the report the total number of the saw mills in the whole Province are given as well as the daily capacity of each. Various interesting facts concerning British Columbia timber, its strength &c. are also furnished. The various new industries of Vancouver are next dealt with, a paragraph being devoted to each. The Dry Dock, and Electric Tramway are also mentioned, while facts concerning the New Westminster and Vancouver Tramway and all the other tramways and railways which are either built or contemplated are furnished in full.

One of the most interesting and important features of the work is that which deals with the trade of British Columbia as a whole, and includes statements of the value of exports and imports in the aggregate and detail. The exports amount to \$5,763,467, and the imports to \$4,379,272. The value of the exports and imports for the previous three years are also given, and the increase is enormous. Statistics of the number of steamers and vessels employed in the coasting trade, including their tonnage, crews, etc., are given in detail, as well as statistics of vessels employed in the foreign trade. The total number of steamers employed in the coasting trade of the Province in 1890 was 3,032, with a tonnage of 1,386,569, while the number of sailing vessels was 160, and their tonnage 18,930, the increase over the previous year being very great. The total number of British and foreign vessels was 1,434, with an aggregate tonnage of 1,241,253. In 1889 the number of vessels was 535, and the tonnage 556,261, the number having been nearly trebled during the year. The exports of Victoria, New Westminster and Nanaimo, as well as the inland revenue returns

from those cities, follow next, while the exports from Victoria and Nanaimo to the United States are also furnished, full statistics being given regarding the same.

As in last year's report, special attention has been paid to the farming interests of British Columbia, and the secretary has dealt at considerable length with its resources in this respect. Samples of wheat grown in the province were forwarded to W. W. Ogilvie, of the Ogilvie Milling Co. for testing and he has given his opinion as to the quality of each. Mr. Ogilvie in one of his letters on the subject says he has no fears whatever of this province as a wheat growing district. Returns are then given of farm products from all parts of the province. Some enormous samples of cereals and vegetables have been grown in these districts during the year, a heat grown at Steveston, Lu'lu Island, weighing as much as 60 pounds. A considerable amount of space is devoted to the wants of farmers in these places. The returns received have stated that beet, flax, fruit and hops can be cultivated in most of these localities, while the results from wheat growing have been most encouraging. This portion of the report concludes with some remarks from the report of A. L. Pondrier D.L.S. to the Commissioner of Lands and Works, which says that the soil is of the richest character, abounding with water, wood and game, while there is plenty of room for thousands of settlers.

Valuable information has been given in the report concerning the fisheries for the past year. The salmon catch for 1890 was a most successful one, 409,461 cases being the total number for the year. The report then treats on the many advantages for fishing on this coast, the absence of storms, the facilities offered by the C.P.R., and the prices given for fish in the east. The various food fish that are found in these waters are then enumerated. The sealing industry is next mentioned, full statistics of the catch being given. In 1890 the catch was 43,315, and the value \$493,160 as against a catch of 35,310 valued at \$247,170 for 1889.

A considerable amount of space is devoted to the mineral and mining industry of the province. The statistics concerning the output of the alluvial mines for 1890 show a decrease of some \$177,046. Reports of the output and prospect of the various mines have been received by the Secretary and this information will doubtless form one of the most interesting features in the work. This portion concludes with a table of selected assays of ore from British Columbia, containing gold and silver. The tables have been extracted from Dr. Dawson's 'Mineral Wealth of British Columbia' and contains a vast amount of information.

The amount of boat building done during the year is then treated of, and this is followed by the failures in the province which have been very small, the total amount of liabilities being very little in excess of assets. The secretary has touched briefly upon the proposed line of steamers to Australia, and has weaved into his report a speech of Sir George Baden Powell, Conservative M.P., for Kirkdale, Liverpool, made to an enthusiastic throng of businessmen in the Chamber of Commerce on the subject of the new route from England to Asia via the C. P. R. The new route brings England within 21 days of Yokohama and Japan, and so would