

BOARD OF TRADE COUNCIL.

The council of the B. C. Board of Trade met last Tuesday morning, the president A. C. Fumerfelt, in the chair, and Thos. Earle, M. P., E. G. Prior, M. P., Robt. Ward, H. P. Heisterman, E. B. Marvin, H. E. Connon, D. R. Ker, W. H. Ellis, T. Fletcher, C. E. Renouf, J. H. Todd, A. L. Belyea, and F. Elworthy, secretary also present. After some minor matters had been discussed, Robert Ward introduced the subject of a proposed re-arrangement of the pilotage affairs of the Province, and read a series of regulations on the subject prepared in 1881, by the pilotage commissioners, which he thought would be quite applicable at present. Originally, he pointed out, there was but one pilotage authority in the Province, but the Burrard Inlet and Nanaimo districts had since been added, so that now there were three different scales of fees and three different classes of pilots. There was no doubt that it would be to the advantage of the shipping of the Province to have only one pilotage system, and, though the Dominion Government had taken the matter up with a view to securing a change, a deplorable feeling of sectionalism had shown itself in a marked way: Vancouver had expressed a willingness to come to some better arrangement, if Nanaimo would do the same, but unfortunately Nanaimo refused. On Puget Sound there was no pilotage fees at all, but vessels coming into Canadian waters had to take on a pilot before calling at Victoria and another to take them to Vancouver or Nanaimo, and the charges were thus very heavy. Besides there was a lack of proper control, of which the wreck of the *San Pedro* furnished an example. In that instance the vessel was in charge of a Nanaimo pilot not responsible to the Victoria commissioners, and though the Nanaimo board had inflicted a small penalty on the pilot, they really had no authority to do so, as the offence was committed out of their jurisdiction. If the different pilotage authorities could not be brought to feel that the country's interests demanded an amalgamation, then the Government should take hold of and deal with the matter. Capt. Gaudin had been authorized to interview the pilotage authorities and the boards of trade on the subject, and had yesterday discussed the matter with the speaker and Mr. Fumerfelt, with the result that the board will be asked to pass a resolution on the subject. In illustration of the needlessly heavy charge on shipping, he stated that the Nanaimo pilots made about \$1,000 a year, and those at Victoria about \$3,500. The regulations which he suggested provided as follows: That each district should have control of a pilotage fees earned within it; that each pilot should be amenable to the lawful authorities wherever carrying on his occupation; and that pilots at present engaged in any of the three districts should be accepted by each, but that in future pilots must pass examinations showing their qualification for duty in all three. Disputes to be referred to a board composed of one representative from each district, and the rates fixed by the local authorities to be appealable to the central board. Suspensions

to apply to all districts; and no addition to be made to the number of pilots without the consent of all districts. It had been proposed by the Marine Department that upon amalgamation the pilots should have a steam pilot boat to cruise in the Straits, because when the Williams Head quarantine station is finished it will be necessary for all steamers to call there.

After a general discussion the Council unanimously passed this resolution, moved by C. E. Renouf, seconded by Thomas Fletcher:

"That this board reaffirms its opinion regarding the urgent desirability of placing the various pilotage systems of the Province upon a basis consistent with uniformity and thorough efficiency, and that a reform either by amalgamation or consolidation of the pilotage authorities as at present constituted would extend facilities and promote attractions to shipping and commerce in British Columbia waters, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Captain Gaudin."

The matter of sending exhibits to San Francisco and Antwerp was discussed, but no definite conclusion was arrived at.

C. E. Renouf moved, seconded by A. L. Belyea, that

"Whereas the mortgage tax imposed by the Provincial Government is, in the opinion of this board, detrimental to the interests of this Province, being firstly dual taxation; secondly, the cause that a higher rate of interest on mortgages prevails here than in other parts of the Dominion; thirdly, the reason that foreign investors have in many instances avoided British Columbia as a field for investment;

"Be it resolved, That the attention of the Hon. the Minister of Finance be called to the question, with the hope that he may give the matter his valued consideration, and at the next session of the Legislature he may introduce such measures as may be necessary to repeal same;

"That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to all the boards of trade throughout this Province, together with a communication soliciting their co-operation in this matter, and that a copy of this resolution be also sent to the members of the Legislature for the city."

The mover pointed out the injustice caused to the borrowers by the operation of the act; and the seconder said to his knowledge the Government received only a small proportion of the amount which borrowers had to pay, because the lenders took the risk of keeping the mortgages in their safes rather than registering them, to avoid payment of the tax, though they had themselves collected it. The resolution was adopted.

During an interval in the business the council listened to an address from Mr. Twigg, a visitor to this city, who is deeply interested in the monetary problem, and urged that the Board should send a petition to the English Government in favor of the establishment of bimetalism, and for free coinage, for which the Vancouver Board had already promised, at his instance, to petition.

At a recent meeting of the Hamilton Board of Trade a resolution was unanimously adopted in favor of two-cent postage.

SIR GEORGE ELLIOT'S IDEA.

The disastrous coal strikes in England which have paralyzed business during the past year have set some brainy men to studying a permanent remedy. Among those who think they see light ahead in a certain direction is Sir George Elliot. An English paper says in this connection:

"Sir George is a self-made Briton. When a boy he was a common miner in the coalpits. He was brainy and ambitious, however, and he raised himself step by step, till he became very rich and a baronet. Sir George's plan for preventing coal strikes is to merge all the coal mine ownerships into one great trust, worth, say \$600,000,000. The mines of the kingdom could be bought for that, he says. This huge corporation should be managed on a semi co-operative basis by directors who looked at once to the best interests of employers and employees. The price of coal should be fixed, and when once made should not be advanced except with the approbation of the Government, and then all, stockholder, workman and consumer, should share in the profits accruing."

WINDOW DISPLAYS.

A shoe dealer on --- street has quite a unique window this week. He has shut off about a third of the window by means of a curtain, and built a new ceiling, thus lessening the height of the display space considerably. The background, sides and ceiling are puffed in green cloth, over which shoes are scattered, leaving large spaces between them. The base of the window is covered with real sod, except that utilized for a pond, made, of course, of a large pan or sink with the bottom covered with gravel and the sod allowed to project over the edges. In the water in this pond are real fish sporting, and a large piece of cork floating on the surface and supporting a well-made cork-soled shoe, calls attention to the waterproof qualities of the footwear. Towards the rear of the window another pond is seen, but which close inspection proves to be a mirror laid on the base of the window and the edges obscured by the sod. A bridge across the pond, and on it is a shoe with the price plainly marked. Samples of the footwear sold by the house are also placed on the banks of the pond, and in the windows surrounding them. The window is an attractive one, and the fact that its purpose is to sell goods was not lost sight of by the one who planned it. *Ex.*

There are over 1,600 lawyers in Philadelphia.

The proportion of women at the World's Fair was four to one of the men.

The recent annual conscription in Russia added 252,502 men to the army.

The building operations in Guelph for the past year amounted to over \$100,000.

At least 50 per cent. of the working men and women of Pennsylvania are out of employment.

The Dominion Bag Company, of Montreal, are seeking incorporation with a capital stock of \$125,000.