NEW WESTMINSTER BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the New Westminster board of trade was held on the 19th ult., there being a good attendance. The chief topic coming up for discussion was a better organization of the board's system of working. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, R. F. Anderson; vice-president, L, A. Lewis; secretary, D. Robson. Council: Messrs. D. S. Curtis, C. G. Major, W. R. Gilley, John Peck, A. Mains, Hon, W. Norman Bole, G. D. Brymner, James Johnson, M. Sinclair, A. E. White, J. Jardine and C. A. Welsh.

THOROLD BOARD OF TRADE.

A well attended meeting of the Thorold Board of Trade was held in the town hall, on Tuesday evening, February 23, at which the following gentlemen were elected officers for the year 1902: President, D. B. Crombie; vice-president, W. M. Hendershott; secretary, James Battle; treasurer, T. E. Simson. The board has issued a little pamphlet, entitled "Facts about the Town of Thorold," from which we take the following: The old Welland canal passes through the centre of the town, and enough water power is lying idle at the several waterfalls which occur inside the town limits to supply a number of large industries. Each lock on this canal raises about ten feet, and there are twenty-five locks in a distance of four miles. Thorold's shipping facilities are very good. The town has a steam fire engine, electric light, a high school and a free public library, and is about to spend $30,000 on permanent sidewalks. Among its existing industries are cement works, stone quarries, Penman's knitting mill, Welland flouring mills, Fife mills, Stuart's foundry, the Rehder Plating and Mfg. Co., Davy's pulp mill, the pulp mill of the Thorold Pulp Company, the lumber and planing mill of McCleary & McLean, the factory of the Imperial Art Wood Turning Company, the extensive basket factory of G. H. Williams. But it is ready for more.

CROW'S NEST PASS COAL CO., LIMITED.

In the somewhat extensive programme laid out for this company during 1901, by the speech of its president, it was stated that, while no dividend had been declared for 1900, the sum of $835,000 had been accumulated at the credit of profit and loss, and this it was intended should be spent in development. As a matter of fact much more has been expended. At that time, a year ago, the production of coal for twelve months had been 220,458 tons, half of which was sent to Fernie, to be made into coke. But in the twelve months of 1901 no less than 425,457 tons has been produced, and of this 222,000 tons was disposed of as merchantable coal. The company has now 636 coke ovens, 212 at Michel, built last year, and 424 at Fernie, capacity in all 1,000 tons per day, and at the end of last year it had 1,312 men at work. This helps to give an idea of the extent of its operations. Of the $2,265,000 spent by the company last year, its labor pay rolls absorbed $911,407, and its freight charges $346,092.

Occasion has been taken in this journal to show that the attacks made on the company for alleged discrimination in price and quality in favor of American and against Canadian smelters and other consumers of coke and coal, were entirely misleading and unfair. We observe that the president at the meeting denied flatly that British Columbia interests were subordinated to those of Montana. The management simply looked abroad to find markets for the product they could not sell at home. Any business concern would naturally do the same. The truth appears to be that the normal demand upon the company from British Columbia for coal and coke is scarcely one-third, certainly not one-half, the company's output. Therefore the management has to look for other markets, and finds them across the border. And considering the low price of $2 per ton on cars at the mines to which it is confined by statutory agreement, it is at a great disadvantage compared with either the Dunsmuir collieries on the Pacific, or the Nova Scotia collieries in this respect.

Nevertheless, the company has been able to earn a dividend of ten per cent. for the year, a figure which is pleasing, no doubt, to the shareholders, who were obliged to do without dividend during several years of development work. New stock was issued last year to the amount of $500,000 at a premium of 60 per cent., and the $300,000 derived from this has been added to profit and loss account. It is of interest to notice that the sales of coke and coal to Canadian smelters in the last three years were 207,979 tons, and to United States smelters 175,687 tons.

DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

The efforts which for some time past have been made by Mr. George A. Chapman and others to resuscitate the old Dominion Board of Trade, culminated on the 4th and 5th inst., in a meeting at Ottawa, when delegates were present from several parts of the country. The idea of forming a body representative of all the varied business interests and the different localities of the Dominion is considered by many a good one, the argument being that such a body would have both influence on proposed legislation and on outside opinion. Whether it be owing, however, to the necessarily unwieldy nature of such an organization, arising from such a wide separation of component parts, or to the feeling that the time is not yet ripe, there seems to be an absence of enthusiasm in the matter, both among other boards and in the public mind. It is not forgotten that the Dominion Board of Trade did exist for years, and met at various Canadian cities, sometimes having present influential men from the United States. But that was before the birth of the hundred separate boards that have since sprung up in the cities and towns of every Canadian province.

At the meeting last week, among the subjects discussed was the Georgian Bay Canal project, which by many speakers was highly approved. Mr. R. W. Elliot, of Toronto, placed himself on record as being opposed to further expenditure on canals, which, though in past times were useful adjuncts to transportation owing to their relative cheapness, have now been superseded by railroads. He claimed that the builders of the proposed canal from Lake Superior to the Ottawa would never see interest on the money invested. Against this, it was pointed out that the capitalists interested had, after a thorough survey of the entire course of the canal, declared themselves satisfied on this point. Sir Sandford Fleming spoke on the importance of State-owned cables connecting British possessions throughout the world, one with the other. The Board endorsed the principle of mutual preference in trade between all portions of the British Empire, and trusted that the conference of representatives of the Australian Commonwealth and Canada, which is to be held this year in London, will result in the establishment of an intercolonial customs union.

The election of officers resulted as follows: President, Ald. John Coates, president Ottawa Board of Trade; vice-presidents, R. Williams, Three Rivers; S. Barker, Hamilton; Thomas Earle, M.P., Victoria, and Sir Sandford Fleming; hon. secretary, Mr. George A. Chapman.

ASSOCIATED BOARDS OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Associated Boards of Trade of Eastern British Columbia was held at Kaslo on the 27th and 28th ult. One of the most important resolutions passed was that urging the Dominion Government to select at once a reserve of 50,000 acres of coal land, to be leased with safeguards to prevent the tract from being amalgamated with or controlled by the Crow's Nest Company or any allied corporation, and that the maximum price for ¾-inch screened coal be $1.75 per ton, f.o.b., and of coke $3.50 per ton. Another subject which came in for a large amount of discussion was the tax of 2 per cent. on the gross value of mineral ore, and a resolution was passed asking the Government to look to means for increasing the revenue from the mining industry, and to reduce by so much the amount to be deducted from the tax on mineral produced, and to change the incidence of the tax by deducting from the taxable value of the ore the cost of mining, exclusive of capital expenditure and head office expenses. The bounty on pig lead also came up for discussion, and the Dominion Government will be