

the Mother Country into her colonies most in need of population; while on other and minor questions they acted in the interests of the country they reside in, and have their all at stake.

It is beyond doubt a wise policy thus to have the trade interests of the Northwest represented at such gatherings from all parts of our great Empire, especially when such gatherings meet in Great Britain, where this country has been so much misrepresented in the past, and where those misrepresentations can be best met, and the greatest power in their removal brought to bear, through the efforts of actual residents and business men from here.

In referring to this first action of our Board in 1892, I do not intend to speak of every movement made throughout the year. The work done can be best known from the reports presented by the Secretary; and the progress made in the organization of the most important branch of our trade, namely, the grain trade, is fully laid out in various reports of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, all of which for 1892 are public property already.

The Board during the year has held twelve meetings and the Council twenty-three, while the meetings of different committees have aggregated a large number. In short, the meetings of the Board, Councils and Committees in 1892 have about doubled in number those of 1891, and the attendance at meetings of the Council in particular shows a good average. There has therefore been quite a lot of work done during the year, and it seems like a reward for industry, that the Board at the close of the year should be comfortably located in their present comfortable and commodious premises and released from the dingy apartments in which its business was done for years previously.

A look over the Council's Report shows that the interests of Manitoba trade has been well looked after. Its relations with the outer world have been advanced whenever opportunity afforded, as is shown by the action taken in connection