

progress has been made by the city during 1897, the president said, and there are good prospects ahead. Officers were elected as under:

President—W. R. Webster.

Vice-President—D. O. Denault.

Secretary-Treasurer—C. H. Foss.

Council—G. W. Gaboury, G. G. Bryant, J. S. Mitchell, W. B. Neil, G. A. LeBaron, N. N. Walley, W. H. Wilson, J. A. Wiggett and W. A. Moorehouse.

ST. HYACINTHE CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE.

An the annual meeting last week of the St. Hyacinthe Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Dubrule, the retiring president, was in the chair. After the election of officers for the ensuing year, Mr. Dubrule read his report for 1897. In it he deplored the apathy of many of the leading citizens, on account of which the Chambre de Commerce has not been as prosperous and influential as it might have been. Most of the questions which have come up before the Chambre during the past year for discussion dealt with the relations of the city to the railways passing through St. Hyacinthe. The city had failed to obtain from the Intercolonial what it had a right to expect, "and this leaves us at the mercy of the Grand Trunk, as formerly. The city owes a debt of gratitude, however, to the Drummond County Railway and to the United Counties Railway for having continued their reduced rates to the surrounding villages on market days." While regretting the destruction of one of their important industries by fire—Moseley's tannery—he was glad to report that the city factories generally were busy, and employing more hands. He looked for increased prosperity through the water with which the city would soon be supplied.

The annual election of officers took place, and resulted as follows:

President—J. N. Dubrule, re-elected.

Vice-President—J. B. Brousseau.

Secretary-Treasurer—Dr. L. V. Benoit.

Directors—Messrs. W. W. Pickett, J. Laframboise, S. Casavant, L. A. Guertin, E. H. Richer, G. H. Henshaw, F. St. Jacques, and E. R. Blanchard.

OWEN SOUND BOARD OF TRADE.

Some very apt remarks were made at the annual meeting last Friday of the Owen Sound Board of Trade on the subject of the value of such bodies to a community and the duty as well as interest of business men in their maintenance. The speaker was Mr. John Wright, the new president of the body. He spoke his mind freely as to those persons who never think it worth their while to lend a hand in the advancement of the town's interest. "Every man is a centre of influence," he said, "and may help to revive the interest of the board. It is all very well to go around annually and stir up the members, but that does not fill the bill. It is necessary to call in outside forces. No one business man could be benefited in the town without some of that benefit going out to others."

Mr. Robert Wightman was chosen vice-president. Mr. Rutherford, who has acted as secretary-treasurer for a number of years proposed Mr. W. H. Smith as his successor, saying he felt that the interests of the board would certainly be advanced by a more frequent change of the position which he had occupied for six years. Mr. Smith was chosen. The members of council are: Jas. McLaughlan, J. W. Maitland, S. J. Parker, S. Lloyd, C. Eaton, M. Kennedy, J. G. Hay, B. Allen, S. Hodder and T. I. Thomson. The Board of Arbitration was chosen by ballot as follows: Jno. Harrison, Geo. Dench, Ewing Buchanan, J. R. Brown, W. F. Gray, J. R. Wainwright, Dr. Allan Cameron, P. Eaton, W. M. Matthews, W. T. Lee, J. H. McLaughlan and J. H. Rutherford.

The retiring president, Mr. Ben. Allen, read his valedictory address, and Mr. Rutherford submitted statistics of the trade of the port. The former gentleman congratulated his hearers on the progress of the town, the increase of local grain trade, and of various exports to a degree hitherto unequalled. The deepening of the harbor and the new and modern C.P.R. elevator has increased the shipping of the harbor, and the prospect for an even larger business of all kinds in Owen Sound he considered bright. We regret we cannot make room for the Secretary's figures.

—Lightning did damage in various parts of Quebec and Ontario last Friday, Saturday and Sunday. At Cramahe, a barn was burned, and at Colborne a residence damaged. In Pickering, barns and outbuildings, and some animals were burned, the loss being \$4,000. But worse still was the burning to the ground, through lightning stroke, of the handsome Romish church, at Stottsville, south of Montreal. The loss in this fire is placed at \$80,000, against which there is only \$15,000 insurance.

WITH THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Whip cords for costumes, promise, in the opinion of Toronto merchants, to sell well this year.

Men's furnishing sales are numerous in Toronto the past few weeks, and stocks of the kind are being cleared up before the new spring goods are displayed.

As an illustration of the value to the city of Halifax of a large wage-distributing institution, a Halifax paper says that the cotton factory's pay roll in that city amounts to \$3,000 per week.

American manufacturers of neckties are in receipt of more orders than can be promptly filled. Materials in specialty shades, such as cerise, turquoise, burnt orange and light syndicate colors, are very scarce, which is another feature that tends greatly to delay deliveries.

The most popular fabric of the summer, so say the authorities, will be grenadine, shown in black with colored lines, forming checks and plaids, and also, at any rate, in the more expensive descriptions, in solid colors, chiefly blacks, with an all-over silk brocade of floral design.

In the retail shops, millinery displays are every day coming into prominence. Many of the stores are combining millinery and handsome laces in their window exhibits, and the results in many cases are most pleasing, at least enough so to attract and hold the people for a much longer time than the average display.

A number of merchants are making preparations for a revival in the parasol trade. Aim to have exclusive styles. To sell a parasol to a customer as an exclusive novelty, and then re-order the same styles for stock, would be to lose your customer and injure your reputation. Find new styles to take the place of goods sold.

The craze for golf suitings promises to become even greater this year than last. By improved machinery the cost of making patterned hose has been diminished, and some new varieties have been evolved. Several attractive lines have the pattern embroidered on the surface instead of being knit in the fabric. Full stocks are the order of the day on the part of wide-awake merchants.

The dry goods trade is gradually extending to different centres throughout the Dominion. In respect of wholesale business, the city of Winnipeg is growing in importance. The first millinery openings of the wholesale merchants of that city were held in the second week in March, and were well attended. The styles and shapes then on view were complete, and the whole affair a credit to the city.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Messrs. McCulloch & Herriot, who have for many years operated a flour mill at Souris, Man. have decided to build a new flour mill at Souris, of three hundred barrels capacity per day, during the present season.

The civic finance committee of the Ottawa city council will recommend that \$250 be granted to assist the Ottawa Board of Trade in establishing a cheese board. Carleton county council has voted \$250 and Russell county is expected to vote a similar amount. The cost of establishing the board is placed at \$1,200, and the board of trade intend to furnish the funds over and above these grants.

A novel export trade has been suggested in the request of the Danish consul at Montreal, that a firm in that city should send a cargo of ice to Copenhagen, as the extremely mild weather in Norway and Sweden, whence the city secured its supply of ice, had rendered a scarcity very probable. It is not at all likely that a cargo will go over, as from present indications Montreal itself will have little enough.

Much interest was felt by Canadian dairymen and dairy exporters in the sale of Canadian cheese by auction, which had been announced to take place on 21st inst. The sale took place, 15,000 boxes were offered, and brought on the whole higher figures than the regular cable quotation. The effect of this has been to improve the tone of the Canadian export market, which has been both weak and dull.

The Canadian tea market is on the whole dull, although the tone is generally firm, of Japans especially so. The demand which was expected in consequence of the burning or soaking of teas at the Carrie warehouse fire last week has not been manifested. Our Montreal letter says that some stocks of tea held there on New York account have been shipped back to the latter city, which offers a better market.

The dairymen of the counties of Richmond and Drummond, Que., have formed a board of trade. At the last meeting the committee on by-laws presented their report, which was unanimously adopted. With a few minor amendments they are practically the same as those of the Cowansville Board of Trade. Messrs. Stenson, M.P., and Bedard, M.L.A., were elected honorary presidents, and James Dickson, secretary-treasurer. Messrs. Watson, Wintle, Miller, Lefebvre, McMurray