

President—Mr. A. M. Nanton.

Vice-president—Mr. E. L. Drewry.

Treasurer—Mr. Andrew Strang.

Secretary—Mr. C. N. Bell.

The following members of council were elected: D. W. Bole, John Galt, F. W. Thompson, J. H. Ashdown, J. Y. Griffin, F. W. Stobart, James Redmond, W. Georgeson, A. Wickson, G. F. Carruthers, John Russell, C. A. Baskerville, R. L. Richardson, M.P., W. R. Baker, J. Girvin, and Jerry Robinson.

The Board of Arbitration is as follows: Kenneth Mackenzie, E. L. Drewry, G. F. Galt, G. J. Maulson, S. A. D. Bertrand, J. H. Brock, R. T. Riley, S. Spink, John Galt, Wm. Hespeler, and Stephen Nairn.

WINDSOR BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual meeting of the Windsor Board of Trade, was held on Tuesday, 8th February. The president, Mr. J. J. Foster, occupied the chair.

The president made a short address. Nine new members were elected and their names registered.

There were two nominations for president—Messrs. Greenhill and Geo. Bartlet—but the former withdrew. The officers for the year are as follows:

President—Geo. Bartlet.

Vice-president—John Curry.

Treasurer—G. E. Copeland, re-elected.

Secretary—Miles Cowan.

Council—J. J. Foster, G. V. J. Greenhill, George Mair, R. Pad-den, Geo. H. Nairn, A. N. McLean, H. P. Vollans, Thos. Dow and J. M. Duck.

Mr. Greenhill in the absence of the president-elect was called to the chair. A number of members then spoke, and it became evident from the discussion, that the presence of natural gas, in Windsor, cannot be held out as an inducement for new industries to locate in that city, as the Natural Gas Company are bound by an agreement with the Interior Construction Co. (otherwise the Standard Oil Co., who laid the pipes in the river) which prevents their quoting a rate to manufacturers less than the retail rate given to private consumers.

TRURO BOARD OF TRADE.

On Friday, 28th January, was held the annual meeting of the Truro, Nova Scotia, Board of Trade. The proceedings were actively conducted, and the address of the retiring president, Mr. D. B. Cummings, was found interesting. The following officers were elected:—R. J. Turner, president; L. J. Walker, 1st vice-president; S. M. Bentley, 2nd vice-president; George A. Hall, secretary-treasurer; together with an active executive committee. The election of Mr. Turner to the presidency is regarded as an additional compliment to that gentleman, who has recently retired from the mayoralty of Truro.

PROGRESS IN TEXTILE CENTRES.

LYONS, FRANCE.—The attention of the mills is still principally directed towards the delivery of spring orders, which in many cases are overdue, but which are everywhere being accepted willingly. The principal weaves—such as taffeta in stripes, checks and plaids—are so low in manufacture that there can be no fear of an overproduction, and buyers, therefore, remain anxious to receive their goods. Good grades of black silks have not improved in demand, but damas glace meet with increased favor. Paris ordered large quantities of small brocaded effects on striped grounds, the latter being mostly in light hues of three or four colored combinations. The stripes are mostly in hairlines, but Pekins one centimetre wide are also seen. Wool-filled textures sell freely as well for dress as for cloaking materials. The principal makes are black and colored bengalines, also moire velours, poplins and gros-grain bayaderes. Satins in plain and quadrille are in good demand, and colored faille and poul de soie have been more sought, especially in fashionable shades.

NOTTINGHAM.—A fair trade is doing generally, and in the plain departments orders are behind hand. Valenciennes laces and insertions sell well in white, ivory, and butter. Torchons, Maltese, Brabants, Malines, etc., are in fair call. Oriental laces still sell freely. Not much is doing in embroideries, but crochet and curtains, window blinds, and furniture laces are moving in large quantities for home, colonial, and export. Most are in white, but colored goods are needed for special markets. Makers up of fancy goods are fairly employed, and anticipate a still better trade.

MANCHESTER.—Cheap clothing has now become a more marked feature of the business than ever, and the prices of some grades have been reduced to a very low point. The fancy hosiery branches keep fairly well engaged, but plains, both cashmere and cotton, are rather

dull. There is not much doing in dress goods, for which the enquiry has for some time been poor. The French houses engaged in this business are complaining. The linen end of trade with the Spanish West Indies has been almost crippled, and there has been practically no compensation in the demand from neighboring markets. Melbourne and Sydney are now better markets than Havana, and the same remark may be said to apply to Toronto and Montreal, as far as the linen trade is concerned. There is not the same amount of movement as formerly in the British West India trade, although representatives of some houses transact a large business with Jamaica and other islands in those seas. There is nothing fresh to report in the silk branches. There is a moderate movement in silk ribbons, and a fair demand for moires. Silk velvets are quiet. The demand for lace curtains is rather quiet, but should improve before long. There has been a tendency towards the curtailment of lace curtain purchases lately, but the spring trade is expected to show a decided improvement.

BRADFORD.—Though it seems as if nothing will suffice to seriously increase the volume of business in the raw material here, and transactions are almost as scarce as ever, the market does undoubtedly continue to derive strength from the firmness of values at the London sales. Top makers will not now sell merino except at an advance, and values of worsteds and English are fully firm, though it is extremely difficult to force even the fractional advance. Holders have more confidence in the future, and are not pushing sales. Mohair is very firm, but prices have not moved up so well as has been the case abroad. Alpaca is also occupying a strong position, and more of it has been changing hands lately. There is again a marked absence of business in the export yarn trade, the slight improvement noted a few days ago having had the effect of checking further business by making spinners firmer in their demands. Spinners report that a good deal of underselling is taking place on the continent, and that is interfering to a large extent with the possibilities here.

DRY GOODS ITEMS.

The Montreal spring millinery openings have been fixed for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, March 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Preparations are being made for a good attendance.

The annual meeting of shareholders in the Merchants Cotton Company was held on Tuesday last in Montreal. The report presented was considered satisfactory. The election of directors resulted as follows: A. A. Ayer, president; Gilman Cheney, vice-president; directors, Robert Mackay, J. P. Cleghorn, Jonathan Hodgson, R. B. Angus, James Crathern; Mr. Wm. G. Cheney is secretary-treasurer.

The forthcoming report of the Maine commissioner of industrial and labor statistics will include tabulations of facts received from one-half the cotton manufacturing business in the State. These show that the raw material and wages entering into a given product in 1880 were together 77 per cent., while in 1897 the same items constituted 91 per cent of the product. Taking the value of the product as a basis, wages have increased from 22 per cent. in 1880 to 33.1 per cent. in 1897. Average annual earnings in 1880, \$249.73; in 1890, \$312.50; in 1897, \$289.50.

One of the United States consuls at Edinburgh, Mr. Rufus Fleming, tells his Government that there is extreme depression in the Scotch tweed trade. For several months the tweed industry in Galashiels and Hawick has been practically lifeless. To some extent this condition, he reports, is due to foreign tariffs, but the tweed manufacturers are forced to admit that the competition of Yorkshire goods has severely affected their trade. This competition of the Yorkshire worsteds and Scotch tweeds for the home and colonial markets has been about as keen as any contest that is recorded.

On Tuesday last the Montreal Cotton Co. held its annual meeting, on St. Peter street, forty or fifty shareholders being present, Mr. Andrew F. Gault, the president, was in the chair, and appointed Mr. D. F. Smith to act as secretary of the meeting. The financial statement and reports for the past year were submitted and appeared to be considered highly satisfactory. The election of the directors resulted in the return of the retiring board, as follows:—Messrs. A. F. Gault, Chas. Garth, Jac. Grenier, Hon. J. K. Ward, S. H. Ewing, R. S. Stevenson and Samuel Finley. When the newly elected board of directors met, Mr. A. F. Gault was re-elected president, Mr. Chas. Garth, vice-president.

A Boston man, Mr. G. H. Worthington, has been engaged in the manufacture of cotton yarn at Shanghai for several years, and came by the C.P.R. home for good, having decided that America is preferable to China. He says that a large quantity of Indian cotton is now being used in the Chinese mills, the demand having exceeded the supply of the native grown material. There are 270,000 spindles running in Shanghai, 90,000 at Woofoo, 18,000 at Foo Chow, and 15,000 at three other points. The mills are run almost exclusively by native labor, both men and women being employed, and the yarn is sold to the