

way Company. Considerable time elapsed before the Commissioners were appointed, and it was not until November that their names were made public. The Commissioners arrived in Winnipeg without any public notice having been given that they were coming, and consequently, persons who desired to appear before them were not prepared immediately to submit their evidence. The Board, co-operating with the Provincial Government, arranged with the Commissioners, at the first formal meeting held, that they should return to Winnipeg at a subsequent date to receive the statements desired to be given by the Government and this Board. After visiting several provincial towns and villages, where, in cases, very short notice was given the residents of their intended settings, the Commissioners returned to Winnipeg on the 13th December, and Mr. J. H. Ashdown, Chairman of your Committee appointed to look after this matter, presented a full statement of the views of the Board, accompanied by an extensive series of tables of freight rates comparisons, percentage exhibits, and comments thereon, showing clearly that the Canadian Pacific Railway rates on this Western Division are largely in excess of those prevailing on their Eastern Divisions and other roads.

COMMISSIONER TO AUSTRALIA.

The Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of Trade and Commerce, having telegraphed asking that the Board would give Mr. J. S. Larke, Canadian Commissioner to Australia, an opportunity of addressing them, a general meeting was called for the 5th December, when Mr. Larke explained the object of his mission to Australia and consulted with those present on prospective trade between Canada and the Australian Colonies. The conclusion arrived at was that at present no trade, of consequence, could be carried on between Manitoba and Australia.

CANADIAN WINTER PORTS.

The Board of Trade at St. John asked the co-operation of this body in endeavoring to have Canadian winter traffic to Europe pass through Canadian seaports. Your Council assured