

Nothing has since been heard from Ottawa on this subject, and the council would advise that a proper representation be made to the members of parliament from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories with an urgent request that they take it up with the government and insist that some improved form be adopted for the compiling and publication of our export statistics.

EXTENSION OF CANADIAN NORTHERN RAILWAY.

Mr. T. O. Davis, M. P., communicated with the board, asking their support to secure from parliament an extension of the Canadian Northern railway charter to enable them to carry their line to Prince Albert, together with the ordinary and usual land grant. It was then proposed to ask for an annual grant of \$80,000 per year, for the term of 20 years, on exactly the same basis and terms as under which they had secured a like subsidy for that portion of the road extending from Gladstone through the Dauphin country to Winnipegosis and the Red River, except that in this case and for this extension the government would retain control over rates and running powers. This matter was referred to a committee, who communicated with Mr. Davis, asking for some information but which through some misunderstanding, was not afforded until after the house adjourned.

This same committee were waited up on by a deputation from the Flee Island district, who asked their assistance in getting the Canadian Northern railway to build a branch from their main line, about Plumus station, eastwardly, to connect with the old Hudson's Bay road. The committee endeavored to meet Mr. Wm. McKenzie but were not able to do so, and it was learned that there was no possibility of the company undertaking such a work this past season. The council would recommend that this matter be not lost sight of, but taken up with Canadian Northern railway officials.

GRAIN INSPECTION ACT.

Lengthy reference is made to the amendments to the grain inspection act affected during the year. By the provisions of the amended act the inspection division of Manitoba now includes the whole of Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, and that portion west of and including the old inspection district of Port Arthur; a new office was created, that of chief grain inspector, and Mr. David Horn, the Winnipeg inspector, was promoted to fill that office. Winnipeg inspection has practically been made final, as grain going into the Fort William elevators after being inspected at Winnipeg, is merely checked to detect possible errors. A new survey board to decide in case of appeal being made from the grading by inspectors or the chief inspector has been established, and the board by law has a right to nominate one-half the members composing it, and all inspection officials are now paid regular salaries, instead of fees, as heretofore, the entire fees collected on account of inspection going into the "Manitoba Grain Inspection Fund," which is available only for the legitimate expenses connected with carrying on the work of inspection. No certificates for straight grades are given when grain of different grades are mixed together. In such cases the certificates issued for the car or cargo, as the case may be, states specifically the quantities of the different grades composing the mixture.

It is pleasing to report that the new system is working most satisfactorily in every respect, and is a vast improvement on the old order of things.

The inspection act requires that persons cannot be appointed as inspectors or deputy inspectors of grain unless they have passed an examination before the board of examiners as to their fitness and ability. As several applications for examination were received by the board of examiners, amongst others some who now hold deputy inspector's certificates, and several of the applicants now in subordinate positions on the inspection staff at Fort William and Winnipeg, have been too busy in the rush of the grain season to appear before the board, the examination of candidates has been delayed, the examiners considering that the service would not suffer in consequence. In answer to a request from the commissioner of inland revenue, a list of all persons who have secured certificates of qualification from our board of examiners in the past, was forwarded to him, but on the recommendation of the general grain committee, the council abstained from making any recommendation for appointments to vacancies on the inspection staff, awaiting the results of the examination of candidates appearing before the board of examiners. Subsequent events have proved that this was the best course to pursue.

The full survey board has been regularly organized. Already several cases of appeal have been carried to them, and it is satisfactory to note that in each case the survey was held within half an hour after receipt of application for the same, and everything indicates that the practical working of this feature of the act will meet the necessities of the situation.

Under the new inspection act the functions of the western grain standards board are limited to the selection of commercial grades of grain, when, from climatic or other causes any considerable portion of a crop is affected to an extent that would prohibit the grading of the grain under the regular standards set forth in the act. Under the new order of things the inspectors inspect, according to the specifications shown in the act, all the regular grades of grain. It was considered advisable that the standards board should be called together this past season, and they established the commercial grades of No. 3 hard and No. 1 and 2 frosted wheat, though as a matter of fact only a trifle of frosted wheat has appeared in the markets.

FLAX SEED INSPECTION.

On the 29th August last the general grain committee of the board reported to the council, recommending that the minister of inland revenue should be petitioned that the government provide for the inspection of flax seed. It was, however, arranged by the minister that inspectors of grain might grade any flax seed presented to them, at the request of the persons concerned, and thus act as an arbitrator between the seller and buyer to determine the correct quality of the seed according to the proposed grades recommended by this board to be established. The arrangement has been taken advantage of quite extensively, about 75 car loads of the 1899 crop having been inspected at Winnipeg up to the 31st December. The minister gave assurance that at the coming session of parliament he would introduce legislation to make the grades of flax seed, and inspection of the seed, legal.

VISIT OF PRESS ASSOCIATION.

In August last the city was favored by a visit from the Canadian Press Association. At the request of the city council, representatives of the board assisted in receiving and entertaining the visiting press men, who expressed their keen enjoyment of the hospitality extended to them. Many very excellent descriptions of Winnipeg, and the country generally, appeared in the eastern papers as a result of the association's visit to the west. The council is of the opinion that very much good results from the visits of press associations, as their members gain a better understanding of the possibilities and requirements of the great west, by a personal inspection, a fact which is at once recognized and proclaimed by themselves.

The recent report of the board of hide and leather examiners is submitted.

Lengthy correspondence on alleged discrimination in lake freight rates is published.

DISCRIMINATION IN RATES.

At a general meeting of the board held on August 16, the following resolution was passed:

"Whereas, the government of the Dominion of Canada have made the enlargement of our canals and the deepening of our waterways a settled policy; and whereas, this policy has had for its object the cheapening of transportation and thereby the benefitting of the whole people;

"And whereas, the Canadian Pacific and Northern Pacific railways for the last two seasons, in defiance of public policy, have enforced, and are enforcing, a system of discrimination by exacting an increased rate of charge on goods for Winnipeg and other points in Manitoba when delivered at Lake Superior to either of the said roads by other than certain favored lines of boats;

GRASS TWINE MANUFACTURE.

Early last year a communication was received from the Northwestern Grass Twine company, of St. Paul, Minn., asking for information as to the marsh lands within a radius of forty miles of this city producing wild grass suitable for the manufacture of twine. As grass blunder twine is now quite extensively used in Minnesota and Dakota, it is to be hoped that further exploration may reveal in the province a sufficiently large area to make the manufacture of twine profitable here.

METRIC SYSTEM.

Through the kindness of the Hon. Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, minister of inland revenue, the board was supplied by the department with a case containing a set of weights and measures and charts of the metric system, which have been placed in our board room for the information of the public.

In September, Sir Henri visited Winnipeg to inspect and inquire into the working of the new inspection system, and while here delivered a most interesting address to a large meeting of our members, and others, on the metric system.

UNDervaluation AND FALSE INVOICES.

The Toronto Board of Trade, under date of June 7, forwarded to this board a circular issued by their dry goods section, containing a long resolution declaring that it has been a matter of notoriety that efforts are being continually made to defraud the customs revenue by undervaluation and false invoices, and that it is necessary for the protection of the honest import.