

of the bill and introduced the same. During my stay in Ottawa, it was passed as a government measure through the House of Commons and afterwards the legislation was passed in the Senate, though considerable opposition developed in the upper House against the provisions of the bill being confined to the Manitoba inspection division, some of the senators wishing the act to be made applicable to the whole of Canada, though as the flaxseed grown in Manitoba is much heavier to the measured bushel than that grown in Ontario, the result of extending the operation of the bill to Ontario would have been that none of the Ontario flaxseed could have taken a grade, as the weight per measured bushel of the seed raised there is not equal to the weight of the seed produced in Manitoba and the Territories. However the bill passed and the inspection of Manitoba flaxseed is now legal.

Electric and Gas Light Charges.

The committee appointed in December, 1899, and which was continued by the last annual meeting, "to look into the whole question of electric and gas lighting as furnished by the present company, the charges for the same, the difference of the cost of lighting as compared with the past and between the present cost and what would be a fair figure for the service rendered and as to what remedy is to be found." Immediately following the annual meeting secured from a large number of cities in Canada and the United States a mass of valuable information on the subject and presented a report to the council with statements and suggestions. This report was very thoroughly considered at several meetings of the council when, at their own request, directors of the Winnipeg Electric Street Railway Co. were present. Your council are pleased to state that, as a consequence of the board's action, the tariff of rates for both electric and gas lighting supply was materially reduced and a definite statement was made by the company that reductions would again be made when the consumption reached figures quoted.

Montreal Grain Inspection.

It would appear that serious trouble has arisen in connection with the inspection of American grain at Montreal by Canadian government inspectors, and complaints have been made to the government through Lord Strathcona by the British grain merchants. The government has lately appointed a royal commission to investigate the whole system of grain inspection at Montreal. Mr. David Horn, the chief grain inspector for the Manitoba inspection division, was appointed chairman and sittings held at Montreal. Their report has not yet been made public.

The danger to Manitoba interests arising from European dissatisfaction with inspection of grain at Montreal lies in the fact that if government certificates issued at Montreal become discredited, European buyers may conclude that there is little value to be attached to the government certificates issued in the Manitoba inspection division. It is satisfactory to learn that the minister of inland revenue has acted promptly.

City Forms of Accounting.

Late in the past year your council took steps to secure the laws and regulations governing the keeping of city accounts from several cities in Canada and the United States, together with forms, etc., used in connection therewith. Valuable data has been received, and your council recommend that a special committee be appointed to thoroughly investigate the system in force in Winnipeg with a view of, if it is considered necessary, making recommendations to the city council.

Inspection of Hides.

The Dominion hide inspector in Winnipeg has reported to the board that he has not acted officially during the past year, as inspection has not been asked for. Local inspection, therefore, has become a thing of the past.

Sugar Beet Growth.

Early last year our committee on beet sugar had an interview with the Hon. John A. Davidson, minister of agriculture, and at his request summarized their wishes in the following letter.

Winnipeg, May 30, 1900.

Hon. J. A. Davidson, Minister of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

Dear Mr. Davidson—In reference to the beet root matter, which was laid before you yesterday by a deputation from this board, I beg to give

you herewith in a concise form just what the board would like to have done this summer.

1st. That seed should be secured at once and arrangements made by Mr. McKellar with two or three of the market gardeners in the vicinity of Winnipeg, that the same should be sown and the beds cultivated according to the instructions given by the American department of agriculture, which



President Elect William Georgeson.

Instructions we can give you a copy of. The size of the beds to be sown not to be large in order not to entail expense or much labor this season.

2nd. That an analysis be made of samples of lime from, say, Stony Mountain or Selkirk, in order to learn their purity and strength. Also that if the city has not and the water from their artesian well system analyzed, that this also be done.

3rd. That the beets raised by the market gardeners under direction of Mr. McKellar be analyzed this autumn at the Dominion experimental farm, and, say, the beet root sugar factory in Minnesota, where a practical test could be had.

4th. That arrangements be made by Mr. McKellar with say ten or twelve farmers in the Winnipeg district to each carefully prepare a small lot of ground this fall as a seed bed for planting next spring, so that a more exhaustive test of the raising of sugar beet root could be carried on next season.

I am, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

C. N. BELL,
Secretary.

The minister took an active interest in the proposition submitted by the committee and under his instructions his deputy, Mr. McKellar, secured seed and arranged with a number of farmers in the vicinity of Winnipeg to plant the same. The department and the committee have kept in active touch with the matter during the summer, which was a most unpropitious one for the securing of a fair test. The committee communicated with the experimental farm at Ottawa and arranged with the chemist there to analyze samples of the beets raised on the experimental plots near Winnipeg. The Dominion farm chemist, Mr. F. C. Shutt cordially expressed a desire to assist the committee, and Mr. McKellar in the latter part of October forwarded samples of the beets raised here. Within the past few days a full report has been received on the preliminary tests of growth, but owing to the extraordinary climatic conditions of the past season the results were not definite enough to be even fairly conclusive, but a start has been made with the experiments, which will be continued on a larger scale during the coming season.

Report of General Grain Committee.
The general grain committee made the following report, viz.:

Winnipeg, 5th December, 1900.

The President and Council, Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Gentlemen,—The general grain committee of the board beg to represent as follows:

1st That this board under the general inspection has the right to nomin-

ate six members of the grain survey board.

2nd. That on the 17th August, 1899, this board on the recommendation of the committee nominated the following to act on the survey board: S. A. McGaw, S. Nairn, G. V. Hastings, S. Spink, F. W. Thompson and A. Atkinson, and the minister of inland revenue appointed them to office.

3rd. Through the removal from the province or absence from the city for an extended period Messrs. McGaw and Atkinson are not available for service, and Mr. Nairn has died, three vacancies on the survey board have been created.

4th. This committee recommend that the minister of inland revenue be advised of the facts and requested to appoint Messrs. G. H. Crowe, R. Muir and T. T. W. Brady to fill the vacancies.

5th. That Messrs. McGaw and Nairn being no longer available for service on the board of examiners appointed by the minister of inland revenue that they be replaced by Messrs. G. V. Hastings and T. T. W. Brady.

6th. That the western grain standards board having passed the following resolutions which have since been endorsed by the Grain Exchange, this committee also endorse the same and recommend their adoption by the minister of inland revenue.

Resolved, that it is the opinion of this board that the methods of handling Manitoba wheat would be best served by making the following changes in the schedule of grades, viz.:

1st That the grades of 2 hard and 1 northern be consolidated under the name of 1 northern and having the present qualification of 1 northern, except that it contain not less than 60 per cent. of hard wheat.

2nd. That the name of No. 2 northern be changed to that of No. 1 Manitoba spring wheat and having not less than 15 per cent of hard wheat, and to weigh not less than 58 pounds per bushel. That any wheat not good enough to grade No. 1 Manitoba spring be graded as No. 2 Manitoba spring in the discretion of the inspector.

The committee, while fully endorsing the principle of the above resolution consider that in the matter of the detail of the terms "Nos. 1 and 2 Manitoba spring," it would be much preferable to use the names of "Nos. 2 and 3 northern," without, however, changing in any way the percentages of hard wheat or the weights. "Spring wheat" is a name now so associated in Canada with the grain of that description grown in Ontario and Quebec that confusion would likely arise if it was applied to the Manitoba product.

The council lately adopted the report of the general grain committee and forwarded the necessary recommendation to the minister of inland revenue.

Northern Pacific Hotel.

Taking advantage of the presence in the city of Mr. W. S. Mellen, president of the Northern Pacific railway Co., the council, on the 7th of April, 1900, had an interview with him, and he was requested to inform the deputation what the company's intention was in connection with the ruins of the Manitoba hotel. The deputation stated that the ruins were unsightly on our principal business street, and if it was not the intention of the company to rebuild the hotel the members of the board hoped that the ruins would be removed and a suitable station building erected on the site. Mr. Mellen, in reply, stated that the company had last year been willing to rebuild the hotel and increase their mileage in the province, but now they did not feel like making any further investments in this province at the present time. They were anxious to increase the mileage if they could see their way to do so, but could not, and if they did not rebuild an hotel they would put up a suitable passenger station, but until this matter was finally decided they did not wish to destroy any of the remaining walls that would be of use in rebuilding an hotel, and that he expected that he would know definitely within a few months what their decision would be.

Nothing having been heard from the company a communication was addressed to the president on the 6th December, which was replied to by Mr. Mellen as follows:

Northern Pacific Railway Company,
New York, Dec. 11, 1900.
Mr. C. N. Bell, Secretary, the Winnipeg Board of Trade, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Dear Sir—

Your favor of the 6th ult. was duly re-

ceived, but I have been unable to reply to the same on account of certain negotiations between the provincial government and our company looking to a lease of our lines within the province.

This matter is not determined at the present time, and I am unable, in consequence, to give any satisfactory answer to your enquiries.

I regret the conditions that surround our situation in Manitoba, and should be pleased to be able to definitely advise you our policy regarding the station in Winnipeg, or the rebuilding of the hotel, were it possible under the circumstances.

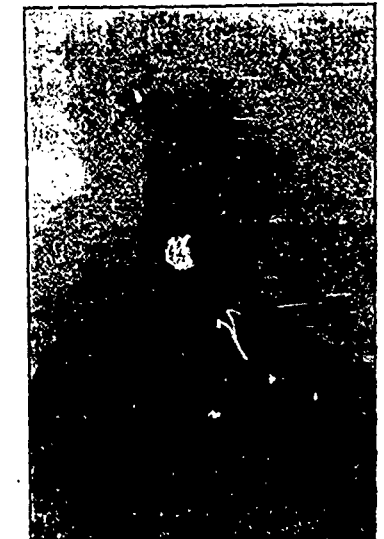
Yours truly,

C. S. MELLEN,
President.

Appointment of an Official Assignee.

In February last it was brought to the notice of your council that Mr. S. A. D. Bertrand, the official assignee appointed by the Manitoba government some years ago, on the recommendation of this board, would likely give up the office and a petition signed by nearly all the banks and wholesale houses of Winnipeg was presented to the council, with a request that this board should ask for the appointment of Mr. Chas. H. Newton, and the following resolution was afterwards passed:

"Resolved, that this board recommends Mr. Chas. H. Newton for the appointment of official assignee for the province of Manitoba in case any further appointment to that office is to



Vice-President Elect John Russell.

be made or any change is contemplated."

Later on the board was written by the Hon. Hugh J. Macdonald, attorney general, that Mr. F. J. Nixon had been appointed as official assignee for the province of Manitoba before the board's resolution had been brought before him and that had he been aware of the board's desire to have Mr. Newton appointed he would have seen that their wishes were met; as he recognizes this is an appointment which concerns principally the business community of Winnipeg. He also wrote "If it were considered necessary, I take it there would be no difficulty in having the act amended so as to provide for the appointment of another official assignee. I make these explanations as I do not wish the board of trade to imagine for a moment that they have been treated with discourtesy or that their recommendation has been slighted." The council then by resolution requested the provincial government to take such measures as might be necessary to enable them to appoint Mr. Newton as an assignee. The Hon. Mr. Macdonald under date of 9th April, wrote in acknowledging this resolution, "I will bring this matter before my colleagues at an early date, and have no doubt we will be able to meet your wishes by amending the act as requested," and while this request was again afterwards brought to the attention of the government no action was taken to amend the act during the session and consequently Mr. Newton has not been appointed.

Your council recommends that this matter be again brought to the attention of the government before the next session of the Manitoba legislature.

Election of Officers.

Mr. Ashdown nominated Mr. John