

## THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

As supplying additional evidence of the importance of the Fourth Annual General Meeting,—upon the business of which you are now entering,—the Executive Council refer to the numerous recommendations and resolutions of which notice is given in the Official Programme. Some of the subjects are of paramount importance to the Dominion, and from intimations received, it appears that the number of “written papers” on various subjects will be more numerous than heretofore. Among these may be mentioned—“Insolvent Act of 1869 and Amendments,” “Harbor Improvements,” “Canadian Pacific Railway,” “Inland Marine Regulations,” “Canadian Tonnage and Mr. Plimsoll’s Bill,” “A Dominion Board of Agriculture,” “Changes in the Customs Tariff,” &c., &c. With reference to general discussions, your Council most respectfully press upon your attention a remark of their predecessors, as follows:—“The time that can be allotted for discussing each of these important subjects, must necessarily be restricted; the experience of preceding Annual Meetings, however, warrants the Executive Council in looking forward to a conciseness of debate, which will not only economize the valuable time of the Board, but give clearness and force to the discussions.”

The task of arranging and classifying the various notices which appear on the Official Programme, was necessarily left in the hands of your Secretary, but all that he has presumed to do was to group them for facility of reference. In a few instances, where precisely similar notices were forwarded from different bodies, only one has been inserted,—and in some cases, where a notice was not sufficiently explicit, it has been omitted. Your Council suggest that a Committee on Business be appointed, on whose recommendations the discussion of subjects in order, shall depend. With regard to the “Proposed Amendments to Constitution,” your Council beg to state that, *by request*, the notice has been given by the Montreal Board of Trade,—Article X, of the Constitution, providing that any such must be submitted by a constituent body.