

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

There was a meeting of the council of the board of trade on Tuesday. A large amount of routine business connected with the removal to the new rooms and reports of standing committees was transacted.

A letter from the Duluth Jobbers' union was read, asking this board to join with them in requesting the Northern Pacific Railway to grant two passenger trains a day between Duluth and the Red river valley. The council could not see their way clear to ask the Northern Pacific for two trains a day unless they could show sufficient business to show the necessity for it.

The St. Paul chamber of commerce wrote asking for the names of public men, authorities on the subject of reciprocity and deep water navigation. So far as the board's information goes the request will be acceded to.

The question of the Government insuring registered letters from loss, referred to this board by a gentleman in Montreal, was discussed at some length. The facts were submitted, that during the last three years, out of 10,221 registered letters in Canada, 547 were missing and were claimed to contain \$21,702; that of the missing letters 333 were recovered; and that of the \$21,702 in the missing letters, \$11,000 was in blank bills sent by Montreal banks to their Northwest agents, but burned in a railway accident, being the banks' own bills; there is understood to have been no real loss. At five cents the revenue from registration would have been \$511,100 during these three years. It was also stated that Lloyd's insure money bags from any point in Canada to any other point in Canada or the United States if sent by registered post and by all rail routes, at seventy-five cents per \$1,000, irrespective of the distance; and to the United Kingdom from Canada at \$1.25 per \$1,000, if sent by Halifax or New York. Correspondence has been opened with the Montreal and Toronto boards on this subject, with the idea of properly representing the matter to the Dominion Government.

A letter from the Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa, was read regarding quarantines, in which he stated that the quarantine at Grosz Isle was now fitted with improved disinfecting and other appliances and in the early spring would be made a quarantine station of the first class. Similar action is being taken regarding a quarantine station at Fuca, British Columbia.

The Vancouver board of trade also forwarded a communication stating that they were actively engaged in pressing on the Government the necessity of proper quarantine service. The Vancouver board of trade has been in correspondence with the Winnipeg board for some time regarding the insolvents' estates act, and has been supplied with copies of the Manitoba act and other information.

A vote of thanks was directed to be returned to the C.P.R. telegraph company for the service into the board room on the night of the presidential election.

The Port Arthur board of trade wrote the Winnipeg board of their having appointed five members of the latter as grain examiners to whom may be referred appeals from the grading of the inspector at Port Arthur. The gentlemen appointed are: F. W. Thompson, D. G. McBean, N. Bawlf, R. P. Roblin and S. Spink.

The Iowa Soap & Starch Co., wrote the board for information as to opportunities and facilities presented by Winnipeg as a point for a branch of their works.

A request was directed to be made to the grain exchange that the president of the board and exchange with the secretary, should be a permanent room committee, having entire charge of the rooms jointly occupied.

The matter of grain elevators for Winnipeg was referred to the full board, which will meet next Wednesday; as was also the question of flour branding.

The council decided to invite Mr. Parkin to lecture on imperial federation. Mr. Parkin

is one of the best advocates of imperial federation, has written extensively on the subject, and is recognized in England as one of the ablest exponents of the policy. Mr. Parkin is now travelling in the west, but is expected here shortly. A committee was appointed to secure a proper hall and arrange for a public meeting.

Wheat Exports and Supplies.

The following report should have appeared in our issue of a week ago, but was crowded out.

It is generally admitted, accepting the last report of the Department of Agriculture as authority, that the wheat crop of the United States and surplus from the previous crop provided a supply for all purposes of about 570,000,000 bu. The crop of the previous year, and the surplus from the crop of 1890 together was estimated at 642,000,000 bu. The exports from this year's supply—four months—may be estimated at about 71,500,000 bu, which would be equal to about 12.5 per cent. The exports for the corresponding four months in 1891 were 85,371,000 bu, or equal to 13.3 per cent. of the supply. It will be observed that the United States are exporting flour and wheat at a rate of only .08 per cent. less than last year, out of a supply of 11.2 per cent. less. The exports during the year ending June 30, 1891, averaged 18,800,000 bu monthly. The average exports during the past four months were 17,875,000 bu per month. Allowing the usual quantity for consumption and seed, with a surplus of 50,000,000 bu on hand July 1, 1893, the quantity remaining for export during the remaining eight months will be only about 83,500,000 bu, or less than 10,440,000 bu per month. During the past four months we have exported 48.1 per cent. of the quantity available for export, and have only 53.9 per cent left for export during the remaining eight months.—Chicago Trade Bulletin.

Approximate Wheat Situation.

The following comparative estimates of the wheat situation Nov. 1 in the United States are from the Chicago Trade Bulletin and the Cincinnati Price Current:—

| | Price Current. bushels. | Trade Bulletin. bu-hea. |
|-----------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Production..... | 500,000,000 | 500,000,000 |
| Old Crop..... | 25,000,000 | 70,000,000 |
| Total..... | 525,000,000 | 570,000,000 |
| Exported..... | 67,000,000 | 85,000,000 |
| Consumed..... | 101,000,000 | 101,000,000 |
| Distribution... | 171,000,000 | 172,000,000 |
| Remaining..... | 354,000,000 | 393,000,000 |

In the foregoing amounts, the Price Current figures available, while the Trade Bulletin deducts 50,000,000 for surplus to go to the next crop, which leaves 348,000,000 bu. as available supplies Nov. 1, or a difference only of 6,000,000 bu. Both are painstaking and reliable authorities. The difference is substantially one of the method in allowance for surplus to be carried forward to the next crop. July 1 found 42,000,000 bu. in store, including flour. To make 70,000,000 bu. then, would call for 28,000,000 bu. in the hand of farmers, in mills and in stores at small storage points not reached in the search for stored grain July 1, which amount is probably about right. Such figures leave the amount on hand 65,000,000 bu. to 70,000,000 less than a year ago with exports and consumption together running along nearly equal for the last two months with the same two months last year.

Every time a cigar dealer takes a handful of cigars from a box and spreads them out on top of the show case for a person to select from, he violates one of the most stringent laws of the United States. The internal revenue law has a rigid provision to the effect that a retailer must not take cigars from the box after it has been packed and stamped. He should always hand out the box to his customers and let them select from it.

Evolution in Trade Matters.

Nearly every branch of business has undergone a process of gradual change during the past ten or fifteen years, the keen competition and the perplexities of the transportation problems having in a great measure revolutionized trade methods to a greater degree during very recent years than had been the case during the half century proceeding. Not the least of these trade evolutions has been the methods of packing merchandise.

The most noticeable, as well as notable, of these changes have been the altered methods of transporting freight at sea. Although the shipping of grain in bulk dates back considerably beyond the period we have mentioned above, it is only during the past fifteen years that the movement has reached its full development. All classes of grain now pass from the hands of producers to those of consumers in foreign countries without the aid of packages of any sort, and without hand labor to a considerable extent, the grain being transferred from cars and barges, in which it has been hauled from the interior in bulk, by means of elevators, either direct into the holds of vessels or into the bins of storehouses to await shipment. Oil is now carried in bulk in tank steamers, and molasses is also transported in the same way, with a resultant saving of a considerable amount that would otherwise be spent for packages and the additional freight room required.

A more recent development has been the transportation of minor crops, such as potatoes, onions, cabbage and the like in bulk, such articles now arriving at the leading markets by carloads in bulk instead of in barrels and crates, as was formerly the case. This has greatly economized space in transportation and has, of course, reduced transportation charges.

By far the most interesting evolution, however, has been the gradual abandonment of the barrel as a package. Flour, which was formerly always packed in barrels, is now put up altogether in sacks when intended for export and this barrel is also to a great extent being replaced by the sack for the domestic trade. The sack has also been adopted for sugar all over the world except in United States. Cuban sugar now reaches us in bags, as does all European beet sugar.

It is now proposed by the Sugar Trust to in future put up all granulated sugar in cotton bags, so that it is likely that the sugar trade of the United States will at no distant date imitate the rest of the world and abandon the barrel for the sack or bag.

Should cotton come to be extensively used as a material for making the bags used for transporting sugar, rice, flour and other products requiring a high class package, the additional consumption of low grade cotton in such uses would be of great benefit to the farmers of the south, who now find no little difficulty in disposing of the proportions of their product which is of too low a grade for the ordinary wants of consumers.—(N. O. Picayune.

Coffee Cultivation in Guatemala.

Extracts from a report by the British minister at Guatemala on the subject of coffee cultivation in that republic have been received by the Bureau of American Republics. "The minister says that the extraordinary growth of the coffee industry in Central America, and especially in the republic of Guatemala, would seem worthy of special notice, and inasmuch as there are still thousands of acres of land left suitable to the cultivation of the plant, it opens up an extensive and marketable field for foreign enterprise. The export of coffee from Guatemala in 1891 amounted to 52,197,851 pounds, valued roughly at about \$12,000,000, and this year's crop will, it is believed, be considerably in excess of that of 1891."