

WOODSTOCK BOARD OF TRADE.

The annual report of the Woodstock Board of Trade for last year refers to all the important business features of that thriving town during 1891. Negotiations were successfully concluded with James Stewart & Co. of Hamilton whereby a well equipped foundry, giving employment to not less than 75 men, will soon be in working order. It was brought out in investigation that Woodstock was one of the best grain markets in the district, and despite a year of general depression manufacturers have pushed their business with energy. Hay & Co., the furniture men, received large orders for the wood required in sewing machines; Karn & Co. built a large addition to their organ factory; J. & T. Grant considerably increased the capacity of their tannery, and the Patterson & Bro. Co. amalgamated with the Massey-Harris Co. Other firms largely increased their output. The board has several important matters under consideration.

The president congratulated the members on the hopeful outlook. They had been active during the year in endeavoring to promote the prosperity of the town, and he believed had always acted in the best interests of the ratepayers.

The following are the officers for the current year: President, Jas. Scott; vice president, Andrew Pattullo; secretary-treasurer, J. G. Wallace; Council, J. M. Grant, E. W. Nesbitt, A. J. McIntosh, W. A. Karn, John White, D. H. Charles, R. W. Sawtell, H. Powell, D. W. Karn, Dr. McLay, T. L. Clarkson; Board of Arbitrators, S. S. Cole, R. Whitelaw, M. Douglas, J. J. Hall, W. Hayden, J. D. Hood, S. B. Fuller, Jas. Hay, jr., R. T. Crawford, V. L. Francis, T. W. Gray and J. Morrison.

MANCHESTER FIRE ASSURANCE CO.

The sixty-eighth annual meeting of the Manchester Fire Assurance Company was held in its offices on the 22nd March last. Its growth since the founding in 1824 has been steady. The *North British Economist*, referring to the last meeting, says: "The report presented to the shareholders furnishes abundant proof that the Manchester Fire is now rapidly making headway. The progress reported, indeed, is almost phenomenal.

"In 1891 the premiums received (under deduction of those paid for re-insurances) amounted to £354,061 14s. 2d., against £200,204 11s. 2d. for 1890. This is a very striking advance, and speaks well for the energy of those specially concerned in the well-being of the company. Losses, on the other hand, including full provision for all unsettled claims, came to £178,309 17s. 10d., against £111,158 17s. 2d. This represents a fall of, say, 5 per cent. in the ratio, being little more than 50 per cent. of the premiums. After paying all expenses, commission, and taxes, the fire account closed with a surplus of £63,300 3s. 11d., which is brought up—by £13,009 13s. 5d. of interest on investments—to £76,309 17s. 4d.

"In addition to the interim dividend of 2s. per share paid in September last, a further dividend at the same rate for the past half-year, and a bonus of 1s. per share, were declared, making a yearly dividend of 12½ per cent., against 10 per cent. in the preceding year. Of the surplus above stated, this will absorb £18,750, and leave £57,559 17s. 4d. to be added to the company's funds."

—The promising young man is always in debt.—*Galveston News*.

TIMBER AND LUMBER IN BRITAIN.

The trade in wood in Great Britain continues to be dull, with a weak feeling in values. Stocks appear to be ample in various lines. The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been three timber vessels, 4,012 tons. Farnworth & Jardine's Liverpool circular of 1st April says that "business throughout the month has been exceptionally quiet, and the deliveries generally unsatisfactory." Owing to several forced auction sales, prices of some articles have declined; stocks generally, though not excessive, are quite ample.

"Canadian Woods—Yellow pine timber, both waney and square, have moved off very slowly; there is no change in value, and the stock is sufficient. Red Pine—There is more enquiry for large wood of special sizes, but small wood is not wanted; the stock is exhausted. Oak in the log has not been imported; the demand is only moderate and the present stock is quite sufficient, and there is no change in value. Elm has been in dull demand; the deliveries have been light, and the stock is now too heavy; there is no change in value. Ash has not been enquired for; the stock is sufficient, and prices are easier. Pine Deals—The import has consisted of a large cargo shipped via Boston, which is now landing, and will be dealt with from the quay; there has been a fair enquiry, but prices are easier for forward delivery.

"New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Spruce Deals—The import has consisted of 933 standards, against no import during the same time the two previous years; the demand is unsatisfactory, and the present stock, viz., 11,358 standards (although less than last year) is quite sufficient. Two auction sales have taken place during the month, a yarded cargo of St. John being forced off at an average of £6 6/3 per standard; a cargo of Parrsboro was chiefly withdrawn. These sales have had a disquieting effect on our market, and sales for the coming season can now only be made at lower rates.

"Birch—Both logs and planks have been imported moderately; the demand continues good, and stocks are moderate and prices firmer.

"United States Oak—The import has consisted of a few small parcels by steamers, which have gone into consumption at low rates. Oak Planks: The import, although less than the same time the two previous years, continues on too large a scale; the deliveries have been large, still prices have again given way, and it is difficult to make sales even at present low rates.

"Pitch Pine—The arrivals during the past month have been 6 vessels, 6,109 tons, against 4 vessels, 3,757 tons, during the like time last year. Hewn has arrived to a moderate extent, but the consumption has been very limited, and the stock has increased, though it is still light compared with recent years. Of Sawn the arrivals have been on a moderate scale, and with a fair consumption stocks have been further reduced, though still too heavy for the time of year.

"British Columbian Pine—The stock is small, but the demand is only limited, and is confined chiefly to large-sized logs and planks that can with difficulty be supplied in other woods.

"United States staves have arrived freely; the better qualities continue in good demand, and prices for these are steady; stocks of all descriptions are ample.

FOR SHOE AND LEATHER DEALERS.

A number of remedies have been suggested for squeaky boots, but it is doubtful, remarks the *American Shoe Trade News*, whether anything will put a stop to the annoyance except the driving of a number of pegs through both the soles. The real cause of the noise is the rubbing together of the two soles, and hence it is worse in very dry weather when the leather is exceptionally hard and resisting. Many sewed shoes have only stitches on one sole and pegs on the other; the resistance and pliability are not uniform, and there will consequently be more or less noise.

On what is known as the standard nailer, a single operator can nail 300 pairs of shoes a day, the machine making its own nails of wire, pointing them, driving them, and automatically regulating the length of each nail to the thickness of the shoe.

The smallest shop in the country is in New York. It is three feet wide and seven feet in length. A cobbler occupies the premises.

Customer—I'll give you three dollars for that pair of boots. That's every cent they're worth.

Clerk—I—I—

Customer (interrupting)—Three dollars or nothing.

Clerk—Very well, sir, thanks. Cash! I was trying to say that the retail price of the boots was two-fifty, but you wouldn't allow me to.—*Shoe and Leather Review*.

The oldest shoemaker probably in the world daily pursuing his trade, thinks a Lynn paper, is George E. Parrott, of Lynn, who has passed his eighty-ninth birthday.

Shoes, slippers, low-cut shoes, fancy Oxford ties, some with the sensible low and others with the fancy high heel, are displayed in cases. The colored suede slippers have stockings of the same color placed near them, showing the care with which the manufacturer of hosiery and the maker of slippers and shoes take to match in color the silk of the hosiery and the leather of the shoe. The dressmakers are particular, too, about this keynote of color; all the accessories of the toilet match in tone the ground of the dress. The season opens auspiciously, says the *Chicago Review*, with bright sunshine and bright hued materials; and bright faces are in eager and earnest pursuit of things new and novel.

INSURANCE NOTES.

The novelty of a new enterprise in underwriting in the British Union, of London, consists in the combination, under one policy, of every risk, with one exception (life), against which an insurant desires to be indemnified.

According to the *Oil and Drug Reporter* the six largest companies which carried the Linsseed Oil Trust last year have refused, for two reasons, to renew the policies. The trust insisted on having all the insurance placed in Chicago. To do this it was necessary for the companies to write risks over local agents' heads, as forty-nine of the fifty-three mills owned by the trust are situated outside of Chicago and scattered all the way from Philadelphia to Portland, Ore. The other reason is that the underwriters claim that they were compelled to take so many undesirable risks that the profit was nearly destroyed.

An exchange is authority for the statement that Mr. C. W. Chadwick of Stratford, inspector of the Temperance and General Life Assurance Company, has succeeded in organ-