

Report of Council.

The report of the council was presented in printed form and adopted. The following are the principal matters treated of in the report:

VACANT LANDS WORK.

The committee on vacant lands continued the issue of advertising matter for distribution by the Dominion and provincial government officials. In addition to general work done, the committee published 5,000 pamphlets containing a list of all lands sent in to their office, and covering 20 pages. The pamphlets also contained a large scale map of the Winnipeg district, showing in red the lands offered for sale, and all the post offices and schools, and other information corrected up to date. They also published and distributed 3,000 copies of the above map printed on stiff paper and in the form of a hanger with brass ends. The expenditure in connection with their work early in the season, has practically exhausted their funds, and it will be necessary, if the work is to continue during the next year, that some further provision be made for the necessary expenses. It is pleasing to report that the officials of both the Dominion and provincial governments have assisted and co-operated with the committee in every way possible.

Lieut.-Col. T. C. Scoble, C. E., kindly delivered a most interesting and instructive address in the board room on the subject of the waterways between this city and the Hudson Bay.

PURE BRED SWINE.

The committee appointed at the annual meeting in the matter of pure bred swine for the province, instructed the secretary to interview the minister of agriculture while in Ottawa last spring. On his return he reported as follows:

"I had an interview with the Hon. Mr. Fisher, minister of agriculture, on the subject of the providing by his department of pure bred swine to improve the stock in Manitoba. He informed me that he had already considered the matter, and found it impossible to accede to the request, but that he was arranging that one of his staff should endeavor to act as intermediary between the would-be purchasers and sellers of pure bred stock of all kinds, with the object that such persons might be brought together without delay or expense to themselves.

"I gathered from his remarks that his idea was in a sense to establish a bureau of information relating to pure bred stock."

The committee reported that later on in the season the Canadian Pacific Railway company, working along the same line as was suggested by our committee, have distributed throughout the province and Territories a large number of pure bred stock, placing them in the hands of representative farmers and stockmen, for the use of the public in the several localities. This action on the part of the company is to be highly commended and will undoubtedly result in the improvement of stock in the province and Territories.

COMMERCE CONGRESS.

The board received an invitation from the London, England, chamber of commerce to take part in the fourth congress of chamber of commerce of the empire to be held in London in June, 1900. Members of the board are aware that three congresses have been held in late years and this board has been represented at each meeting. Mat-

ters of great importance to the mother country the colonies and dependencies of the empire are considered at these gatherings, which have done much to bring together men representative of all the commercial interests of the British empire.

The invitation has been accepted, and the board should see that it is again represented at this very important meeting.

In connection with this subject, the Toronto Board of Trade forwarded for consideration the following resolution, which the council deemed advisable should be laid before the annual meeting for your consideration. The Toronto board asks the endorsement of this association to the resolution, with the object of submitting it to the



D. K. Elliott,
President Winnipeg Board of Trade.

London congress. The resolution reads:

Resolution to be submitted to the fourth Congress of Chambers of the Empire, 1900.—Commercial relations between the Mother country and her colonies and dependencies.

Whereas, it is generally recognized that an advantageous commercial bond is one of the strongest links in national unity, and that the maintenance and strengthening of trade is the keystone of a state's successful development;

And whereas the existence of an Empire is largely dependent upon the material prosperity of its people;

Therefore, be it resolved, that in the opinion of this congress the bonds of the British Empire would be materially strengthened and the union of the various parts of Her Majesty's Dominion greatly consolidated by the adoption of a commercial policy based upon the principle of mutual benefit, whereby each component part of the empire would receive a substantial advantage in trade as the result of its national relationship.

Further, resolved, that in order to make the foregoing operative, the chair shall appoint, before this congress dissolves, a representative and proportionate committee of home and colonial delegates to devise a scheme of this nature, and report to this or a similar commercial congress, and that a copy of this resolution be officially forwarded to the home and colonial governments concerned in the proposition.

Unanimously adopted at a general meeting of the board, December 4th, 1899."

The following resolutions have been forwarded by the Ottawa board for consideration of this board and are submitted to this annual meeting for consideration:

"Resolution 1.—Whereas the second congress of the chambers of commerce of the empire declared, in 1892, that arrangements should be devised to secure closer commercial union between the mother country and her colonies and dependencies; and, that a commercial union within the British Empire, on the basis of freer trade would tend to promote its permanence and prosperity;

"And whereas it has been generally admitted that the colonies should contribute towards the cost of imperial defence, and, as a matter of fact, colonial forces have participated to some extent with those of the United Kingdom, in defending the integrity of the empire;

"Therefore be it resolved that, in the opinion of this congress, a certain degree of closer commercial union among the countries of the empire can be most conveniently established, a step towards the introduction of inter-British free trade most readily taken, and the responsibilities of each part of the empire most equitably borne by providing a revenue for its naval defence, and other common imperial purposes, from the proceeds of a small uniform ad valorem duty (over and above those of the local tariffs, where any such are levied) on all importations from foreign countries, with the exception of raw cotton, into every part of the empire."

"Resolution No. 2.—That this congress respectfully requests the president to appoint a deputation to wait upon the prime minister of the United Kingdom, and represent to him the desirability of convening a conference of representatives appointed by the governments of the mother country, its colonies and dependencies, to consider the subject and terms of the foregoing resolution."

Reference is made to action re insurance and acetylene gas plants.

EXPORT STATISTICS.

A committee was appointed at the last annual meeting to take up with the government at Ottawa the matter of the form in which the export statistics of our cattle and grain are shown in the blue books issued by the customs department. The committee instructed the secretary, while in Ottawa, to interview the minister of customs and the Hon. Clifford Sifton, minister of the interior, and he did so, urging that the recommendations made last year by the board to the department should be adopted, viz: That all export entries of goods the product of Canada should show the province in which the produce originated; that the entries should be made in triplicate, and one copy be forwarded for posting to a selected port in the province from which the goods or produce came, and in this way the customs returns of our province would give a correct total of the export of the produce, including such as passed out of the Dominion via a port of export in another province. Manitoba would thus get credit in the trade and navigation returns, as published and circulated in Great Britain and Europe, for its actual exports, even when such were exported through Montreal, Fort William, Vancouver or elsewhere. It was again pointed out to the minister how the present form of publication acts injuriously to our western interests, and that if a British capitalist, for instance, were contemplating making investments in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories and goes to the high commissioner of Canada's office in London, and examines the customs export returns for the Dominion, he would be led to imagine that but few cattle and a paltry amount of grain are our whole exports for a fiscal year, because owing to the present system of compiling the export statistics of Canada, our exports are actually credited to Ontario and Quebec.