

your delegation attended the meeting—which was formally opened on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 21st ultimo.

The attendance was less numerous than on former occasions, only thirty delegates being present as against forty-four last year.

After the meeting was called to order, the President made an opening address, glancing at the business of the Board during the past year; as well as what would engage their attention at the Annual Meeting. After the Annual Report was read, the Committee appointed at last Annual Meeting to consider the Insolvent Act, presented their report, this report which was adopted by a large majority at a later stage of the session, recommended several amendments to present Act—one of which is a reduction in the number of Official Assignees—limiting the number to one for each Judicial District; also, some changes in the charges for Assignees.

The questions given in charge of your delegates were The necessity for inspection of Phosphate of Lime and the appointment of a competent analyst. The right of Canadian vessels to navigate American canals. The admission of Canadian vessels to registration in France on same terms with those of Great Britain. The desirability of carrying out the telegraph system in the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and establishment of signal stations,—were all brought before the Board and carried unanimously.

A very general and interesting discussion took place in reference to the first and last of those questions. The importance of recent discoveries of phosphate deposits, the probable extensive development of this industry, and the need of Legislation such as suggested by this Board, was strongly dwelt on, and heartily concurred in by the Board.