

large trade is developing. The route, then, is a matter of vital importance to the business interests of Winnipeg. If an interior route is found practicable, and the evidence submitted from various sources appear favorable, there is no doubt the interests of Winnipeg lie in that direction. With freight rates to the coast so badly against us, we cannot hope for very much of the Klondyke trade, if passengers and merchandise go by way of Pacific ports. There is one thing evident, and it should not be forgotten by the Canadian government and the C.P.R., that an interior route would be distinctively Canadian. Merchandise shipped by this route would be all, or nearly all, drawn from Canadian sources. It would appear, therefore, to be the duty of our government to test fully the possibilities of this route in the interest of Canadian development. There is another and very important reason urged in favor of the Edmonton route: The Peace River country, and other important districts have long been known to possess very great wealth, and as a considerable percentage of the people bound for the Yukon are hardy prospectors, discoveries of importance would no doubt be made, to say nothing of the agricultural and ranching possibilities of this region. It is, therefore, plainly the duty of this Board to keep constantly before the authorities the importance of opening up a route to the Yukon through our own territory. The last meeting of the Council had placed before it maps and folders issued by American railway corporations doing business in Canada. They were descriptive of Yukon, giving climate, mining laws, and information concerning that country, and advising gold seekers and others to purchase their outfits and supplies in American coast cities. The whole is an attempt to deceive people into the belief that the new gold fields are in American territory, with the object of inducing traffic for their roads and trade for their terminal cities, but it will work its own cure, and the Council decided to refuse a request for resolutions on the subject.