

ate. Those with inflated ideas are, with very few exceptions, owners of small patches, so that taking them into a calculation of the average price of land within twenty-five miles around the city, they do not materially raise the figure reached. A calculation of the average price, including such offers, would place it in the neighborhood of six and a half dollars an acre. But the committee felt warranted in reporting to your Council, that farms for thousands of settlers can be obtained within the limit stated, at from two to five dollars an acre, thus completely refuting the untruthful statements circulated by enemies of this country, about the fabulous prices lands are held at around this city, and establishing the fact that close to Winnipeg, the central market of the Northwest, farms for settlers can be had at lower figures than are asked by colonization and other corporations for much inferior lands in new, sparsely settled and far-distant portions of the Northwest.

Your Board have watched with interest the efforts being made for the construction of a railway to the Hudson's Bay, and are pleased to note that a commencement has been made with that great work. In the early part of the past year, with a view of stifling false rumors of the Board's indifference as to the work, a resolution was passed at a general meeting and forwarded to the President of the company then in England, which clearly expressed the fullest faith in the undertaking, and a desire that further Government aid should be extended thereto.

Your Board and Council have watched with interest the working of a system of grain inspection at this city, and the results of the past year have gone to prove, that it has been of incalculable value to both producers of and dealers in grain in this province. The protection of the grain interests has entailed considerable labor on the part of the officers of the Board and particularly on the Committee of Grain Examiners. In July last that Committee presented an elaborate and valuable report on the grain inspection and movement during the year ending 30th June, 1886, which report the Board unanimously adopted, and it is now included among others of its records.

Your Committee of Grain Examiners also selected and sent three of their number to represent Manitoba, in the work of selecting grain standards, to govern the inspection of the present year. These three representatives had pleasure in reporting on their return from the meeting of different Board representatives, held in September last, at Toronto, for the purpose stated, that the interests of the Northwest received every consideration from eastern representatives, and the opinions of our Manitoba delegates were taken as a guide in connection with the selecting of Northwestern standards.

In July last your Committee of hide and leather examiners also presented a full report of the working of inspection in that department, and a report from the Inspector for the closing half of 1886, will now be laid before you for your approval.

In connection with both grain and hide inspection the smoothness which has characterized their working during the past year has been phenomenal. In hide inspection there has

not yet been a single case of appeal from the decision of the Inspector, while of the thousands of certificates issued by the grain Inspector and his deputy, only three have been called in question, since the establishment of inspection here, and in no case have your Committee of Grain Examiners sustained an appeal against the Inspector's certificate.

The question of extensive stock yards for Winnipeg is one which for the first time received the consideration of your Board during the past year. Your Board appointed a deputation, who waited upon Messrs. Van Horne and Olds of the C.P.R., and received assurances that, to any person or company, making an effort in this direction, the company would grant the right of unloading, culling, and re-shipment of cattle on their way to the east, at a merely nominal charge above through rates, thus allowing similar advantages to those given to millers, of grinding grain in transit. Mr. Van Horne assured the deputation, however, that the railway company would not let the management of such yards pass out of their own hands. Your Board have therefore brought this question to a clear understanding, as to how Winnipeg stands as to facilities for locating stock yards.

Your Council found it necessary during last fall, to inquire into the unsatisfactory mail service then in existence in Southern Manitoba, where mails were still forwarded by stage instead of rail. The Council memorialized the Postmaster-General upon this grievance, and received prompt attention to their request, and a speedy removal of the grievance complained of.

Recently your Council have had their attention directed to the extraordinary and unnecessary risks run by wholesale merchants, in crediting retail dealers throughout the country, who were inadequately insured against fire, or not insured at all. The necessity for procuring some regular system of information, by which amount of insurance carried by country merchants could be ascertained was keenly felt, and your Council asked the co-operation of the Winnipeg Board of Fire Underwriters, which was cheerfully accorded, and arrangements are now being made, by which the desired information can be secured.

Through a communication from the Saint Paul Chamber of Commerce upon the subject, your Board have recently been asked for an expression of opinion upon the desirability of reciprocity with the United States. Your Council, while agreeing that the Board should express its opinion upon this subject, have deemed it unwise to bring the matter up for discussion in the Board during the present state of political excitement preceding the Dominion Elections.

There have been numerous other matters, which have engaged the attention of your Board and Council, and among the number that of securing permanent offices for the Board. Through application to the City Council, the Council have secured the present quarters, so that for the first time the Board meets in rooms which are exclusively its own.

While the year has been one of activity and perseverance on the part of your Board, it has also been one of progress, prosperity and reward. The report of the Treasurer for the year will show, that financially the Board never was

in a better position. The roll of membership has been steadily lengthening out, and now carries one hundred and forty-eight (148) with their fees paid up to date; while the proposed changes in the Winnipeg Custom House, the concession of reduced freight rates on the C.P.R. to all points west, and the fact that in the present political contest, no candidate for parliamentary honors in this province dares to differ from the views of the Board on the question of railway disallowance, all combine to show, that the labors of your Board during the past few years are now beginning to bear fruit. The statistical report of the city's trade which the Secretary has prepared goes to show, that there has been no small degree of prosperity in trade circles of the city, so that altogether the Board has good reason for congratulation, while it has during the year received much encouragement to persevere in its good work. In closing, your Council find special cause for congratulation in the fact, that the Board's record for the year furnishes no death roll of members. All of which is respectfully submitted for your approval.

On motion of Capt. G. F. Carruthers, seconded by Mr. W. F. Alloway, the report as read was unanimously adopted.

The reading of the treasurer's report was next in order, and was as follows:

RECEIPTS.

By cash on hand.....	\$ 67 77
" subscriptions from 147 members.....	1,095 00
" cash from Toronto Board of Trade, for collecting grain standard samples.....	115 50
" interest on bank account.....	5 40
	\$1,883 97

DISBURSEMENTS.

To advertising meetings.....	\$ 55 50
" secretary's salary.....	500 00
" custom house investigation.....	215 00
" Commercial printing account.....	173 25
" postage, telegrams etc.....	77 45
" expenses of delegate to Ottawa.....	158 25
" R. D. Richardson, printing charter and by-laws.....	25 50
" expenses of collecting grain samples.....	126 84
" James Campbell, services re land circular..	22 00
" rent.....	75 00
	\$1,440 79
To balance on hand.....	443 18
	\$1,883 97

On motion of Mr. W. J. Aikins, seconded by Mr. W. F. Luxton, the report as read was unanimously adopted amid applause.

The secretary then read the statistical report of the city's trade for 1886, which will be found on another column.

The president then declared the election of officers in order, and called for nominations for the office of president. He stated that he was not a candidate for re-election, and in a neat speech thanked the members of the board for the confidence placed in him during the three years he had held the office.

Mr. R. J. Whitla nominated Mr. J. H. Ashdown for president; and Col. Mackeand seconded the nomination, which was put to the meeting and unanimously carried amid applause.

Mr. Mackenzie then vacated the chair in favor of Mr. Ashdown.

The newly elected president then called for nominations for the office of vice-president.

Lieut.-Col. Mackeand and Mr. R. J. Whitla were both nominated but declined to stand, and on motion of Mr. K. Murchison, seconded by Mr. P. Gallagher, Mayor L. M. Jones was unanimously elected.