

sent inconvenient situation, and the repeated promises of the Customs Department that the change would be effected, nothing has been done, and the unsatisfactory and entirely unnecessary situation remains unchanged. On two occasions by letter during the past year the Hon. Comptroller of Customs promised to have the postal package office removed to the postoffice building, and the Council has now opened up correspondence with the Hon. Comptroller Wood, his successor, and it is to be hoped with greater prospects of success. The removal of the general customs offices to a central part of the city, where the convenience of the business community would be met, has also been pressed on the Hon. Mr. Wood.

HIDE INSPECTION.

The Council, for the information of members of the Board, give herewith an extract from the report of the Hide Inspector for the six months ending 31st December, 1895. The total number of hides inspected for the half year was 6,690, and the Inspector makes the following statement: "The above report shows a decrease of about 3,000 hides inspected, as compared with the same period of 1894. This is owing to the dealers buying 'flat,' that is, without inspection, and paying for hides so bought a price equal to the value of No. 2 hides. About one-third of these hides, if inspected, would have graded as No. 1, and would have brought their owners a higher price, as a reward for the care exercised in the take off." It would appear that although the export of hides is greatly increasing, the number presented for inspection is decreasing. Some cause must be at the bottom of this state of things and the Council recommend that their successors fully investigate the situation.

WOOD PULP MANUFACTURE.

Information has been asked from the Board as to the material existing about Lake Winnipeg suitable for the manufacture into wood pulp, from a district in Wisconsin, where the supply