

mitted themselves in their speeches to this, that when a through scheme to Lake Superior was presented with a guarantee of reduced grain rates, they would be prepared to aid it. It will be gratifying to the Board to know that at last we are in the way of having the Customs House and Examining Warehouse in a business centre. This was promised by the Comptroller when he visited Winnipeg, subject only to one proviso, that there was nothing in their agreement with the Hudson Bay Company, when the present site was granted, to prevent the transfer. A further result of the Comptroller's visit is that a room for the examination and storage of postal packages is now being prepared in the Post Office. This will be a matter of great convenience to the public and will save much delay. At the meeting with the Comptroller, while all present expressed their satisfaction with the Collector in his dealings with the public, there were many annoyances arising from regulations pointed out to the Minister, which he promised to remedy, and is, I believe, doing so.

You will see by the report that no less than three visits were paid us in 1894 in connection with trade with Australia. First by Hon. Mr. Reid, second by the Intercolonial Conference delegates, and third by Mr. Larke, the Canadian Commissioner to Australia. While there seems no present opening for trade between Manitoba and these Colonies in the South Seas, still there is a considerable and growing trade with other points of the Dominion, and whatever benefits the Dominion as a whole, interests and should gratify every Province. The banquet to the delegates was a most successful one. The speeches made by them were interesting and instructive, and all breathed a strong feeling of loyalty and kinmanship, and a desire to foster trade and friendship within the Empire. Speaking for myself, I applaud every effort in this direction. While anxious to see the growth of trade between us and our Southern neighbors, I am more anxious to see its development within the Empire, and will joyfully hail any legislation that may bring this about.

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