

ownere and others, as no doubt the commission will go thoroughly into the existing conditions and make recommendations to the government regarding the best method of handling grain in this province and the North-west Territories.

In accordance with the provisions of the Crow's Nest Pass railway agreement the Canadian Pacific Railway company this year reduced their rates on grain to Fort William one and one-half cents per hundred pounds, which was followed by a like reduction on all other railroads. This has meant a great saving to the farmer, although this year the reduction was more than offset by the extremely high rates charged by vessel owners carrying wheat to Buffalo and other ports for export, and the producers, therefore, did not reap the full benefit which was reasonably expected.

It is with deep regret that I have to refer to the deaths of Mr. Archibald McBean and Mr. Jos. Harris, two of our oldest and most respected members, who had been closely identified with the grain trade of this province from its early days.

Mr. Harris, who was elected president at the last annual meeting, gave close attention to the interests of the Exchange until through ill health he was compelled to go east.

I have to thank all the members for their assistance in the work during my term of office, and have pleasure in wishing you all a "Prosperous New Year."

W. L. PARRISH.

REPORT OF COUNCIL.

The annual report of the council was next taken up and ordered to be printed for distribution to members. The report is a lengthy document, giving a review of matters that came before the exchange during the year. This has been published from time to time in The Commercial as the matters came up.

The treasurer's report was read by Secretary Bell. It showed that the finances of the exchange were in good shape.

W. L. Parrish, who was elected president to succeed Mr. Harris, a few months ago, was re-elected president. R. P. Roblin declined to be re-nominated for vice-president.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President—W. L. Parrish.
Vice-President—Wm. Martin.
Secretary-Treasurer—C. N. Bell.

There were about fifteen nominations for the council, and on a vote being taken the following were found to be elected: Messrs. John Love, S. A. McGaw, Thos. Thompson, C. A. Young, S. Nairn, E. O'Riley, G. R. Crowe, G. V. Hastings, D. G. McBean, S. P. Clark and T. B. Baker.

The following arbitration board was elected: Messrs. Robt. Muir, L. A. Tilley, D. G. McBean, S. Nairn, Alex. Black, S. A. McGaw and C. A. Young. The members of the appeals board were elected as follows: Messrs. F. W. Thompson, R. P. Roblin, S. P. Clark, W. Martin, Thomas Thompson, John Love and G. R. Crowe.

The exchange voted \$50 to the Winnipeg General Hospital, the St. Boniface hospital and the Transvaal fund, and the meeting adjourned.

Retail Clerks' Association.

The annual meeting of the Retail Clerks' union was held in Albert hall this week. There was a large attendance of members, and several new

members were initiated. The early closing petition has been partly circulated and has been meeting with great success. A few merchants have yet to be seen, then it will be ready for presentation to the city council at the next meeting. The report of the president for the past term showed that, though young, the union was in a prosperous condition. The membership has greatly increased and the financial report was very satisfactory. The election of officers for the ensuing term took place and the following were elected: President, L. H. Fournier; vice-president, F. W. Holt; second vice-president, R. L. Chevrier; treasurer, G. T. Harrison; secretary, K. C. Grimshaw; guide, Perry Wilson.

Manitoba Wheat Stocks.

There were 2,928,000 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William on Jan. 6. Receipts for the week were 285,000 bushels, and shipments were 224,000 bushels. Stocks of wheat at Fort William, Port Arthur, Keewatin, Winnipeg and interior country points were estimated approximately at 8,700,000 bushels compared with about 8,000,000 bushels a year ago. About 17,000,000 bushels of the last crop have been shipped east of Winnipeg and about 6,000,000 bushels are held in store at country points, making a total of 23,000,000 bushels of the crop shipped or in sight, exclusive of wheat milled at points west of Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Grain Inspection.

For the week ending Jan. 6, there were 316 cars of grain inspected grading as follows:

Wheat—1 hard, 150; 2 hard, 57; 1 northern, 6; 2 northern, 1; 3 hard, 34; 1 frosted, 9; 2 frosted, 2; 1 rejected, 6; 2 rejected, 13; no grade, 17; 3 northern, 3; 3 frosted, 1; feed, 2; condemned, 1 car.

Oats—1 white, 4; 2 white, 3; 2 mixed, 2 cars.

Barley—No. 3, 2; feed 3 cars.

United States Wool Market.

The American Wool and Cotton Reporter estimates the supply of wool in the United States at the close of the year, exclusive of manufacturers' holdings, at 157,392,879 pounds, against 339,433,553 pounds a year ago. Sales in the three principal markets of the United States totaled 514,947,929 pounds, against 130,486,383 pounds last year. The wool clip of the country is placed at slightly less than 275,000,000 pounds, against about 200,000,000 last year. At the beginning of the year the total available supply of the country was about 340,000,000 pounds. Importations have been exceptionally small, those at Boston being only 34,372,341 pounds, against 40,923,024 pounds last year. Owing to the large demand for wool for consumption, the total available stock on hand at the close of the year has been reduced to a comparatively low point. There is a scarcity of fine wools the world over, foreign markets have been advancing by leaps and bounds, the Australian clip, which again shows a material reduction, has been eagerly bought by anxious users of wool, the London markets have steadily advanced and tops on the continent have risen beyond all expectation. As yet prices of wool have not been unfavorably affected by developments in the financial situation.

W. L. Parrish.

We give this week a very good portrait of W. L. Parrish, president of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange. Mr. Parrish was elected vice-president at the annual meeting a year ago. On the retirement of the late Jos. Harris, who resigned the presidency in September



W. L. Parrish.

last on account of ill health, Mr. Parrish was elected to succeed him as president. At the annual meeting of the exchange this week he was re-elected president. Mr. Parrish was born in the year 1860, near the city of Toronto. He entered the grain trade in 1876, at the age of sixteen, and has never been wholly out of the trade since. Four years, however, were spent in the milling business. In the year 1881 he moved to Manitoba, settling at Brandon, where he lived until the fall of 1888, when he moved to Winnipeg.

Mr. Parrish was in business at Brandon with his father, Samuel Parrish, from 1882 to 1886, after which he went into a partnership with W. J. Lindsay. This connection lasted until the beginning of the present crop year, when the firm was dissolved. Mr. Parrish is now carrying on business as grain merchant on his own account, with his headquarters in Winnipeg.

A. D. Benjamin, of the well known Toronto hardware firm of Samuel Benjamin & Co., died suddenly in that city on Monday morning last. Deceased came to Canada from Australia.

The idea of maintaining the "open door" in China seems to be more or less popular with various governments, notably those making most strenuous efforts to keep their own trade doors closed. The modern idea seems to be to push open the door of any country belonging to some one else, and particularly a country in which a high state of modern civilization is not evidenced by the possession of a very large number of "glittering generalities" and Maxims.—New York Fur Trade Review.