

small preliminary expense before a meeting of the creditors was held.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

A Standing Committee on Industries, appointed by your Council, has held several meetings, and consulted with a number of persons desirous of acquiring information in relation to manufacturing and other industries. Numerous letters have been received during the year from persons desirous of ascertaining the feasibility of establishing works for the manufacture of implements, flax-twines, leather, etc., all of which have received attention, and information has been returned. We would suggest that every opportunity be seized for making known the natural resources of this country in minerals, timber, fish and agricultural productions. The manufacture of the flax straw, which now is destroyed, offers a field for investors; as does the development of the coal beds of the west; the immense deposits of rich iron ore at Lake Winnipeg; the salt and petroleum deposits near Lake Winnipegosis; the building stone and lime materials, which, in unlimited quantities, are within easy reach of the city; the brick clays; the straw for paper making; poplar for wood pulp, &c., &c. Little effort has yet been made to draw attention to the value of our lake fisheries, though the whitefish from Lake Winnipeg are shipped to all the Western American cities, as far distant as Kansas City. Through a lack of appreciation of the immense area of Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba, and Winnipegosis, (over 13,000 square miles), where fisheries are at present established, an attempt has been made to prevent the exportation of fish. Considering the fact that a large amount of capital has been invested in the tugs, fishing plant, etc., and that the exportation of whitefish only averages about *one pound weight to every ten acres* in the three lakes named, while a capable Inspector superintends and enforces the fishing regulations, it is to be hoped that common sense will be exercised if any changes are contemplated. In addition to the above three lakes, we have, in the Northwest, not less than 40,000 square miles of lake surface, affording an abundant fish supply, which has not yet been drawn on, save by the Indians and fur traders.