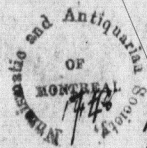


Don't forget to Baby Schitte



2/5/1900

DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

PRESENTED AT THE

FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING,

HELD

AT OTTAWA, ON TUESDAY, FEB. 24TH, 1874,

AND FOLLOWING DAYS.

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REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL.

To the REPRESENTATIVES constituting the

DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

The Executive Council have much pleasure in laying before the Fourth Annual Meeting of the Board, a summary report of proceedings since the meetings held in January, 1873; and at the outset they beg to remark that the general election consequent upon the dissolution of the Dominion Parliament, constrained them to somewhat exceed their powers in postponing the meeting until 24th February. The week in which it was announced to be held, in accordance with a provision of the Constitution, was subsequently ascertained to be the one between nomination-day and the day appointed for polling, in some Provinces,—in others the times designated being respectively a week later,—and, as many of the delegates would probably be required to remain at home pending the elections, your Council were of opinion that, unless the responsibility of postponement were assumed, the result would be an unsatisfactory attendance. It is respectfully submitted that, as the circumstances were purely exceptional, and such as could not be foreseen,—the necessity for action being also urgent,—the decision arrived at can only be considered a precedent in a precisely similar emergency.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Immediately after the adjournment of the Board in January, 1873, a numerous delegation waited upon Lord Dufferin, at the St. Lawrence Hall, in Montreal, and presented the Address of Welcome. The persons present on the occasion were:—From Quebec—Henry Fry, Esq., President, and Mr. A. Frazer. From

Montreal—Messrs. Hugh McLennan, John Kerry, Andrew Robertson, M. P. Ryan, M. P., L. E. Morin, W. W. Ogilvie, Robert Spratt, Thomas White, Jr., and W. J. B. Patterson, Acting Secretary. From Toronto—Mr. Robert Wilkes, M. P. From St. John, N. B.—Mr. R. S. DeVeber, and Hon. J. R. Jones. From Halifax, N. S.—Mr. John L. Wylde.

After being introduced, the President read the Address, as follows:—

May it Please Your Excellency:

We, the President and Members of the Dominion Board of Trade, respectfully approach your Excellency, to offer our sincere and dutiful welcome on your assuming the important duties of Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada; and to assure you of our loyal attachment to the throne of Her Majesty our gracious Queen.

As an organization concerned in the commercial interests of the Dominion, we would beg to direct your Excellency's attention to the great natural resources of our country.

Situated as we are geographically, there devolved on the people of Canada the duty of turning to the utmost account whatever natural advantages they possessed, under the penalty of being wholly distanced in the race of American progress and prosperity.

Under this conviction, an extensive canal and railway system has been inaugurated, our rivers have been deepened, ocean steamers have been established, and other means have been taken, and are still being prosecuted, to make the River St. Lawrence the great natural outlet of the Continent for its ever-increasing Western trade.

The surveys which have already been made, show that the route to the Pacific Ocean, through Canada, from the Atlantic, will be the shortest, not only for the transit of that immense Eastern commerce which now seeks for outlets by circuitous channels or through foreign territory, but will also connect the Ocean ports on the St. Lawrence with the North-Western United States by a route shorter in distance than any now existing, to American ports on the Atlantic.

Trusting that these matters, so essential to the commercial progress of Canada, will be found worthy of your Excellency's consideration, and with the assurance of our warm welcome, in the assumption of your important duties, and of our prayer for the health and happiness of yourself and Her Excellency the Countess Dufferin,—

Signed on behalf, &c., &c.,

WM. J. PATTERSON, *Secretary.*

HENRY FRY, *President.*

OTTAWA, 17th January, 1873.

His Excellency graciously replied, as follows:—

To the Board of Trade of the Dominion of Canada:

Gentlemen,—I beg to return you my best thanks for the kind expressions with which you are pleased to welcome my arrival in this country, and the assumption of the important duties of my high office, and I recognize with pleasure, that in doing so you

are anxious to afford a fresh proof of your loyal attachment to the Sovereign whom I have the honor to represent.

I need not assure you that I fully appreciate the importance of the functions, which as a body, you exercise in this great and growing community. Removed from the stormy atmosphere of political contention, you devote yourselves to the promotion of the material prosperity of your native country; while the very essence of your existence consists in establishing and extending friendly relations with all neighboring States.

I have followed with the keenest interest the discussions in which you have lately been engaged, and I have observed with admiration what an amount of intelligence, liberality of sentiment, and sound economical science they have exhibited. It is with the warmest sympathy that I shall associate myself with you in your friendly rivalry with the United States; and I must say that as far as the physical and material resources of the country, or the moral and intellectual qualities of the inhabitants are concerned, I see nothing which need lead you to expect anything but a most successful issue to the career on which you have embarked. Never, perhaps, have any people entered under more favorable auspices upon a fairer field of industry and exertion. The most magnificent system of water communication existing on the habitable globe leads into the heart of a region of unexampled fertility, of immeasurable extent, enriched in one direction by a varied field of mineral wealth, and in the other one of the largest coal-fields in the world. Already the news of your brightening prospects has reached the shores of Europe, and each year is probably destined to see thousands of fresh recruits added to your laborious population,—while another decade will see completed that great line of Intercolonial Railway communication which is to unite the eastern and western limits of the Dominion.

I consider it a most fortunate circumstance that my arrival in this country should have been so timed as to permit me to participate in your aspirations, to assist your endeavors, and I trust to share in your triumphs.

My only desire and ambition is to identify myself as completely as possible with Canadian interests, and to win the confidence of the Canadian people.

After His Excellency had thus replied formally to the address, he entered into conversation with the deputation on various subjects relating to the progress and prosperity of Canada. He had taken pleasure in watching the proceedings of the recent Annual Meeting as reported in the press from day to day; he also stated that he would be happy to assist in furthering the objects of the Dominion Board of Trade, and that its President and Executive Council might always rely upon him as a firm friend.

The President remarked that a copy of the official Reports of proceedings at the several Annual Meetings of the Board would be presented to His Excellency,—and the deputation withdrew.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND RESOLUTIONS.

Copies of all the resolutions and recommendations adopted, were speedily transmitted to each of the constituent organizations;

and the instructions of the Board were complied with as promptly as possible,—all the Petitions, Memorials, and Resolutions, ordered to be presented to His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, and to Parliament, being transmitted, and acknowledgments thereof received. They included the following :—

Petitions.—For continuance of the Insolvent Act of 1869, and its Amendments.
For Act of Incorporation for Dominion Board of Trade.
Application for General Act for local Boards.

Memorials.—On Reciprocal Trade with the United States.
Relating to inconvenient United States regulation at Duncan City.
Direct telegraphic communication between Europe and the Dominion.
Respecting Delivery of Letters in cities and towns.
Reduction of Postage on Newspapers.
Ocean Mail facilities.
Extension of the system of Weather Reports.
On the Crimping System.
Uniformity in Fire Insurance Policies.
Respecting Suits against Government.
Uniformity in Gauging Liquids, &c.
Registration of vessels navigating inland waters.
Extension of Admiralty Jurisdiction.
Repeal of the Stamp Tax.
Appointment of Average Adjusters.
A General Inspection Law.

Resolutions.—Relating to the Customs Tariff.
On Canal Improvements and Public Works.
On the Reciprocal use of American and Canadian Canals and Rivers.
Relating to Pilotage system on the Lower St. Lawrence.
Respecting the Carriage of Deck-loads by Sea-going vessels.

LEGISLATION BY THE DOMINION PARLIAMENT.

The Council congratulate the Board upon the amount of legislation during the first Parliamentary Session of 1873, resulting, to some extent, it may fairly be assumed, from the discussions which have taken place at the annual meetings.

The thanks of the Board are due to the Government for the promptitude with which they brought forward, and successfully carried through the following measures :—

CHAP. 10. An Act to add to the number of the Members of the Corporation of the Trinity House of Quebec, and to increase the powers thereof.

CHAP. 11. An Act to amend the Acts relating to Port Wardens at Montreal and Quebec.

CHAP. 42. An Act to continue for a limited time the Insolvent Act of 1869, and the Acts amending the same.

CHAP. 49. An Act to amend and consolidate, and to extend to the whole Dominion of Canada, the laws respecting the Inspection of certain Staple Articles of Canadian Produce.

CHAP. 54. An Act respecting Pilotage.

CHAP. 56. An Act respecting Deck-loads.

CHAP. 58. An Act to amend the Acts for more effectually preventing the Desertion of Seamen.

CHAP. 61. An Act respecting the Trinity House and Harbor Commission of Montreal.

The General Inspection Act requires alteration in many of its details; whilst the "Act respecting Pilotage" unfortunately perpetuates the vicious system so often condemned by this Board. The Act for preventing the desertion of seamen is but a small instalment of much-needed reform.

Your Council entertain no doubt that the Acts relating to "Port Wardens," and "Deck-loads," will be productive of the happiest results, in preventing the destruction of much valuable property, and infinitely more valuable lives.

THE CENTAL SYSTEM.

With reference to a notice in the Official Programme respecting the introduction of the Cental System, your Council request attention to an Act of the Dominion Parliament, entitled "an Act respecting Weights and Measures," assented to on 23rd May last. The following are noted as among its provisions:—

1st. It is enacted that "A weight of one hundred pounds avoirdupois shall also be, and may be called and described as a 'CENTAL.'"

2nd. On and after the first day of January, 1874, the provisions of the present Law as to the weight of a bushel of the under-mentioned articles, namely:—

Wheat, Indian Corn, Rye, Pease, Barley, Oats, Beans, Clover Seed, Timothy Seed, Buck-wheat, Flax Seed, Hemp Seed, Blue Grass Seed, Castor Beans, Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots, Parsnips, Beets, Onions, Salt, Dried Apples, Dried Peaches, and Malt,—

will cease to have effect, and thereafter "all the above-mentioned articles when bought or sold by weight, shall be specified by the Cental and parts of a Cental."

3rd. It will follow, therefore, that parties who make contracts with reference to the bushel of any of the above-mentioned articles, will only be legally bound by the bushel of capacity, which, until otherwise proclaimed under the provisions of the Act, will be the *Winchester* bushel.

It is believed by some who have examined the provisions of

the above-mentioned law, that there is incongruity between them and some of the clauses of the General Inspection Act. These will doubtless be specified when this question comes before the Board. In the meantime, your Council are informed that inquiries have been made at the Inland Revenue Department as to whether there is any penalty for making contracts on delivering Grain by the bushel. The following is understood to be the substance of the reply:—That although no special penalty is provided for making contracts, or delivering articles, by the bushel, still such contracts would be illegal, and could not be enforced; and that a bushel of Wheat, for example, even if specially mentioned in the agreement, would not mean 60 lbs. as heretofore, but only a bushel of capacity.

This subject is one of serious import, not only to merchants and traders, but to the entire commercial community of the Dominion,—and it will, no doubt, receive the careful consideration of the Board.

INSOLVENCY LEGISLATION.

The Insolvent Law engaged a considerable share of the attention of your Executive Council; and it was only after a very large amount of correspondence, and repeated visits to Ottawa, that it was ultimately extended to the close of the now next ensuing session of the Dominion Parliament. A circular was issued to the various Boards of Trade, in which their attention was called to this subject,—requesting suggestions on such points in the present law as they thought required alteration. Very few replies have been received thus far; but it is hoped that the Representatives who attend the Fourth Annual Meeting will be prepared to indicate such improvements as they believe will, from their experience heretofore, tend to lessen the expenses, facilitate the winding up of estates, and make discharges more difficult to be obtained.

From the almost unanimous feeling hitherto manifested in this Board, as well as the very strong sentiments entertained in all the large centres of trade and commerce throughout the Dominion, in favor of a good Insolvent Law, your Council would most earnestly impress upon their successors in office, the necessity for taking active measures to secure the introduction of a Bill immediately on the assembling of the new Parliament, for the continuance of the

present law—with such modifications as they may, in their wisdom, see fit to make.

DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE INCORPORATED.

In accordance with the Resolution adopted at last Annual Meeting, application was made to the Dominion Parliament for an Act of Incorporation. The Bill, as originally presented, did not contain a clause relating to "domicile." The Committee on Banking and Commerce, however, considered such a provision essential, and "Montreal" is understood to have been unanimously inserted by them. The following is a copy of the Act:—

CHAP. 66. AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE DOMINION BOARD OF TRADE.

[Assented to 23rd May, 1873.]

WHEREAS a certain association, consisting of delegates representing certain commercial organizations, to wit, the Montreal Board of Trade, the Montreal Corn Exchange Association, the Quebec Board of Trade, the Toronto Board of Trade, the Ottawa Board of Trade, the Belleville Board of Trade, the Hamilton Board of Trade, the Kingston Board of Trade, the London Board of Trade, and the Saint John, New Brunswick, Chamber of Commerce, met on the sixth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, in the City of Montreal, for the purpose of constituting a Dominion Board of Trade, and then and there adopted a constitution and by-laws, in order to promote the efficiency and extend the usefulness of the various Boards of Trade, Chambers of Commerce, or other chartered bodies, organized throughout the Dominion for commercial purposes, and to secure unity and harmony of action in reference to commercial usages, customs and laws, and for other purposes connected therewith; and it is desirable that the said Dominion Board of Trade should be incorporated and vested with such powers for the purposes aforesaid as may not be inconsistent with any law in force or hereafter to be in force in the said Dominion: Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:—

1. The several organizations hereinbefore mentioned, and such other commercial organizations, as may, since the said sixth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and seventy, have become united with the said Dominion Board of Trade, or any such other commercial organizations in the Dominion, as may hereafter be constituted by any Act of Parliament, or under the provisions of this Act, are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of "The Dominion Board of Trade," and may by that name sue and be sued, implead and be impleaded, answer and be answered, defend and be defended, in all courts of law and equity, within the said Dominion and other places; and by that name they and their successors shall have perpetual succession, and may have a common seal, and may break, alter or renew the same at pleasure, and the legal domicile of the said corporation shall be at the City of Montreal.

Dominion Board
of Trade incor-
porated.

2. It shall be lawful for the said corporation, or a majority of them present at any general meeting, consisting of not less than fifteen members, to alter or amend its constitution, and to make and enact such by-laws, rules and regulations, for the government of the said corporation, its Council, officers and affairs, and the promotion of the objects contemplated by its constitution, and from time to time to repeal, alter or amend the said constitution and by-laws as such majority shall deem meet: Provided that no such by-law or provision in the said constitution shall be contrary to or inconsistent with the laws in force in the said Dominion; and such constitution and by-laws shall be binding on all members of the said corporation, its officers and servants, and all other persons whomsoever lawfully under its control.

3. Within six months from the passing of this Act the Secretary of the Dominion Board of Trade shall record and attest by his signature in a register to be kept for that purpose, the existing constitution and by-laws of the said Dominion Board of Trade, and shall subsequently record and attest any by-laws or resolutions or change in the constitution to be made hereafter; and a certified copy thereof, or any amendment, alteration, repeal or addition thereto, so entered in the said register as herein provided, certified to be a true copy of such constitution, by-laws or resolutions, as recorded in the said register, under the hand of the said Secretary and the seal of the said Corporation, shall be *prima facie* evidence of the contents thereof, in all courts of law and equity in the said Dominion.

Your Secretary has duly complied with the requirements of Section 3 of the Act, and a Seal has been provided for use in such official documents as may require it,—the device consisting of the Dominion Arms enclosed in a wreath bearing the dates of establishment and incorporation of the Board.

PROPOSED GENERAL LAW FOR ORGANIZING BOARDS OF TRADE.

A Bill to make provision for organizing Boards of Trade throughout the Dominion was also introduced into Parliament during the Spring session. Either from imperfection of the draft, or from misconception of the object sought to be attained, the proposed Act did not seem to be fairly appreciated by members of the Committee to which it was referred; the result was its not being favorably reported upon. The object of the measure,—as your Council understand it, and as they believe it was understood by the Board,—is simply to save the trouble and expense of procuring special Acts of Incorporation, at least to those towns in which the number of members in a purely commercial organization would be comparatively few. It is, therefore, recommended that the Bill be referred to a Special Committee of the Board for

consideration and revision, with a view to its being again introduced in Parliament.

RECIPROCAL TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

The Memorial on this subject, presented to the Governor-General in Council, is as follows:—

*To His Excellency, Earl Dufferin, Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, in Council.
The Memorial of the Dominion Board of Trade,*

Most Respectfully Sheweth :

That under the operation of the Reciprocity Treaty, which was entered into in 1854 by the Governments of Great Britain and the United States, for the purpose of furthering and enlarging trade relations between the United States and the Provinces of British North America, the commerce and general prosperity of Canada were greatly promoted and increased,—said Treaty being also of great value to the commercial interests of the United States :

That at the instance of the Government of the United States, formal notice was given in the year 1865, for the abrogation of said Reciprocity Treaty, which was thereupon abrogated in the year 1866 ;—that notwithstanding the abrogation of said Treaty, the trade of Canada with the United States has continued to increase ;—and that it is confidently believed that, if a new Reciprocity Treaty, on an enlarged, liberal, and equitable basis were negotiated on behalf of the Dominion of Canada with the United States, there would be a still further and very much larger augmentation of the volume of trade between the two countries ; and that with this view, the business men and commercial organizations of both countries have been, and are, giving the question of reciprocal trade relations their most earnest consideration :

That at the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the United States National Board of Trade, held in the city of New York in October, 1872, a resolution was adopted with great unanimity as follows :—

Resolved: "That the Executive Council be instructed to memorialize Congress to make an appropriation for the appointment of a Commission to act in conjunction with the State Department, in negotiating a treaty with Great Britain for reciprocal trade with the Dominion of Canada, on a broad, comprehensive and liberal basis, which shall also include the enlargement of the Canadian Canals by the Government of Canada, and the right of American vessels to navigate the said canals under the same conditions as are imposed upon Canadian vessels."

That at the Third Annual General Meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade, held in the city of Ottawa, in January of the present year, a resolution was unanimously adopted as follows :—

Resolved: "That the Executive Council be instructed to memorialize the Government of the Dominion, in favor of the appointment of a Commission to act with that of the United States, should one be named, or to take such other means, as shall best respond to any action on their part, to carry out a Treaty of Reciprocity in Trade with the United States."

Wherefore, your Memorialists do very respectfully represent to Your Excellency in Council, their most earnest and cordial desire, that you will be pleased to consider the important question, of initiating some system of Reciprocal Trade between the two coun-

tries that will give effect to the views herein set forth; and your Memorialists beg further to express the hope that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to make such representations to the Imperial Government, as will procure the appointment of a Commission to meet and confer with a similar Commission on the part of the Government of the United States, (if such Commission has been, or shall be appointed,) for the purpose of framing and negotiating such a Treaty of Reciprocal Trade, as will be for the mutual advantage and benefit of the trade and commerce of the Dominion of Canada and of the United States.

Signed in name, and on behalf
of The Dominion Board of Trade,
Montreal, 18th February, 1873. }

(Signed,)

HENRY FRY,
President.

(Signed,)

WM. J. PATTERSON,
Secretary.

Copy of a Report of a Committee of the Honorable the Privy Council, approved by His Excellency the Governor General in Council on the 27th March, 1873.

On the Memorial of the Dominion Board of Trade, dated 18th February, 1873, on the subject of a Treaty of Reciprocity in Trade with the United States,—

The Hon. the Minister of Customs, in a Report dated 10th March, 1873, states that it appears by the said Memorial that the business men and commercial organizations, both of the United States and Canada, have been and are giving the question of reciprocal trade relations between both countries their most earnest consideration.

That the United States National Board of Trade Annual General Meeting, held in the city of New York, in October, 1872, unanimously resolved that the Executive Council of that Board be instructed to memorialize Congress to make an appropriation for the appointment of a Commission, to act in conjunction with the State Department in negotiating a treaty with Great Britain for reciprocal trade with the Dominion of Canada, on a broad, comprehensive and liberal basis, which shall also include the enlargement of the Canadian Canals by the Government of Canada, and the right of American vessels to navigate the said canals under the same conditions as are imposed upon Canadian vessels.

That the Dominion Board of Trade, at their Annual General Meeting, held in Ottawa, in January last, adopted unanimously a corresponding resolution in favor of the appointment of a Commission to act with that of the United States, should one be named, or to take such other means as shall best respond to any action on their part to carry out a Treaty of Reciprocity in trade with the United States.

That the Memorialists conclude, by representing their most earnest and cordial desire, that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to consider the important question of initiating some system of reciprocal trade between the two countries that will give effect to the views in their memorial set forth; and that your Excellency in Council will be pleased to make such representations to the Imperial Government as will procure the appointment of a Commission to meet and confer with a similar Commission on the part of the Government of the United States (if such Commission has been, or shall be appointed,) for the purpose of framing and negotiating such a Treaty of Reciprocal Trade as will be for the mutual advantage and benefit of the trade and commerce of the Dominion of Canada and of the United States.

The Minister of Customs states, that while heartily concurring in the views expressed both by the National Board of Trade of the United States, and also the Dominion Board of Trade, he desires to call attention to the fact that both Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Canada have availed themselves of every suitable opportunity, since the abro-

gation of the Reciprocity Treaty, to press upon the Government of the United States the desirability of a renewal of reciprocal trade relations between the latter country and Canada, upon a broad and liberal basis; and submits, for the favorable consideration of your Excellency in Council, that the Dominion Board of Trade should be informed, that, should the Government of the United States comply with the wishes expressed by the National Board of Trade, the subject will receive the fullest consideration of the Government of Canada.

The Committee concur in the Report of the Minister of Customs, and advise that the same be approved; and that the substance of this Minute be communicated to the Dominion Board of Trade.

Certified.

(Signed,)

W. A. HIMSWORTH, C. P. C.

OTTAWA, 31st March, 1873.

SIR,—His Excellency the Governor-General in Council, having had under consideration the memorial from the Dominion Board of Trade, dated 18th February last, on the subject of a Treaty of Reciprocity in Trade with the United States, together with a report from the Hon. the Minister of Customs, calling attention to the fact that both Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Canada have availed themselves of every suitable opportunity since the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty, to press upon the Government of the United States the desirability of a renewal of reciprocal trade relations between the latter country and Canada upon a broad and liberal basis. I have it in command to acquaint you that His Excellency has been pleased to order and direct that the Dominion Board of Trade be informed that, should the Government of the United States comply with the wishes expressed by the National Board of Trade, the subject will receive the fullest consideration of the Government of Canada.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed,)

R. S. M. BOUCHETTE.

WM. J. PATTERSON, Esq.,

Secretary Dominion Board of Trade,

Montreal, Canada.

COMPULSORY DELAYS TO VESSELS NAVIGATING THE UPPER LAKES.

A Memorial was presented to the Governor-General in Council, setting forth the inconvenience and delay arising from an U. S. Customs regulation requiring all Canadian vessels bound for Lake Michigan ports, to call at Duncan City and obtain permit to proceed to destination,—respectfully soliciting that communication be opened with the United States Government to secure a modification of this regulation. The matter was promptly acted upon. A letter from the Department of Marine and Fisheries, was subsequently received by the Secretary of this Board, enclosing a despatch from the Colonial Office in London, covering one from the British Minister at Washington. The latter is as follows:—

WASHINGTON, 19th May, 1873.

"MY LORD,—With reference to your Lordship's despatch, No. 20 of this series, and of the 16th ult., I have the honor to inform you that I have made enquiries with regard to the regulation of the United States Treasury Department, which imposes upon Canadian vessels the obligation to touch at Duncan City before entering lake Michigan for commercial purposes.

"I find that this measure was not adopted during the recent civil war, but that in October, 1866, it was first ordered that all merchant vessels, both those of the United States and Canada, should, before entering Lake Michigan, touch at Mackinaw on the north side of the Straits of that name, and should there exhibit their manifests to the Collector of Customs who was to take a copy of them and countersign the originals. The Collectors at the ports in Lake Michigan, were directed to see that the manifests were so countersigned, and not to admit vessels to entry unless this formality had been observed.

"It was subsequently found that Duncan City would be a more convenient port for the above purpose, and in May, 1867, it was ordered that at this port the formalities which had been previously carried out at Mackinaw should be observed.

"I understand the prevention of smuggling was the principal object of the regulation, and that, as it has proved very effective, it is not likely that the Treasury Department will consent to its being annulled.

"I have, &c.

(Signed.)

EDWARD THORNTON.

"TO EARL GRANVILLE, K. G.

With the greatest deference to official authority, your Council were nevertheless unable to comprehend how calling at an out-of-the-way port like Duncan City could in any wise prevent smuggling,—except by the merest *possibility* on Lake Michigan where Canadian contraband traders (if any such there be) would be least likely to show themselves. Being informed, however, that both United States and Canadian vessels are subjected to inconveniences in the manner referred to, the recent delegation from this Board to Chicago brought the matter to the notice of a Committee of the U. S. National Board, and the result was the adoption of the following preamble and resolution:—

WHEREAS, The representatives of the Dominion Board of Trade have brought to the notice of this Board certain regulations of the U. S. Treasury, requiring all Canadian vessels and American vessels from Canadian ports, entering Lake Michigan, to report at Duncan City, and there procure a clearance for the port of destination, and

WHEREAS, These regulations are felt by vessel owners, and others interested in navigation to be unnecessarily onerous and burdensome to trade, causing serious delay to vessels in the prosecution of their voyages, therefore.

Resolved, That the Executive Council be instructed to lay the subject before the Secretary of the Treasury, and respectfully request him, if not inconsistent with the interests of the public revenue, to allow all vessels to proceed direct to ports of destination on Lake Michigan, without being compelled to report at any intermediate port.

ANNUAL MEETING OF UNITED STATES NATIONAL BOARD OF TRADE
AT CHICAGO.

A very cordial invitation having been received from the Executive Council of the U. S. National Board of Trade, to send a delegation to their Annual Meeting at Chicago, on 21st October, it was accepted; and, by unanimous consent of your Executive Council, the President (Henry Fry, Esq.) was authorized to nominate representatives for the occasion. The appointments were as follows:—

LONDON, ONT.—John Walker, Esq.
HAMILTON, ONT.—A. T. Wood, Esq.
TORONTO, ONT.—W. H. Howland, Esq., C. J. Campbell, Esq.
KINGSTON, ONT.—W. Harty, Esq.
OTTAWA, ONT.—Wm. Pennock, Esq., Hon. Jas. Skead.
MONTREAL, Q.—Hugh McLennan, Esq., Andrew Robertson, Esq., H. Labelle, Esq.,
Thos. White, Jr., Esq., and the Secretary, Mr. Wm. J. Patterson.
QUEBEC, Q.—A. Joseph, Esq., T. H. Grant, Esq.
ST. JOHN, N. B.—R. S. De Veber, Esq., C. H. Fairweather, Esq.
HALIFAX, N. S.—Cathcart Thomson, Esq., John T. Wylde, Esq.

The results of the meeting with the National Board of the United States promise to be more fruitful of good, than any that have arisen out of former conferences. At first the Canadian delegates had to contend with a very general feeling in the United States, which, while not positively inimical to Canada, still was without inclination to meet liberally the wishes of the Dominion, except by some sweeping measure like the proposed Zolverein, which would have put our trade entirely in their power. Your Council, however, have found each year a more kindly feeling existing, and do not think it is claiming too much to say that it is greatly due to the meetings and discussions between the representatives of the two Boards during the past four years. Much has been accomplished during the year recently closed,—for it seems as if the merchants of the United States are now thoroughly aroused to the necessity for, and advantage of, more unrestricted commerce with the Dominion. The following preamble and resolution, passed unanimously at the National Board, will show clearly the feeling of that body on the Reciprocity question:—

WHEREAS, The National Board of Trade has, at every suitable opportunity since its organization, emphatically endorsed the principle of the freest possible commercial intercourse

between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, consistent with the absolute requirements of our revenue system, and

WHEREAS, The experience of the last five years has served to deepen the conviction in the minds of the business men of this country, that important concessions, in the interchange of commodities, might be made by both countries, which would serve to materially increase the trade between them, and relieve it from many vexatious restrictions to which it is now subjected, and

WHEREAS, This Board has reason to believe that the business community and people of Canada are equally desirous of bringing about these results, and that the Dominion Government is prepared to meet our Government in the discussion of the proper basis for a treaty with Great Britain for such reciprocal concessions in trade relations as would be mutually advantageous, and

WHEREAS, The treaty of 1854, between Great Britain and the United States, having been abrogated by a notice from the United States in 1865, it would be courteous and desirable that the first steps towards devising and negotiating a new treaty should be taken by the United States,—therefore,

Resolved, That the Executive Council is hereby instructed to prepare a bill, providing for the appointment of a Commission to act in conjunction with the State Department in negotiating a treaty with Great Britain, for such modifications of the trade regulations between the Dominion of Canada and the United States, as would be mutually advantageous, and tend to facilitate the freest interchange of necessary commodities, and also to secure for American vessels the use of Canadian canals connecting common waters, on the same conditions as Canadian vessels use them; and the Executive Council is instructed to take measures to secure the introduction into Congress of said bill and urge its passage.

It is very gratifying to Canadians to find that their neighbors so frankly and justly acknowledge their responsibility in abrogating the former Treaty, by admitting it to be their duty to initiate the negotiations for a new one. The instructions given to the Executive Council of the National Board, to secure the introduction of a bill in Congress during the present session for the appointment of a Commission, will, there is good reason to hope, be complied with—and your Council feel that this is a practical measure, which will, in all probability, lead to a better understanding of the trade relations between the two countries.

In the same liberal spirit the delegates were met in all matters in which they were interested, more especially when the question of Transportation was discussed, when, owing to the able and sustained argument of Messrs. McLennan and White of Montreal, the Canadian system of Canals and water route to the Ocean were given a prominence in the proceedings of the Board, which will certainly tend to our advantage. Much surprise and gratification were expressed at the extent and nature of the works undertaken by the Dominion Government for improving the internal commu-

nications; and your Council feel satisfied that the prospects of the supporters of the Niagara Ship Canal, and those who advocate the enlargement of the Erie Canal, were not improved by the showing of your Representatives as to the facilities the Canadian route would soon afford to American trade.

One of the questions of which notice had been given, related to the wreck of the propeller "Philadelphia," in Canadian waters, —and respecting which the following preamble and resolutions were adopted :—

Your Committee, to whom was referred subject No. 8, on the official programme, beg leave to report that, on consultation with the delegates from the Dominion Board of Trade, they received assurances that the disaster referred to had promptly been brought under the notice of the proper authorities in Canada, and some steps taken to make that portion of the channel more safe. It would seem, however, that the width of the channel, at the point where the "Philadelphia" was wrecked, is not sufficient for the requirements of trade, as at present carried on; and it is believed that there are, at other points, in the common waters used by both countries, which are under the control of the Dominion of Canada, difficulties and obstructions in the way of navigation, such as were not specially important, till recent changes in the class and size of vessels employed in our lake marine have rendered them dangerous. Your Committee would therefore recommend the following resolutions :—

Resolved, That this Board has learned with pleasure of the prompt action of the Dominion Government, in enquiring into the wreck of the "Philadelphia," and in placing a buoy at the spot where the disaster occurred.

Resolved, That in view of the larger class of vessels now in service on the lakes, and the enlargement of Canadian canals now going on, the necessity for a more thorough supervision of these common waters is apparent; and the Executive Council is hereby instructed to present this subject to the Dominion Board of Trade, in order that the attention of the Dominion Government may be called to it, and obstructions to navigation, if any such be found, may be removed.

The delegates desire to express in the highest terms, their sense of the courtesy and kindness they experienced at the hands of the National Board and the people of Chicago; and, as a large delegation from the National Board is expected to be present at our meeting, your Council trust that they will receive such attention at your hands as will justify a similar expression from them on their return home.

THE INVITATION FROM THE ST. JOHN (N.B.) BOARD OF TRADE.

It will be remembered that at last Annual Meeting an invitation was given by the Representatives from St. John, N.B., for a meeting of this Board at that City, at some convenient time during

the summer of 1873. That invitation was referred to your Council, who gave the matter very careful consideration, and by correspondence and otherwise, endeavored to ascertain whether an adequate number of Representatives could be expected to attend a Special Meeting at St. John. Replies were not satisfactory that a sufficiently numerous meeting would assemble in response to a call of the Council merely, (as provided for in Sect. 2, Art. VI. of the Constitution.) An explanatory communication was, therefore, sent to the St. John (N.B.) Board, indicating that your Council would endeavor to remedy the matter. It is, therefore, suggested that at the close of the sessions of this Fourth Annual Meeting, there shall be an adjournment to the City of St. John,—in this way, with the direct influence of the whole Board, providing definitely for a meeting in the heart (so to speak) of the Maritime Provinces,—leaving special meetings in any emergency to be called under the rule above-referred to.

Since last Annual Meeting, Prince Edward Island has been united to the Dominion;—it is understood that the coming in of Newfoundland is not very far off;—and your Council are of opinion that it is expedient, and would be productive of the happiest results, to hold a meeting at St. John in the summer of 1874. The attendance of considerable numbers from all the Maritime Provinces might be naturally expected; and the occasion would be a most favorable one for increasing and strengthening the commercial bonds that unite the Eastern Provinces of the Dominion with those of the West.

INCREASE OF AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

The influence of the Dominion Board is perhaps best shown by the increase in number of affiliated organizations. In looking over the Secretary's correspondence, your Council observe that several announcements have been received from new local Boards intimating their intention to be represented at the Fourth Annual Meeting,—including delegates from Charlottetown, P.E.I. This steady augmentation of constituent organizations is encouraging; and your Council recommend special efforts for increasing the membership of the local Boards, and for the establishment of new ones.

THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME.

As supplying additional evidence of the importance of the Fourth Annual General Meeting,—upon the business of which you are now entering,—the Executive Council refer to the numerous recommendations and resolutions of which notice is given in the Official Programme. Some of the subjects are of paramount importance to the Dominion, and from intimations received, it appears that the number of “written papers” on various subjects will be more numerous than heretofore. Among these may be mentioned—“Insolvent Act of 1869 and Amendments,” “Harbor Improvements,” “Canadian Pacific Railway,” “Inland Marine Regulations,” “Canadian Tonnage and Mr. Plimsoll’s Bill,” “A Dominion Board of Agriculture,” “Changes in the Customs Tariff,” &c., &c. With reference to general discussions, your Council most respectfully press upon your attention a remark of their predecessors, as follows:—“The time that can be allotted for “discussing each of these important subjects, must necessarily “be restricted; the experience of preceding Annual Meetings, “however, warrants the Executive Council in looking forward to “a conciseness of debate, which will not only economize the valuable time of the Board, but give clearness and force to the “discussions.”

The task of arranging and classifying the various notices which appear on the Official Programme, was necessarily left in the hands of your Secretary, but all that he has presumed to do was to group them for facility of reference. In a few instances, where precisely similar notices were forwarded from different bodies, only one has been inserted,—and in some cases where a notice was not sufficiently explicit, it has been omitted. Your Council suggest that a Committee on Business be appointed, on whose recommendations the discussion of subjects in order, shall depend. With regard to the “Proposed Amendments to Constitution,” your Council beg to state that, *by request*, the notice has been given by the Montreal Board of Trade,—Article X, of the Constitution, providing that any such must be submitted by a constituent body.

ABSENCE OF THE PRESIDENT.

Your Council cannot avoid expressing their deep regret that the President (Henry Fry, Esq., of Quebec,) is unavoidably absent,—having been called to England in November last, by pressing engagements, without the probability of being able to return in time to preside at the opening of this Meeting. In letters addressed to your Vice-President, and to the Secretary, he has requested that his assurances of continued interest in all that involves the success of this Board, be presented to you. Mr. Fry has been identified with the Dominion Board of Trade from the first, taking an active part in all its proceedings,—as evidenced by the able manner in which he advocated and discussed important measures, which have since been enacted by Parliament.

THE TREASURER'S STATEMENT.

In conclusion, your Council have pleasure in informing you that the debt of over \$300, reported at last Annual Meeting, may now be said to be practically extinguished,—and that hereafter, it is believed, there will be no difficulty in providing for necessary outlay during any year, without increasing the *per capita* assessment. Besides paying off the deficit of former years, your Treasurer, (C. H. Gould, Esq.) has met all the necessary expenditure of the year ended 31st December last,—the amount of outstanding liabilities chargeable to current year, and for which he has temporarily provided, amounting to about \$100. His accounts show an income for 1873 of \$1,578, the disbursements balancing.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Executive Council,—

(Signed), W. H. HOWLAND,
Vice-President.

OTTAWA, 23rd February, 1874.