

BOARD OF TRADE

(CONTINUED FROM THIRD PAGE.)

Mr. Dibblee thought the council should compel the companies to paint the poles. The aldermen will deliberate for hours over a \$7.50 account or on some other trifling matter, but will take no action against the companies, simply because they are depending upon them for favors.

After some further discussion, it was decided on motion of Mr. Dibblee, to call the attention of the Local Improvements Association to the matters complained of.

The President's Address.

President Edgecombe, then delivered his annual address, as follows:
To the members of the Fredericton Board of Trade:

Gentlemen,—It is a great pleasure to me to have this opportunity of welcoming you to our annual meeting at the close of a year, which has witnessed such great prosperity throughout the country. Probably the largest growth in the development of Canadian industries and Canadian commerce has been made during 1902 than in any one year in the history of the Dominion. That Fredericton has shared in this general prosperity is evidenced by the fact that no failures in business have taken place in the city during the last year. This is a subject of congratulation for us all, and goes to show that although our commercial interests may not be as large as in other cities, the business of the city is financially sound.

The work done by your council for the last year has not been as great as in some years past and was chiefly confined to correspondence. At the beginning of the year, correspondence had taken place with the Canadian Pacific Railway for improved cars on the Fredericton branch trains. During the year a modern combination first class coach was placed on the trains running between Fredericton and Fredericton Junction, in response to the request of the council, and the present Superintendent Mr. Osborne, of the Atlantic Division has given assurance for further improvement in this service.

On the Gibson branch the trains still leave Gibson in the morning and return in the evening. This tends against the development of local trade on that route, and I have no doubt that the Canadian Pacific Railway which is always ready to meet the requirements of the public, would on proper representation by this board so improve this service that people living along this line could reach this city, transact their business and return home the same day, whereas under the present train arrangement this is not possible.

As intimated at the last annual meeting, the steamboat service between this city and Woodstock is now in the control of a strong company, principally composed of residents of Fredericton. This gives some assurance for the early improvement of the service and the replacing of the present steamer by one of much lighter draft by which it will be possible to continue the service throughout the season.

There is another service on the river which in my opinion could be profitably developed, between Fredericton and Gagetown, by a suitable steamer leaving here each evening for down river and returning each morning. The possibilities of this route are excellent and should not long remain unoccupied.

Our Agricultural Society has arranged to hold a Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition here on September 21st to 26th next autumn. Its success is a matter of great importance to the business interests of the city. The coming exhibition will be upon a larger basis than those of former years, and will require the hearty individual support, not only of the members of this board, but of every citizen, in order that complete satisfaction may attend and success again follow the effort of the society.

The fifth session of the Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the Empire will be held in Montreal on August 17th to 20th next. Upon the invitation of the Montreal Board of Trade, this board has received an invitation from the secretary in London, England, to be represented at the Montreal meeting, which is herewith submitted for your consideration.

The crowning of King Edward VII., after his sudden and severe illness, and the loyal manner with which the event was celebrated in this country and especially in our own city, always so truly loyal, are events in the last year which have broadened our sympathies and more firmly, if that were possible, established among us unbounded confidence in the freedom and liberty of the British Constitution.

When we last met in annual session, the empire was waging a stubborn war in South Africa. Since then peace has been declared, and now a representative of the British Government is being received

with acclamations of welcome through that great new country so lately added to the possessions of our King and Empire.

It is a pleasing duty to note the formation, during the year, of a society for the improvement and beautifying of our city. This Society is composed of energetic, earnest citizens from which good results to all must follow. I hope the Society will long remain an active force for the good of the city.

In conclusion I desire to thank the members of the board, the press of the city and the citizens generally, for the hearty support I have received from all in my effort put forth for our mutual benefit during my term of office.

Respectfully submitted,

FRED B. EDGECOMBE,
President.

Mr. Barry, after a few felicitous remarks, moved that President Edgecombe's eloquent and patriotic address be entered upon the minutes, and that he be tendered the thanks of the board.

John J. Weddall seconded the motion, which was put by the secretary and carried unanimously. President Edgecombe acknowledged the compliment in a few appropriate remarks.

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

President—John Palmer.
Vice-president—J. J. Weddall.
Treasurer—M. Tennant.
Secretary—J. W. McCready.
Council—Jas. S. Neill, F. B. Edgecombe, A. H. F. Randolph, Geo. Y. Dibblee, J. H. Barry, George W. Hodge, J. D. McKay, C. A. Burchill, M. Tennant, J. M. Wiley, C. F. Chestnut, J. D. Phinney.

Auditors—J. M. Wiley, J. H. Barry.
Tourist Committee—C. Fred Chestnut, F. B. Edgecombe, Jas. S. Neill, R. P. Allen and J. W. McCready.

J. J. Weddall, who has filled the office of vice president for the past year, was elected president, but for personal reasons, declined the honor.

Messrs. H. B. Rainsford, W. G. Clark, W. J. Osborne and George S. Stanger were elected members of the board.

SOME GRIEVANCES AIRED.

Mr. Hodge complained of the action of the C. P. R. in increasing the freight rate on green cord wood between Fredericton and points on the Gibson branch below Millville. The old rate he said was 95 cents a cord, but now it was \$2.10, which he considered very excessive. He thought the board should communicate with Freight Agent Sutherland and endeavor to have a reduction made.

Mr. Dibblee said there was another matter that the meeting or the council of the board of trade should take up, and that was the recent increase in fire insurance rates. Gentlemen, said he with considerable warmth, we hear much about the great steel trust, and the sugar trust, but we have an insurance combine in Canada that is more grinding than either. He went on to say that the rate on his residence had been increased 15 per cent. since the beginning of the year, notwithstanding the improvements made to the fire department. He had formerly paid \$1.25 per hundred on a three years' policy and was now compelled to pay \$1.40. He did not blame the agents for this but the combine, which says the rates must be so and so. The insurance companies assisted the salvage corps in St. John, but the Fredericton salvage corps did not receive one dollar from them. Another thing the council ought to take up was the lighting of this city. He ventured to say that no town in New Brunswick had as poor an electric light system as Fredericton, and the gas was also bad.

On motion of Mr. Chestnut the secretary was instructed to write Mr. Sutherland for particulars in regard to the change in the freight rates on wood, so that the council might have something to work upon.

Mr. Palmer stated that in his dealings with Supt. Osborne and Mr. Sutherland, he had always found them very fair and anxious to do what was right.

Mr. Dibblee's insurance grievance was discussed by Messrs. McCready, Palmer, Barry, McKay and others, and the consensus of opinion seemed to be that there was not sufficient information, on which the board could take action. Several members expressed the opinion that Mr. Dibblee's original rate was exceedingly low, and as they personally had not been advised of any increase in rates, they were inclined to the opinion that Mr. Dibblee's case was an exceptional one.

Mr. Barry thought it strange in view of the splendid water system and the improvements to the fire department, lately inaugurated, that the insurance companies should be increasing rates instead of decreasing them. He believed it might be a good plan to invite a non-tariff company to establish an agency here.

Mr. Dibblee wanted to know if combines were legal in Canada, but the information he sought was not forthcoming.

Mr. Edgecombe said the insurance companies had promised a rebate when the water works were installed, but had

never given it. There had been no serious fire in Fredericton in twenty years.

Mr. Tennant stated that he had lately remarked to an insurance man that Fredericton had very few fires, and his reply was that he was glad of it, for the companies had to make their money somewhere.

Mr. Phinney thought the business men of the city should pledge their support to some good non-tariff company, as a means of bringing it to Fredericton. He reminded the meeting that Woodstock had a local company that was doing good work.

Mr. McCready said that Fredericton being put down as a wooden city, the insurance rates were higher here than in Montreal or Boston.

After some further discussion it was decided to leave the matter in the hands of the council.

At five o'clock the meeting adjourned.

PERSONAL INTELLIGENCE.

Movements of People in Whom Our Readers are Interested.

C W Hall is at St. John on a business trip.

H H Gunter of Boiestown, is a guest at the Barker.

CL Drury of St. John, is today a guest at the Queen.

Mr and Mrs Wilson Crosby of Banger, are at the Barker.

John R Dunn, barrister of Gagetown, is staying at Long's hotel.

A W Ebbett, judge of probates of Gagetown, is a guest at the Barker.

Fred Davina, court stenographer of St. John, is among the guests at the Queen.

RS Barker left for Dorchester by this morning's train on business for the crown land department.

H B Hall, of Gagetown, secretary treasurer of the municipality of Queen's, is among the guests at Long's hotel.

Walter S Fisher, who has been on an extended trip to Boston and other New England cities, returned home on the late train last evening.

Frederick Mc L Fenwick son of George W Fenwick a former high school teacher in this city, was recently married at San Francisco to Miss Agnes K Duff of that city.

W O Raymond of St John who graduated last June from the University of N B, led his class at the Diocesan Theological college, Montreal, in the Christmas exams.

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