

THE BOARD OF TRADE.

The President's Address at the Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the Collingwood Board of Trade was held in the Town hall, Collingwood, on Tuesday evening, 20th inst. There was a large attendance of members, and the report made by the secretary and treasurer showed the institution to be in a prosperous condition. After routine business had been disposed of, the president for the past year, Mr. J. J. Long, delivered his annual address, which was as follows:

Gentlemen,—According to the usual custom, I will endeavor to review as briefly as possible the work of, and certain matters coming within the scope of, this board during the past year.

FISHERIES.

At the commencement of last year the destruction of the fishing industry of the lakes, and especially of the Georgian bay, was threatened by the action of the Fisheries Department, in limiting the quantity of net to be used by each boat, and the size of mesh thereof, to such a degree as to render it impossible for any fisherman to earn a living after paying for his outfit. But owing in a great measure to the prompt and energetic action of this board, aided by other Boards of Trade, municipalities and the Inland Fishermen's Association, the destructive order was withdrawn and the fishing industry, the importance of which can scarcely be overestimated, has been preserved, and is likely to continue as one of the most useful industries of the country.

In this industry there is invested about \$100,000, in boats, steam tugs, nets and plants. The annual catch of fish amounts to about \$125,000, and the number of men employed is about 250, all ablebodied, who are ready and willing, should occasion require it, to assist in defending the country. It is therefore most desirable that this business should be fostered and the men engaged therein encouraged.

HARBOR.

The condition of our harbor has been a matter of great anxiety to this board for several years, and especially during the past seasons, when valuable business offered to come to our port, but was prevented because there was not sufficient depth of water in the harbor to accommodate the vessels desiring to come here. While this is a great loss to this town, it may also be a serious loss to the Grand Trunk Railway Company, which should naturally look to this town, from its geographical position and being the pioneer port of the upper lakes, as one of its principal feeders with the products of the great North-west, as in all likelihood much of the products which could not come into our harbor found their way to the seaboard via Buffalo and American lines of transportation, thus losing entirely to Canadian channels the commerce thus diverted. The Mayor for 1893 and myself urged upon several members of the Government early in the year our great need for the immediate improvement of the harbor, and, although the Government has caused some useful work to be done, the scheme of giving us 20 feet of water in the harbor, which we urgently require and which we were led to expect we would have when the town undertook to pay a considerable portion of the cost thereof, is not being vigorously gone on with, and it is to the prosecution of that scheme I would suggest the best energies of this board and the Town Council should be directed during this year.

SHIPPING.

The fact that Collingwood is yearly becoming a greater wholesale distributing point is well attested by the additions that are being made from year to year by the steamboat lines making this port their headquarters. Seventeen years ago there was only one small freight and passenger steamer belonging to the port; now there are nine commodious freight and passenger steamers, some of them equal, in all respects necessary to safety and comforts, to any Canadian fresh water steamers.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS.

The value of our imports for 1893, as entered in Customs Department here, was \$109,084. The amount is, of course only for foreign goods imported direct and entered at this port, and does not include the value of foreign goods entered at other ports in Canada and handled here, but all these only represent a small percentage in value of the volume of business done, as the chief part of the goods handled in recent years are of Canadian production, and are therefore not included in the customs returns.

The value of exports from the Collingwood consular district for the year 1892 was \$1,317,310. The amount compared with our foreign imports, shows the trade of Collingwood to be in a healthy condition.

FINANCE.

While almost every country in the world has suffered more or less from financial stringency, and some very severely from financial panics, Canada almost alone, has been singularly free from any feeling of distrust, and our present banking institutions have

been always able and willing to afford all necessary facilities for carrying on the legitimate business of the country. Nothing can more clearly indicate the soundness and stability of the business of a country than its finances, and those of Canada have shown that we are not trading beyond our capital, notwithstanding the steady increase in the business of the country, as shown by the imports and exports.

AGRICULTURE.

The past year has been a fairly prosperous one in this part of the country with farmers, all their products, excepting wheat alone, having brought good average paying prices. The time has arrived when perhaps boards of trade can give useful hints to farmers in their vicinity as to what they may produce with a good prospect of profit. I, therefore, venture to suggest to our farmers to go more into the growing of fruit, as our climate and soil are most suitable for it. The production of good apples cannot be overdone, and the apples from this vicinity were the best at the World's Fair. I would also suggest more extensive stock and hog raising, and leaving the production of wheat in large quantities to our prairie friends. Land thus employed along the base and slope of the mountain, should be worth at least \$100 per acre.

AUSTRALIAN TRADE.

At present there are good indications that the intercourse between Canada and Australia will be of the most friendly nature, and that, therefore, with a direct line of steamers between the two countries, as we have now, a large and mutually profitable reciprocal business is almost certain to follow. Already certain manufacturers of this country have opened up business with Australia with good results and excellent prospects.

WORLD'S FAIR.

Every visitor to the World's Fair would be filled with amazement when beholding the White City, and admiration for the minds who designed such a complete, comprehensive and magnificent accommodation for the exhibits and visitors of the world. But in passing through the various departments, the Canadian exhibits, almost throughout, showed greater improvement since the Centennial in 1876, and especially so in manufactures, fruit, cheese and cattle, than any other country in the world. So marked was this that every Canadian could feel a just sense of pride in the advancement of his country. Even in railway exhibits, the general opinion was that for practical purposes, the Canadian Pacific train was the best.

MINING.

The various Legislatures of the Dominion should earnestly and promptly consider the best means of developing our vast mineral resources, and after such inducements as would enlist capital in that great industry, and then the population of the country would increase rapidly without much effort or expense on the part of emigration agencies.

COLLINGWOOD AND TORONTO AIR LINE

RAILWAY.

Mr. Frank Moberly has been devoting considerable time to the promotion of this scheme during the past year. By it, he claims that the distance to Toronto will be only 70 miles which, including stoppages, can easily be run in two hours, that grain can be carried over it, including elevating charges, at about one cent per bushel. Should he succeed in bringing the line into existence it will be a great boon both to Toronto and Collingwood, and of general benefit to the entire country.

RIVER ROAD.

An effort was made last summer to get the Town Council and the Council of Nottawasaga to construct a road from the Second line of Nottawasaga to connect with the River road a little south of the bay, with the view of accommodating the trade desiring to come to our market from Flos and Sennidale. The Town Council caused

a survey of the proposed road to be made, and has ascertained the estimated cost of constructing it, which, I understand, is only a trifling amount as compared with the business to be derived thereby. I would therefore recommend bringing this to the notice of the Town Council again, also to the notice of the Councils of Nottawasaga, Sunnidale and Flos.

FLOUR MILL.

Endeavors have been made during the past year to induce someone to erect and operate a flour mill in this town, which so far have not been successful, but there is now a good practical miller in-view, who would unite his capital and skill with local capital in a milling business here.

THE DRY DOCK.

The work being carried on by the dry dock company is of incalculable benefit to the town. All this winter a large number of men have been employed in rebuilding, repairing and lengthening steam vessels, and now they are building a large steam tug, which, when completed early in May, will be one of the best in Canada. To the high class of work done by this company ever since it commenced may be attributed its present activity. At the present time there are six steam vessels in the dry dock, two of which are 331 feet in length. These, together with the new large tug being built in the company's shipyard, give the dry dock and its surroundings a very busy appearance.

COLLINGWOOD MEAT COMPANY.

This company now coming into existence with the newest and most approved plant, with an authorized capital of \$200,000. cannot fail to be of great benefit to this town, the farmers of the surrounding country, and the farmers of Manitoulin island. The intention of this company is to deal largely in fresh and corned beef, and cured pork in all kinds of cuts, also in canned meats, and to distribute their production throughout the Dominion. They will therefore require live animals in large numbers, and employ extensively. I trust this company will be successful even beyond its expectations, so that other companies may be formed to carry on other lines of business calculated to afford employment of labor, for the success of which Collingwood affords equal advantages.

COLLINGWOOD POST OFFICE.

The number of letters, etc. mailed at Collingwood post-office from June 30, 1892; to June 30, 1893, was 245,500. The revenue on the same was \$6,779. This does not include the number of letters posted on trains and steamers, which would be at least 20,000 more, nor does it include newspapers from publishers. In 1890 the revenue at Collingwood post-office was \$5,822; in 1891, \$6,168. in 1892, \$6,408.

It will thus be seen that the revenue is steadily increasing. There has been an increase of 35 per cent during the past 10 years.