

345. Mitchell Board of Trade.—“During the past year a financial depression passed over many foreign countries, and the United States and Ontario suffered through the price of wheat and other grain being so low, yet Mitchell and vicinity have not suffered to a great extent, and with carefulness and watchfulness during this year, the depression may pass away and we will once more enter into a bright future.” February, 1894.

346. Three Rivers Board of Trade.—“The aggregate volume of direct trade in 1893 slightly exceeds the average of the past few years. Traffic in general remained the same. But in going into details a material change in the direction of some of our exports is noticeable. Our principal staple, lumber, for instance, although maintaining the importance of former years, has varied a good deal. The expectation at the beginning of the year as to the further development of the trade with the United States has not been realized, the commercial crisis which took place last summer has reduced the shipment of sawn lumber in that direction to exactly one-half, viz., 20,000,000 feet, as against over 40,000,000 in 1892. On the other hand, shipments to Great Britain show a large increase as to quantity.” * * * “In spite of the general depression in the United States the shipment of pulp wood increased fully 50 per cent. The export of wood pulp, in the same direction also increased some 20 per cent, and for the first time in many years several thousand tons of pulp have been sent to Great Britain. The exports of hay continue to show a lamentable decrease in direct shipments to the United States, but shipments via Montreal for both the United States and European markets reached over 20,000 tons, to which we may add the two cargoes directly sent to Great Britain, from our port, but the bulk of our production is now consumed on the farms on account of the large increase in the number of cattle held for dairy purposes. Cheese manufactories are now established in nearly every parish of the country, north as well as south of Three Rivers, and turn out yearly an enormous quantity of a really superior article.” * * * “Our local industries for home consumption, as well as for export, continued, with few exceptions, to do fairly well during the year of 1893.” February, 1894.

347. Woodstock (Ont.) Board of Trade.—“Among our business men, as throughout the country, there have been heard recently some complaints of dull times, which were increased before the holidays by rather unfavourable weather, at a time when it was most liable to affect town trade. But, while there have been