

the same difficulties to find an outlet for their goods beyond a limited distance from this city.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS.

On the 18th of January Messrs. Mackintosh and Cushing presented to the Chamber a very valuable collection of mineral specimens, for which a vote of thanks properly engrossed was tendered to them.

It is to be regretted that the fourth annual report of the work of the Chamber of Commerce, of which two thousand copies were to have been issued by direction of the board, was not published, and I respectfully recommend that the fourth and fifth annual reports be published jointly.

Mr. Simon then refers to the accommodation of the Pioneer library, and the libels printed in the *Illustrated American*, and then says:

#### STOCK YARDS AND PACKING HOUSES.

A project was early in February inaugurated for the purpose of organizing a stock yard and packing house in the vicinity of this city. A company was organized in the course of time, and only those who acted as directors of the organization are able to tell the difficulties which had to be overcome in bringing this enterprise to a successful issue. It took almost a year to successfully carry out the work, and due credit should be given to the secretary of the company, Mr. A. E. de Ricqles, who, after a number of trips to the East, succeeded in raising the necessary means for carrying out the projected work of the company.

#### VARIOUS INTERESTS LOOKED AFTER.

The president then recounts the efforts on the part of the chamber to abolish the merchant's license; to make the Territorial school land yield some revenue; to erect a new smelter, and to protect ore-producers against the advance of freight rates on ores from Park City to Denver.

On the 12th of March a meeting was called for the purpose of assisting in the organization of a pickle and canning factory, resulting in the forming of a company with \$12,000 capital, which has today a plant in full running order, supplying the city with canned and pickled goods of a superior quality.

A communication was addressed to Mr. Duval, general manager Pacific Insurance Union, for the purpose of readjusting the prevailing rates in this city. In compliance with this request prompt action was taken, and the proper adjustments were speedily made.

The report elaborates upon the removal of the chamber into the new building; the visit of President Harrison; the endorsement of the Torrey bankruptcy bill; the meeting of the irrigation congress, and shows what Denver is doing to right any wrongs caused by the railroad discrimination.

#### EXORBITANT TAXES.

A committee was appointed to request the city council to make a reduction in the tax assessed, and while a reduction of twenty per cent. was secured upon realty, the tax upon personal property, which had been assessed to the highest valuation, was allowed to remain at the figures assessed. This is another grievance for which the merchants and business men must

obtain redress. As the matter stands now, they certainly pay the tax upon realty through their rents, they pay a second tax by being compelled to take out a license as merchants, and they pay a third tax upon their stock of merchandise, not saying anything about other taxes levied upon them from day to day by the public through contributions and otherwise.

I recommend that a special committee be appointed by the succeeding administration to take this matter in hand. The work of this committee should not cease until the proper readjustments have been made.

#### OTHER MATTERS.

The report then treats exhaustively upon the part taken by the chamber in matters of the new city charter, the proposed Deep Creek road, our representation at the Trans-Missouri Congress, the meeting of manufacturers transportation, the increase in the number of judges, the World's Fair appropriation, reduced letter postage, the gift of a painting; all of which subjects are mentioned in condensed form in the secretary's report following.

#### STATISTICAL.

The postoffice department of this city, under the efficient management of Mr. I. A. Benton, has become one of the most valuable agencies in carrying on the business of this community. At the request of the chamber a report showing the comparative receipts of the postoffice for 1890 and 1891 has been submitted, and I take great pleasure in annexing the same to my report. (marked exhibit A.)

The Demurrage association is also rendering much valuable aid to our business men by publishing a weekly report, giving the number of cars of coal, ore and merchandise received at and shipped from this city.

I herewith annex the annual report of the association (marked exhibit B), as it will undoubtedly prove valuable to our merchants and shippers.

#### DEATHS OF MEMBERS.

During the year passed this city has lost by death a number of prominent citizens who contributed very materially to the building up of this city.

In the death of John Cunningham, the Chamber lost one of its charter members and the city a progressive merchant and citizen. In the death of General P. Edward Connor a land mark has passed away, which was for many years a guiding star to those who endeavored to bring this city and territory into full accord with the balance of the country. The death of Bishop John Sharp, one of the first settlers of this country, who ranked high as a railway builder and financier in this community, will also leave a vacuum most difficult to fill. Appropriate resolutions commemorating the loss of these estimable men were passed by the board of directors of the chamber, and engrossed copies thereof forwarded to the members of their bereaved families.

#### THE WORK OF THE YEAR.

While considerable has been accomplished, much remains to be done. The discovery of natural gas in the vicinity of our city opens out a field for deep thought and energetic action of unlimited scope. The Deep Creek road,

the work of the transportation bureau, the building of a union depot and of a government building, are all matters which should engage the attention of the next administration.

The Chamber should be put financially in an easy and independent position, so that it can carry on its work without being harassed and compelled from time to time to raise the necessary means for its existence.

No institution can achieve more good than our organization. Being composed of all classes, it wields its power in all directions, and if you will continue to keep this organization pure from political influences you will wield a strength inestimable in its results.

#### COURTEOUS ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

For those who have been associated with me in my work I have naught but words of thanks and gratitude. To our secretary, to the members of our board, to the representatives of the press I tender my heartfelt thanks for much important aid and many valuable services rendered. To the first vice-president, Colonel J. W. Donnellan, I am most deeply obligated for counsel, aid and ardent labors performed by him. But for him, the duties imposed upon me would often have proven burdensome.

As it is, I have endeavored to serve you to the best of my ability. Being, as it were, the founder of this organization, by suggesting upon my return from the east five years ago to Governor West the necessity of establishing such an institution, I have seen it grow from year to year in numbers and in influence. You in return have rewarded me by electing me a year ago unanimously to this position. If during this time errors have been committed, I wish to say that they were errors of the head and not of the heart. During a life of twenty-one years in this community many various duties appertaining to the public welfare have been assigned to me, but no work has given me more pleasure than when it connected itself with the Chamber of Commerce. Beginning in the ranks as a member of this organization, I have served you to the best of my ability for five years, and if I now beg to be permitted to retire, that I may attend to my own affairs, I feel that I am not asking too much from you.

The Chamber of Commerce rests now upon a solid foundation. I shall watch its work from time to time, and should I see dangerous breakers ahead of you, by which the work of your organization might be impeded or frustrated, I shall be heard without awaiting the call. "No politics and no religion in the Chamber" must continue to be the watchword of the organization, and as long as you will work upon this basis you will wield a power and accomplish incalculably good results and by your work make this city the great commercial and industrial centre of the grand inter-mountain region, for which a kind Providence intended it, by virtue of its geographical location, and natural advantages tributary to it.

FRED SIMON,

President Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce.

A carefully compiled statement accompanying the report shows that there were 31,486 carloads of commodities received in this city during the year 1891.