

CUSTOMS OFFICER

AT PORT OF NEW YORK

Action Promised by Sir George Foster in Reply to Board of Trade's Request.

Sir George E. Foster, Dominion minister of trade and commerce, has written to the Vancouver Board of Trade informing that body that its request for the appointment of a Canadian customs officer at the port of New York will receive attention from his department and the appointment will either be made or reasons given why it should not be made. Secretary W. A. Blair read the communication at Thursday afternoon's meeting of the Board of Trade council.

This question has been taken up by all the adjacent boards of trade and other commercial and semi-public bodies and endorsed practically by the whole province. It has been pointed out that in justice to the west the means which this appointment would provide for the west to avail itself of the cheaper water transportation from the east via the Panama Canal should be made available as soon as possible. Merchants, retailers, and eventually the consumer, would be benefited. As pointed out by Mr. E. J. Leveson, who has been one of the most strenuous workers for this appointment, the development of the port of Vancouver depends largely on the presence of a Canadian customs officer at New York to pass goods in bond consigned to the west.

A letter was read from Mr. R. F. Tolmie, deputy minister of mines, stating that the board's request for a special report on the iron ore resources of British Columbia would be laid before Hon. Lorne A. Campbell, minister of mines, on his return to Victoria.

A lengthy communication was read from Mr. A. G. Harvey dealing with the collection of delinquent taxes, a subject dealt with by Mr. Harvey at a previous meeting of the full board. This matter was referred to the civic committee. A communication was also read from the Princeton, B. C. Board of Trade, asking the endorsement of the local board of a suggestion to make use of interned aliens for completing the transprovincial road from Princeton to Hope. The letter has been sent to all boards of trade in the province and also to the government. The council passed a resolution endorsing the suggestion. A letter was also received from Hon. Sir T. White, minister of finance for Canada, replying to the board's representations regarding additional war taxes, announced in the minister's budget speech recently. The letter pointed out the difficulties which would be encountered should the government decide to follow out the suggestions made by the local board. A letter was also read from Mr. H. H. Stevens, M. P. for Vancouver, replying to a request by the board recently for the appointment of a Russian consul at Vancouver. This appointment has already been made.

Owing to Tuesday night's meeting being the annual meeting, at which the election of officers will probably take up most of the time, several matters were left to be dealt with by the council to be appointed.