

## A VERY LIVELY MEETING.

THE Dominion Commercial Travellers have had their meeting in Montreal, and, as every one expected, it was of the lively order. The commotion all arose out of the contest for the presidency and the manner in which it had been carried on. In fact it looked at one time as if active hostilities would ensue over some remarks made by Mr. D. Watson, one of the newly elected directors. The discussion waxed very hot at one time, indeed, but the counsel of the wiser heads eventually prevailed, and the resolution which threatened to make matters unpleasant was tabled; the fervent wish of all being, as the new President remarked, that the hatchet would be buried so deep that no one could find the time to dig it up again. The interest taken in the meeting was plainly demonstrated by the crowded attendance at the rooms of the Natural History Museum, where it was held. According to Secretary Wadsworth, and he ought to know, it was the largest gathering of the boys he ever had to record. It was about 8 o'clock when the meeting got down to business, for considerable hand-shaking had to be indulged in as a preliminary. The retiring President, Mr. F. Hughes, accompanied by an enormous yellow chrysanthemum, which reflected a genial yellow glow over his smiling face and handsome mutton chops, took the chair about a quarter past eight. He carried two more of the fashionable blossoms in his hands, and the boys indulged in some small wagers on the quiet as to what they were intended for. The mystery was solved, when he called up Messrs. Cairns and Wilson, the two gentlemen who were aspiring for his seat, and, amid thunderous applause, decorated each of them. Then the refulgence was dazzling to behold and it took some time for the meeting to get down to regular prosaic work after this little bit of sentiment.

But everything has to have an end, and, after Secretary Wadsworth had read the minutes of the last annual and quarterly meetings, the annual report was read as follows:

Gentlemen,—Herewith your directors beg to present the annual statement for the fiscal year just closed, and again congratulate the Association upon the rapid and substantial progress made during the year. Three hundred and forty-five new members have been admitted, while 247 old members have dropped out, leaving a net gain of 98, and making our present membership 2,849. Your attention is called to the accompanying duly audited financial statement. The total income for the year, it will be observed, amounts to \$29,557.19, and the expenditure \$19,680.80, which with \$248.05 written off, leaves a net gain of \$9,628.34 carried to capital account, which now reaches the sum of \$117,641.16. Sixteen members have been removed by death during the year. While this is about the average number, it will be noticed that the amount paid in death benefits is much above the average. This is accounted for by the fact that many of the deceased were members of long standing and three of the deaths being the result of accident. In the last annual report, mention was made of an important meeting with the railways early in December last, when deputa-

tions from the various Associations with many of our leading merchants, waited upon the railway representatives and pressed for further concessions. Their reply was received early in the year, granting only a very small concession, viz., the extension of the week end ticket. While the more important matter of a two-cent rate and further excess baggage privileges were not granted. An important joint letter from the railways has just been received with reference to the admission of applicants to membership, whereby the "four months" clause is to be more rigidly enforced, and which will necessitate many of our present members in renewing their subscription, to become associate members, who will be entitled to all the privileges of the Association except railway concessions. During the summer an excursion to Portland, under the auspices of the Association, took place, and proved a very enjoyable affair. The commercial travellers of Portland and the citizens generally gave us a public welcome and treated us in the most cordial and hospitable manner possible. A benevolent fund, to provide assistance for members in destitute circumstances has recently been established. This has been a long felt want and has often been discussed, and various ways suggested for raising a fund of this kind, but, owing to opposition to the several schemes presented, the matter was not taken up until recently, when it was resolved to appeal to the members for voluntary subscriptions, and we trust that the circular recently issued respecting this fund will be liberally responded to. The monthly social entertainments held during the past winter were a source of pleasure to those who attended. The Association is indebted to the gentlemen of the committee who arranged these entertainments at their own expense. While the year has not been marked by anything of an unusual character, the Association is to be congratulated upon its gratifying progress, the good feeling which exists among its members, and the important position which the Association has attained in public estimation.

Respectfully submitted,  
FRED. HUGHES,  
H. W. WADSWORTH, President.  
Secretary.

The financial statement showed that the receipts for the year, including a cash balance of \$6,124.87 from 1891, had been \$53,085.31, of which membership certificates represented \$23,784; interest on investments and bank deposits \$5,774.27, and investments realized, \$18,000. The disbursements had been \$38,228.85, leaving a favorable cash balance of \$15,456.46. Of the expenditure, working expenses had swallowed up \$4,216.08; assurance indemnity, \$19,680.80, and investments \$18,500. The assets were put down at \$11,628.69, viz., cash \$15,456.46; investments, \$100,770; accrued interest, \$802.23, and furniture \$600.

The following "In Memoriam," of members who had passed away during the year, closed the report: D. Dobbie, A. G. Hill, Thomas Kearney, Charles Lowe, Daniel Robertson, J. G. McArthur, J. F. Gregoire, Sam. Austin, Wm. Clarke, G. T. Beard, Alf. Labbe, J. E. Doyle, Alfred Lang, J. W. Taylor, E. W. Heffer, G. A. Pontbriand.

In speaking to the report the retiring President called attention to the fact

that the general expenses of the Association were smaller now than in 1890, which was owing to the fact that there was no dinner deficit, the total expenditure being \$600 less. On the other hand they would see by the annual report that they had lost no less than sixteen members, and that the Association had paid out for assurance indemnity \$15,464, which was the largest amount in the history of the Association. The number of deaths, was exceeded by one in 1890, but the amount then paid out for indemnities was \$1,000 less, which went to show how closely the old members were sticking to the Association, and that it would have to closely husband its forces in the future. The number who had dropped out was about the same as usual. In 1890 it was 235; in 1891, 257, and in 1892, 247. The increase in membership was in about the same proportion as in the past. In 1891, 71; and in 1892 a net gain of 98. In the report mention was made of the "four months" clause in connection with applications for membership. This had always been on the application paper, with the exception of one year. The railway companies requested it to be restored, and this was done. Many members travelled less than four months in the year, and the railway companies now wanted it stated about the number of days they travelled, and about the number of pounds of baggage they carried. They also wanted it more clearly defined whether the member was a commission merchant or not. Concluding, Mr. Hughes remarked that he was sure that the members were satisfied that the board of 1892 had done its duty, and it was evident that the members thought so from the applause with which the remark was greeted.

After Mr. White had asked some questions about the educational fund, Mr. S. Woods had something to say. He commenced with the rather ambiguous remark that the annual reports always looked on the bright side of things, but as he proceeded it was found that he was perfectly satisfied with it. The only thing he wanted was separate accommodation at the rooms of the Association for smokers and non-smokers. He noticed they had a constantly increasing reserve fund, and thought some of it could be acceptably disposed of in the matter of securing better accommodation at the home of the Association.

The chairman replied that the retiring board had thought of the matter, but as they would be moving out of their present rooms this spring they had concluded that it would be more appropriate to leave the incoming board to settle the matter.

Mr. George Forbes, while admitting that the report was a good one, thought that the ratio of expenditure to income was not as small as it should be. After some discussion as to the object of the recently established benevolent fund, Mr. W. Percival moved the adoption of the report, which was seconded by Mr. Price, and carried unanimously.

This matter disposed of, everyone settled down with a look of expectancy for the report of the scrutineers as to the incoming board. Mr. T. Paton, the chairman, came forward with his usual impassive smile so well known on the lacrosse field, and announced