

Our total assets have increased from \$54,878.62 to \$65,881.39, which is the amount now available for the payment of losses.

The total insurance in force on 31st December last was \$5,911,254, and the re-insurance liability on these risks is \$32,710.60.

As the dividend paid to the stockholders for 1883 was only six per cent. we declared a dividend of ten per cent. for 1884 so as to keep the average at eight per cent.

The secretary's statements of receipts and disbursements, assets and liabilities, the certified report of your auditors and list of the stockholders of the company with the amount of stock held by each are herewith submitted for your information.

There are no calls on any of the shares in default.

By order of the board,  
ISAAC E. BOWMAN,  
President.

Waterloo, 5th February, 1885.

Receipts.

December 31st, 1884.	
Balance per last statement.....	\$ 37,225 76
Premiums.....	79,032 34
Interest.....	2,658 98
	<b>\$118,917 08</b>

Balance.....\$ 47,360 96

Disbursements.

December 31st, 1884.	
Losses for 1883.....	\$ 2,440 00
Dividend No. 8 for 1883.....	1,200 00
Losses for 1884.....	38,790 85
Re-insurance and cancelled premiums.....	10,410 50
Agents' commissions and bonuses..	11,708 61
Salaries and directors' fees.....	3,689 49
Postage, printing and advertising..	1,217 11
Adjusting losses and inspecting risks.....	874 93
Books and stationery.....	422 42
Rent and taxes.....	136 72
Government charges.....	218 56
Sundry expenses.....	446 93
Balance.....	47,360 96
	<b>\$118,917 08</b>

Assets.

Cash (in transmission from agents) at head office.....	\$ 4,367 90
Cash account Molesons Bank.....	2,850 75
Cash on deposit.....	15,000 00
First mortgages on farms.....	30,725 00
Debentures.....	8,500 00
Office furniture and Goad's plans..	201 05
Bills receivable.....	2,944 36
Agents' balances.....	2,771 90
Interest accrued.....	1,252 43
	<b>\$ 68,613 39</b>
Balance.....	45,881 39
Stock paid up.....	20,000 00
Total assets.....	<b>\$ 65,881 39</b>

Liabilities.

Capital stock paid up.....	\$ 20,000 00
Claims under adjustment.....	732 00
Dividend No. 9, for 1884.....	2,000 00
Balance.....	45,881 39
	<b>\$ 68,613 39</b>

The amount deposited with the Treasurer of Ontario is \$20,100.00.

Audited and found correct.

ISRAEL D. BOWMAN, } Auditors.  
THOMAS HILLIARD }

Waterloo, 20th January, 1885.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the Stockholders of the Mercantile Fire Insurance Company:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to report that we have made a careful examination of your secretary's books of account, including the application register, and have compared the various items of expenditure, with the vouchers therefor, and have likewise examined the securities held and computed their value with accrued interest.

We have much pleasure in reporting that the secretary's balance sheets and statement of Assets and Liabilities herewith submitted are correct, and it is but just to add that the secretary and his assistants keep their books and accounts in a very clear, intelligible, neat and orderly manner, and that throughout the progress of our audit, we have been greatly indebted to them for their uniform courtesy and assistance.

Waterloo, January 20th, 1885.

ISRAEL D. BOWMAN, } Auditors.  
THOS. HILLIARD }

The President, in moving the adoption of the reports, said that on the present occasion it was not necessary for him to make any lengthy remarks, as the reports fully show the progress of the company's business for the past year and its present good financial position.

The losses of the past year were below the average, being only 55 per cent. of the net premiums, and after paying a dividend of 10 per cent. on the paid up capital for the past year to maintain the average annual dividend at 8 per cent. there is on hand over and above the paid up stock an amount at least 65 per cent. greater than would be required to re-insure all our risks.

The large increase in our business during the past year is the best evidence we could have that the sound financial position of the Mercantile and the fair dealings of the directors in the settlement of claims are appreciated by the public.

Though our large cash assets in proportion to the amount at risk are sufficient to secure the prompt payment of losses, those who insure with the Mercantile have a still further substantial security in the strong list of stockholders whose names are appended to the report, representing \$180,000 of uncalled for capital, almost every one of whom is quite able to pay up the full amount of his stock if called for by the board.

Charles Hendry, Esq., seconded the adoption of the reports, which was carried unanimously. Moved by J. Shuh, Esq., seconded by R. Melvin, Esq., and carried, that Messrs. Geo. Moore and Wm. Snider be appointed scrutineers for receiving and reporting the result of the ballot for the election of directors for the current year. The scrutineers reported the following gentlemen duly elected: Messrs. I. E. Bowman, J. B. Snyder, D. S. Bowly, Cyrus Bowers, J. W. Walden, J. B. Hughes, John Shuh and Robert Melvin.

Moved by A. Millar, Esq., seconded by R. W. Sawtell, Esq., and carried, that Messrs. I. D. Bowman and Thomas Hilliard be re-appointed auditors for the current year.

Moved by Dr. Bowly, seconded by C. Hendry, Esq., and carried, that a vote of thanks be tendered to the officers and agents of the company for their efficient services for the past year.

The vote was cordially replied to by Mr. Lockie, inspector, and by Mr. R. W. Sawtell, J. W. Kilgour, and Chas. Packett, agents of the company. In their remarks they expressed themselves gratified with the success of the Mercantile, and in placing it before the public they could with confidence recommend the company, believing that from its position and management every contract would be faithfully and honorably carried out.

Moved by C. Hendry, Esq., seconded by Dr. Webb, and carried, that a vote of thanks be tendered to the president and directors of the company for their valuable services for the past year.

Mr. Melvin very ably replied on behalf of the board, remarking that no doubt the steady progress of the company was a great deal owing to the integrity and business ability of the directors. In the payment of losses their aim had always been to do what was right, and in the selection of officers and agents, honesty, merit and ability were the qualifications insisted upon, and he believed these aims and motives would ultimately secure success in any sphere of life.

The board of directors met at the close of the annual meeting and re-elected I. E. Bowman, president, and J. W. Walden, M.D., Vice-president.

P. H. SIMS, Secretary.  
I. E. BOWMAN, President.

THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO.

The tenth annual general meeting of the Accident Insurance Company of North America was held on the 7th inst at the head-quarters in Montreal. A number of shareholders were present. Sir Alex. T. Galt, the president, occupied the chair, and Mr. Edward Rawlings, the managing-director, acted as secretary. The following report was read:—

REPORT.

The directors have pleasure in reporting to the stockholders the operations of this company for the past year, and to point to a satisfactory progress and gratifying increase in its business: During the year 21,802 policies have been applied for, for sums amounting to .....\$39,677,400 00 Of these 4,094 were declined and cancelled for..... 4,360,650 00 Leaving 20,708 policies issued and renewed..... 35,316,750 00

The gross premiums thereon, (including annual and short term policies and time tickets) being ..... 366,703 98

The net amount of business remaining in force on 31st Dec., 1884, was 16,667 risks, insuring \$28,869,000, the premiums thereon being .....\$ 200,281 19

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The balance of receipts and expenditure account carried forward to next year amounts to \$301,785 26  
The liabilities (exclusive of paid-up capital), including the cost of collecting outstanding premiums ..... 23,028 91

Net surplus in hand as regards policyholders, over and above uncalled capital..... \$278,756 35  
Add—Reserve capital at call... 103,440 00  
Resources for security of policyholders..... 382,196 35

The reserve for unearned premiums on all the policies remaining in force 31st December, 1884..... \$100,140 60

After making this reserve and provision for all other outstandings, allowing for depreciation in value of investments, and paying 6 per cent. dividend on the paid-up capital, the surplus to shareholders amounts to..... \$21,055 75

The losses during the year show a larger proportion to income over previous years, the amount paid being \$147,034.65. Against this the expenses have been very materially reduced. The total number of losses paid and provided for to date is 8,184, amounting to \$316,546.63. All claims have been settled without cost. The company still retains the prestige of not having, since the commencement of its business, contested a claim at law. The following shows the progress of the company from the commencement:—

GR SS PREMIUMS.

1874-5.....	\$21 615 30	1879.....	\$ 24,946.76
1876.....	29,096.13	1880.....	31,249.51
1877.....	30,118.05	1881.....	52,213.54
1878.....	31,791.42	1882.....	150,413.56
1883.....			\$282,585.55
1884.....			366,703.98

The thanks of the shareholders are due to the various local directors and agents for their co-operation in the company's interests during the past year. The following directors retire: John Paton, Col. C. S. Gzowski, A. D. C., and W. J. Buchanan, but are eligible for re-election. The certified balance sheet and auditor's report are on the table for the inspection of the shareholders.

A. T. GALT, president.

EDWARD RAWLINGS, managing director.

Montreal, February 7th, 1885.

The president moved the adoption of the report, seconded by W. J. Buchanan. Carried. The balloting for directors resulted in the election of Mr. John Paton, Col. C. S. Gzowski, A. D. C., and Mr. W. J. Buchanan, general manager of the Bank of Montreal. At a subsequent meeting of the board Sir Alex. T. Galt was elected president, Hon. James Ferrier vice-president, and Mr. Edward Rawlings, managing director.

From complete returns to the American Iron and Steel Association it appears that the total production of pig iron in the United States last year was 4,589,613 tons, against 5,146,973 tons in 1883. The number of furnaces in blast on Jan. 1, 1885, was 236, against 307 at the beginning of the previous year, and 417 on Jan. 1, 1883. The number of furnaces out of blast Jan. 1, 1885, was 433. The production of charcoal pig iron last year was 458,418 tons, against 517,726 tons the previous year; of bituminous coal and coke pig iron, 2,544,742 tons, and of anthracite pig iron, 1,586,453 tons. The stock of pig iron unsold on Jan. 1, 1885, amounted to 593,000 tons, against 533,000 tons on Jan. 1, 1884.