

ONTARIO MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The fourth annual meeting of the Company was held at their offices, City of London, 5th March, 1872. There was a respectable number of members present.

Alderman Samuel McBride, the President, was called to the chair, and James Johnson, the Secretary of the Company, requested to act as Secretary.

The Secretary read the report for the past year, which was unanimously adopted as read.

Fourth Annual Report.

In meeting the members of the Company at this the Fourth Annual Meeting, the Directors feel that they can again congratulate them on the continued progress and success of the Company. In eleven months and ten days, which is the time lapsed since our last Report was made up, 2,258 policies have been issued, with a number of applications in the office at the end of the year for which policies had not then issued. A full statement, with cash account, &c., will be laid before you. The losses, although numerous, are not in the aggregate large, being but \$3,086.75; and it will be observed that the average of our policies are small.

In addition to the above losses, which have all been paid, seven claims for losses were put in prior to the end of the year; the amount in all would be between \$700 and \$800. Five of these have since been paid; doubts existing as to the correctness of the others, they are still open to be dealt with hereafter.

Four claims were put in during the year, amounting to about \$600 in all, which your Directors felt it their duty, in your interest, to refuse payment of. No steps have been taken to recover from the Company in any of the cases. While your Directors have paid all just claims promptly, they have rejected those which were deemed not so. No petty quibble has operated in their refusal to pay.

Six losses have been reported since the end of the year, amounting to about \$1,000 in all, three of which have been paid, the others have but just been sent in, and await the action of the Board.

The capital account which follows will show ample security to policy-holders; and the cash account will show a careful, economical management of the affairs of the Company.

Many of our policies have lapsed from time. Renewals have been taken where it could be done. The cancelling of policies arises from alienation of property, and the adapting and using of buildings for purposes outside the rules of the Company—your Directors ever keeping in mind that the Company insure "Non-hazardous property only," thus making it a safe and cheap Company to insure private dwellings and their contents, and the out-houses and their contents. No mercantile or manufacturing risk or the like are taken by this Company.

Your Directors still think it to the interest of the members to collect the assessments made but once in the term of the three years, and then only after the policy has run half the term. Some members may think the call, when made, high; but thus collecting saves a large sum in postage, printing, &c., which would fall upon the members if collections were made each year; and in many cases the assessment would be so small as to do little more than pay the expenses of collecting. Our total assessments with the first payment on the taking of the risk has never exceeded two-thirds of the amount of the Premium Note, while the rates for which the notes are taken are based upon the rate which a first-class stock company would charge.

During the past year several meetings of "The Mutual Insurance Companies' Convention" of Ontario have been held, at which your Com-

pany has been represented. The object has been to get the several acts relating to these Companies brought under one general law, and making such amendments as experience has taught will be to the interest of all concerned. A bill is now before the Legislature of Ontario with this object.

No of Policies, Averages, &c.—Policies in force at last annual report, 3,497; policies issued up to the 30th December, 1871, 2,258; total, 5,755; less lapsed and cancelled, 790; policies in force 30th December, 1871, 4,965; applications rejected, 59; amount covered by insurance, \$2,206,152; average amount of each policy, \$444; increase of policies in the year, 1,468.

Capital Account.—Amount available on premium notes, \$37,956.75; balance due on assessments, \$3,558.86; due by agents, mostly secured by due bills, \$2,089.54; office furniture, estimated at \$96; Cash in Bank of Commerce, \$2,148.98; cash in Treasurer's hands, \$118.18—\$2,267.16—total, \$45,968.31.

Liabilities.—About \$900.

Cash Account—Receipts.

Balance as per last report (20th Jan '71)	\$923 28
Cash premiums received from agents	\$4,108 04
Less agents' fees and commission	442 50
Cash received on assessments	\$3,665 54
	4,961 65
Total	\$9,550 47

Disbursements.

Losses	\$3,086 75
Re-Insurance	56 81
Postage for assessments and policies	\$107 70
Postage for agents and office	121 78
Travelling exp's inspecting losses, &c.	229 48
Law expenses	154 95
Petty exp's—fuel, cleaning office, &c.	45 26
Office furniture	45 17
Rent	36 10
Taxes	\$60 00
	31 63
Printing, advertising and stationery ..	91 63
Salaries—balance from 1870	664 58
Salaries for 1871	\$629 78
	1,995 80
Directors' Fees	2,625 58
Auditors for 1870	172 00
" account, 1871	\$60 00
	15 00
Cash in Bank of Commerce	75 00
" Treasurer's hands	\$2,148 98
	118 18
	2,267 16
	\$9,550 47

Examined and compared with the books and vouchers, and found correct.

WM. MCBRIDE,

T. R. WESTCOTT,

Auditors

London, Ont., Dec. 30, 1871.

A vote of thanks was then unanimously passed to the Directors and Office-bearers for their zeal and careful management of the affairs of the Company during the year.

The election of Directors for the ensuing year was next taken up. Messrs. George Harris and Wm. McBride were appointed scrutineers, who reported the following gentlemen elected Directors for the present year, viz.: S. McBride, Esq.; S. Peters, Esq.; Hon. John Carling; A. S. Emery, Esq.; John Brown, Esq.; John Peters, Esq.; Major R. J. Evans; Captain W. Starr; and J. McBeth, Esq.

It was then resolved unanimously:—That the Directors be requested to grant the President of the Company \$200 for the past year as a slight acknowledgment of his past services; and

also recommend that the same sum be paid to the President of the Company for the current year.

At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, Samuel McBride, Esq., was unanimously re-elected President; John Brown, Esq., unanimously re-elected Vice-President; and Messrs. Harris & Magee appointed Solicitors.

Correspondence.

SETTLEMENT OF LOSS.

ORILLIA, 23rd May, 1872.

To the Editor of the MONETARY TIMES.

DEAR SIR,—Will you please answer through your next week's paper the following, and oblige:—Supposing a man had his stock—say worth \$15,000—insured for \$10,000, and the premises took fire; if he saved a portion of his stock—say \$5,000—would he be entitled to the full amount of insurance, or in what position would he stand in reference to it, and to whom will the amount saved belong, the insurance company or himself? You will please answer, and oblige,

Yours very truly,

THOS. MULCAHY.

The above is a very simple case. The insured would be entitled to receive the full amount of his loss, \$10,000, and the remaining goods would still continue to be his property.

COLLECTION OF THE PUBLIC REVENUE.

To the Editor of the MONETARY TIMES.

SIR,—I have just read your article under the above caption, and would beg leave to notice especially the following remark:—"At eighteen ports the expenses seem to have exceeded the entire duties collected at these ports; at eight or ten others the collections and expenses were about equal. * * * Looking at these facts as here presented, it is apparent that there is an enormous waste of revenue in the maintenance of custom houses and custom house officials." The MONETARY TIMES, I admit, holds a high place, and deservedly so, among the Dominion journals, and its utterances on matters of trade, commerce, banking and insurance, etc., from their sound sense and practical wisdom commend themselves to the thoughtful reader. But I cannot altogether agree with the article above, that there is such an enormous waste of revenue as supposed. It must not be forgotten that a great deal of the service rendered by these officials is of a *preventive* character—to protect the revenue. It will be admitted that in every country there is a large class who do not practically recognize the obligation to render custom to whom custom is due, and are only prevented from smuggling by fear of detection, and although a customs officer may not collect much revenue, perhaps not more, or in some cases as much, as his salary, yet indirectly he may save thousands of dollars to his country. Thus, for instance, a town on the lake shore may require a quarter of a million dollars worth of goods annually to supply the trade. The merchants find, perhaps, that it is as cheap to buy their goods wholesale at Toronto, Hamilton or Montreal as to import them direct and pay duty, and therefore the customs duty collected at this port is very small. But if there were no customs officer at the port they could buy in a foreign market and bring in their goods free, and thus save 15 per cent., it is easy to see that instead of buying goods from the wholesale merchants who paid duties on the goods sold, they would go to foreign markets, and the duty on all such pur-