

Company that it has passed through the "fiery ordeal" in a great measure unscathed, and this may be attributed almost entirely to the system long since adopted by it. I mean the system which allows the insurance *only of farm or isolated village properties* in the General Branch, and *none* in the Water Works Branches, unless such properties are *within range of hydrants*, where an ample supply of water is constantly afforded by means of efficient water works.

It has been from this cause, and this alone, that we have suffered comparatively little loss from the many disastrous fires which have occurred during the past year in districts which were unprovided with those valuable appliances; and further, it is for this reason, coupled with the fact that no extra hazardous property in any locality is insured by the Company, that insurance can be afforded at the lowest possible rate compatible with safety to the assured. Under these circumstances I should earnestly advise, as the report does, a policy of caution, even though we may not be doing a very extensive business, by accepting all classes of risks (which in my judgment would be entirely unwarrantable). The safety of our position will afford to members a reason for a continuance of their confidence, and when more propitious times do come (as most certainly they will, sooner or later), this Company will be prepared to claim a fair share of public patronage, and then it should be the policy of the Board to amplify the legitimate business and extend its influence. Another matter which I think should be gratifying to members, is the reference in the report to the fact that, notwithstanding the considerable amount paid for loss, the assessments remain sufficiently low to almost prevent successful competition unless the system and policy of this Company be adopted by others, whether proprietary or mutual. Viewing with confident anticipation a speedy return to general prosperity, I cannot but believe that the future of the Company will be both substantial and permanent. I beg to move the adoption of the report.

The President's remarks were received with applause.

Mr. A. T. Wood, M. P., seconded the adoption of the report and congratulated the Directors upon the creditable exhibit presented. He had been connected with the Company from its earliest existence, and attended every annual meeting. He had watched its continued progress with very great satisfaction, and, with the same care on the part of the Directors and officers in the future, that prosperity could not fail to be lasting. Every care had been exercised to prevent the admission of improper members, and when, as sometimes happened, parties had been guilty of the crime of incendiarism, efforts were at once put forth to obtain full details, and, if possible, convict the guilty. The practice of the Company had been prompt payment of all legitimate claims, and this, together with its general management, had secured for the Company the very first place amongst the Mutual Insurance Companies of the country. It gave him great pleasure to second the report so ably moved by the President.

The report was carried without a dissenting voice.

The President then stated that the next business would be the election of scrutineers of votes, and Messrs. Thos. Bensley and Lyman Moore were appointed.

Dr. Billings said he understood all the old Directors were eligible for re-election; he had no objection to any one of them, but would suggest that five names should be dropped out annually and new men chosen, thus introducing new blood into the Directorate, and further increase the popularity of the Company.

Mr. Rymal could not quite agree with the remarks of the previous speaker; he did not see that a man who had performed his duty well in the past should be disqualified for future service; he thought, however, it might be advisable to introduce a couple of new names, and nominated, in addition to the old Board, Mr.

Thaddens Ghent, of Nelson, and John Renton, of Glanford, as representatives of farm interests.

Several other gentlemen were nominated, and the balloting proceeded with.

The following were elected Directors for the ensuing year: George H. Mills, Joseph Rymal, Thaddens Ghent (Nelson), J. M. Williams, A. T. Wood, Chas. M. Counsell, Reginald Kennedy, Dennis Moore, Peter Balfour, John Renton (Glanford), Henry Hall, (Bibbrook,) James Cummings, Wm. Haskins, James H. Mills, John Mitchell.

The following gentlemen were elected Honorary Directors for the ensuing year, viz: Wm. Paterson, Esq., M.P., Brantford; James S. Evans, Esq., Montreal; Alonzo Wright, Esq., M.P., J. T. O. Beaubien, Esq., M.P., Ottawa; Wm. Leslie, Esq., Paslinch; Angus Morrison, Esq., Mayor, Samuel Platt, Esq., M.P., Toronto.

After the adjournment of the General Meeting, the new Board met for the transaction of business, when George H. Mills, Esq., was unanimously elected President, and Joseph Rymal, Esq., Vice-President.

Thomas Bensley, Esq., and J. J. Mason, Esq., were appointed auditors.

THE ACCIDENT INSURANCE CO. OF CANADA.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the stockholders of this Company was held at the Company's Office, 103 St. Francois Xavier street, on the 1st instant. There were present a large number of the leading merchants and capitalists—shareholders in the Company.

The President, Sir Alex. T. Galt, having taken the chair, and the minutes of the last annual meeting being read, the Manager, Mr. Rawlings, read the following:—

Second annual report of the Directors of the Accident Insurance Company of Canada to December 31st, 1876.

For presentation to the annual meeting of shareholders to be held on the 1st February, 1877.

Notwithstanding the excessive depression in all commercial enterprises during the past year, and perhaps more especially that of insurance, wherein competition has been of the keenest kind, and results of a comparatively insignificant extent, when compared to those achieved in former years, previous to 1875, the directors are happy to report to the shareholders, that this Company has progressed steadily and satisfactorily, and the amount of business effected during the past year denotes the confidence and popularity which the Company has enjoyed.

The results of the past year's working are as under:

The total number of policies were 3,953, insuring.....	\$5,118,100 00
And the total premiums received thereon.....	29,006 13
To this add interest on investments.....	2,000 24

Making total revenue for the year. \$31,186 37

A very large proportion of these risks terminated during the year, and some large contracts also expired on the 31st December, whereby the amount of liability remaining current on such insurances were considerably diminished, and consequently a large proportion of the premiums are fully earned.

The directors have, however, thought it prudent to hold an ample amount for unearned premium against the profits of the year, and have, therefore, reserved the sum of \$6,500 for that purpose.

The actual results of the year's transactions as appear by the balance sheets presented to the meeting, show that, after paying all losses and expenses, providing for all liabilities (including unearned premiums) and claims under consideration, the actual net profit of

the year's transactions has been \$4,908.08, which has been appropriated as follows:—\$1,094.26 in reduction of preliminary expenses account; \$2,044.55 in the payment of a dividend of 8 per cent. on the paid-up capital, leaving balance to reserve, over and above capital, of \$1,769.27 carried forward on the year.

It may be remarked that many of the expenses incurred in the past year might, and probably should, come under the head of preliminary expenses, the numerous new agencies that have been opened during the year requiring to be fully equipped and advertised.

The Directors, however, deemed it the wisest policy not to add to that item, and therefore decided to charge all these expenses against the present year in addition to its proportion of the original preliminary expenses, so as to relieve and facilitate as much as possible the operations of the future.

The claims on the company during the year have been rather under the anticipated average, amounting in all to \$4,793.15, of which \$4,043.15 has been paid, and in all cases of justifiable claims the payment has been made promptly and to the entire satisfaction of the insured. There have, however, occurred cases, which form the balance of the above sum, where the Directors, in the interest of the stability and principles of the institution, have found it right and just to defer admitting liability until a proper estimate of the claims has been arrived at.

The Directors believe they have reason to congratulate the Stockholders upon the position the company has arrived at in so short a time, and in the face of not only a period of commercial depression but of a severe competition to which it has been subjected by other companies, who have added accident insurance to their other and more important objects; undertaking risks in some cases at rates which the experience of older companies has shown to be inadequate.

They believe, however, that, ere long, such companies will become convinced that it is of more avail to themselves to devote their attention and confine their operations to the primary and chief objects for which they were constituted, and thus leave a little wider scope in this limited field for the transaction of the business of accident insurance by a company established and solely conducted for that purpose.

It may be mentioned, as showing the competition which exists in Canada, that, whilst in the United States with its 40 millions of population one Accident Company is considered sufficient to transact the business, we in Canada with but four millions are provided with no less than five companies, all striving for that business.

As a purely Accident Company, however, and a Canadian institution, established for that purpose, this Company stands alone, and the successful result of its operations so far, cannot but convince the shareholders that the public have fully recognised and endorsed its claims, upon their preferential co-operation and support.

The thanks of the Directors are due to an I are hereby tendered to the several local boards and agents for their co-operation during the past year.

By the by-laws three Directors retire, but are eligible for re-election.

The gentlemen retiring this year are Messrs. Thos. Cramp, R. J. Reekie and Edward Mackay.

Statements of receipts and disbursements, and assets and liabilities are on the table for the inspection of the stockholders.

A. T. GALT, President.
E. RAWLINGS, Manager.

The President, in moving the adoption of the report, said that the report had so fully dealt with all the points that any thing he could say would simply be to repeat many of those referred to in it. But as the chairman was generally expected to say something in connection with the progress of similar institutions at the annual gathering, he felt that he should not be acting up to a well founded principle did he not do the same. He thought