

1900

# FIFTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY

### OF TORONTO

The Directors beg to submit to the Stockholders their Report for the year ending on 30th September, 1900, together with the Financial Statements for the same period.

The net profit shown has not been as large as that of the preceding year, which is principally owing to the great advance in the price of both coal and oil.

The steady increase in the consumption of gas has rendered it imperative to extend the plant and works correspondingly, and a new stack of sixteen benches of eight retorts each is now in process of construction, which will fill all the remaining space in the retort house, and will be capable of adding 1,280,000 cubic feet of gas to the present daily production.

In addition to these extensions, a new coke house, also storage houses for lime and oxide of iron, and a capacious tank for the storage of oil, have been constructed.

These large additions and improvements have necessitated a considerable expenditure, to meet which the Directors considered it advisable to dispose of \$50,000 of the stock of the Company. The sale of 1,000 shares (\$50,000) by auction, in terms of the Act of 1887, recently took place, and the sum of \$107,737.50 was realized from the same, an evidence of the continued public confidence in the stability of the Company.

The extensions to the office building have been completed, and all the offices are rented.

For years past, the Company has been harassed by frequent attempts to secure legislation inimical to its interests. Early in the year, the Corporation of the City of Toronto introduced a Bill in the Ontario Legislature, providing—amongst other things—for the limitation of the Plant and Buildings Renewal Fund, and representatives from the City Corporation and this Company came together, to endeavor, if possible, to arrive at some reasonable compromise, whereby further friction might be avoided. At this meeting, the Company offered to make a very considerable concession in favor of the City Corporation, and the representatives were favorable to the terms of a compromise offered, when, the same coming before the City Council for ratification, was rejected, and on the 2nd May last, fresh litigation was instituted by the City for the alleged non-fulfilment on the part of this Company, of certain duties and obligations imposed by the Statute of 1887, and the case is now set down for trial at the present Assizes.

During the past year, 1,610 new services have been put in, and over six miles of mains laid, making a total of more than 251 miles of mains.

The average illuminating power of the gas, by the Government standard of inspection, has been in the neighborhood of 20 candles.

The output of gas for the past year was 838,215,000 cubic feet, being 62,289,000 in excess of that of the previous year.

The Directors have had to regret the loss of one of their colleagues, in the death of Mr. Samuel Alcorn, for many years a useful member of the Board, and an honorable and respected citizen, whose place has been filled by the election of Mr. Albert Austin, a son of the late worthy President, and a prominent member of this community.

The following statement for the past, as compared with the preceding year, shows:—

	STREET LAMPS.	METERS.	GAS RENTAL.
Year ending 30th September, 1900.....	1,001	25,082	\$679,325.11
"      "      "      1899.....	1,061	25,490	635,465.51
Decrease.....	30	Inc. 1,522	Inc. \$50,859.00

The services rendered by the Manager, during the past year, have been more than usually onerous, and have been performed to the entire satisfaction of the Board, and the Works, as far as completed, are in the most efficient condition.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LARRATT W. SMITH,

President.

29th October, 1900.