

another company of good standing for the transfer of the business, and the re-insuring of the current risks, the directors will be prepared to give it a favorable reception.

The value of the good will of the company's business should be to some extent a set off against the sum required to re-insure the risks, and you can negotiate the matter better than we can here.

I remain, dear sirs, yours,  
W. B. Row, Secretary.

In Liquidation.

18TH DECEMBER, 1867.

MESSRS. SCOTT & DEGRASSI, Toronto.

Dear Sirs,—As this company is now in course of liquidation, I have to request that you will make no more payments on behalf of this company after the receipt of this letter.

You will please at once close your books, and prepare a statement of accounts to the date of your receiving this.

Instructions shall be sent to you as to the transmission of any balance that may remain in your hands.

I remain, dear sirs, yours truly,  
For self and co-liquidators,  
P. W. SPELCE.

As there are some claims outstanding here against the company, a few facts respecting it may be of interest. The subscribed capital was £600,000 sterling, held by nearly a thousand shareholders. At a general meeting held in March last a committee was appointed to ascertain the true position of company. This Committee reported:—With reference to the business of the company, the committee have to report as follows:

"That the heavy losses exhibited in the last balance sheet arose partly from exceptional and extraordinary losses in the fire department, but chiefly from the settlements on the underwriting accounts of 1865 and previous years, the premiums of which were received by the Albert Company before its amalgamation by this company. The amount paid in respect of those marine losses, averages and returns is £49,804 11s. 8d. There were also further fire losses which had occurred in 1866, and marine claims on the business of that and previous years, not included in the statement rendered to 31st December last, having been paid since that date, viz:

Fire losses .....	£16,609 0 6
Marine claims .....	£51,260 1 6

It must be observed that these fire losses are mainly from the foreign agencies at Yokohama, Auckland, and other places, which are now discontinued. The marine losses arose from the remaining policies of 1864 and 1865 accounts, and heavy payments on the 1866 account; these accounts have now nearly all run off, and the outstanding liabilities of the 1867 account have been very largely reduced. The marine account has been undoubtedly a heavy loss to this Company, and the Committee have deemed it necessary to advise the Board to limit the risks undertaken, and to bear the present inconvenience of diminished income, rather than by heavy underwriting to raise the income with proportionately greater risk.

The business of the Fire Department for the six months of this year has been fully maintained, the premiums received being—

On New Business .....	£11,943 7 7
And Renewal Premiums .....	14,689 11 10

Total .....	£25,532 19 5
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The claims by Fire which have occurred in the same period amount to £8,120 10s. 8d. Since the 30th June, however, losses by Fire have arisen in the Manchester district, which are estimated at a further sum of about £8,000. The Committee have had several interviews and discussions with the Board upon the subject of the financial position of the Company. They were anxious to avoid the necessity of a further call, as they well knew that in many cases it would entail upon Shareholders considerable hardship, but they cannot in the interest of the Company advise that a call should be longer delayed. They have, therefore, recommended that 20s. per Share be called at once, payable in two instalments. They regret to have to make this announcement, but looking to the value of the Company's business in the Fire Department, and the improved condition of its Marine Department, the Committee feel they would be failing in duty if they advised any course not calculated to put the Company in a good financial position."

The Company was organized under "the Companies Act, 1862," liability being limited. The Act mentioned, 25 and 26 Vic. Cap. 89, Sec. 38, provides that in the event of a Company formed thereunder being wound up, past members are liable to contribute to the assets of the Company, unless they ceased to be members for a period of one year or upwards, prior to the commencement of the winding up, in case present members are unable to satisfy the contribution required to pay the debts. Contributions may be required not exceeding the amount unpaid on the shares, but no past member can be required to contribute in respect of any debt or liability contracted after the time at which he ceased to be a member. Up to the present time three calls of one pound each have been made, leaving seven pounds per Share to be called in. We understand that Mr. DeGrassi will, on his arrival in London, telegraph by cable as to the position of matters, and we are promised a copy of the dispatch for publication.

#### BANK OF UPPER CANADA.

The election of a trustee provided for by the Act lately passed by Parliament, will come off in February. Mr. J. H. Mead, of Toronto, a holder of 400 shares, has been requested by some of his fellow shareholders to consent to be a candidate for the position. He has a strong interest in the proper winding up of the concern, and we are convinced would make a zealous representative at the board of management.

#### Communications.

##### THE MADOC GOLD MINING COMPANY.

TORONTO, Jan. 14, 1868.

Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR:—A recent letter in a city paper contained some very pertinent observations and enquiries with regard to the Madoc Gold Mining Company, which I fully expected would before this have elicited an answer from some of the officers of this once flourishing institution. Their silence on questions so plainly put, which it is the interest of every shareholder should receive a straightforward reply, can only be

construed into an admission of the impossibility of making any satisfactory answer. It is no wonder that the shareholders and the public should feel uneasy as to the position and prospects of the Company when after all the inflation of stock last fall, and the glowing reports furnished by officers of the Company, we find paid up shares selling at \$1 each. The President of the Company has been absent from the city since the end of November last, during which time operations at the Mine have been entirely suspended. The Directors seem to be pursuing a course of "masterly inactivity," and unable to take any definite and decided action; frequent squabbles and dissensions are continually occurring amongst them and each seems determined either to rule or ruin, and perfectly careless of the welfare of the company so long as he gets his own way and gratifies his own wrong-headed obstinacy. There are to-day 720 tons of ore lying at the mouth of the mine—which are ready for crushing. If these gentlemen have not the enterprise to erect a crushing machine, and are unable to procure the use of one why don't they sell the ore uncrushed? Why don't they do something? It is not want of funds which cripples them for they have money lying idle in the banks. If they don't feel competent to act or are unwilling to take the responsibility let them resign and give place to men of more energy, plenty of whom would be willing to take the affairs of the Company in hand.

The effect of the present depression is rendered the worse by the unnatural inflation of last fall, so sudden alike in its rise and termination, which has suggested the reflection in the minds of some stockholders as to whether it was *bona fide* and consequent upon the then good prospects of the institution or created by the directors for juggling purposes. The enquiries of anxious investors in the enterprise have failed to elicit any replies as to the future course of the directors, and their whole conduct shows that they are perfectly adrift in their ideas and do not really know what to do in the face of present circumstances. Rumors are afloat too that the Company's affairs are to be placed in Chancery, and the money of the luckless stockholders wasted as foolishly and wantonly as if it had been thrown into the Bay, and handed over to satisfy the interminable bills of costs entailed by Chancery proceedings. The stockholders and all who are interested in gold mining should demand from the responsible parties an explicit statement of their plans for the future and an explanation of the present circumstances of the institution. If the present directors will not take some active steps in the matter they should at least, even from motives of self interest, allow more active and enterprising business men to take hold and try to bring about a change. The continuance of the present condition of stagnation can benefit no one, it is not only ruinous to those who have invested money, but a damper on all gold mining enterprise. Hoping that my calling attention to this matter through your columns will induce some vigorous and decided action.

I beg to remain, Yours &c.,  
A STOCKHOLDER.

##### CANADIAN GRAPHITE COMPANY.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times.

SIR:—Your correspondent, in noticing the mines owned by the Canadian Graphite Company, situated in the Township of Buckingham, has either erred in taking his notes, or the compositor has not followed copy. In either case, as agents of the Company, we are desirous of avoiding any misconception. Will you therefore permit us to make some corrections? Your correspondent, after describing a large block of pure plumbago on exhibition in an office in Ottawa, says, "The vein from which this piece was taken varied in width from 8 to 10 feet. As you descend the mine these veins of plumbago crop out in the ground for a length of 100 feet. On the same lot, and near to this lot, there are five other veins of plumbago, cropping out and giving equal promise. No shafts have as yet been sunk to work these veins." He should have said, "The vein from which this piece was taken varied in width on the surface from 8 to 10 inches, gradually widening as you descend a shaft sunk