

THE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION.

THE balance-sheet of this institution has just been issued to the shareholders, and must prove to them, with one or two exceptions, a very satisfactory document. It was prophesied by a few merchants of some standing that the dry-goods stock, purchased by the former manager, would have to be sacrificed at a loss of some sixty thousand dollars. The goods sold under valuation amounted only to \$5,414. The saving of such an enormous difference speaks well for the management, and should be noted at the annual meeting of the shareholders. One important item should give special satisfaction to the co-partners of the institution—that is, during the crisis of last year the stock purchased on credit, and principally dry goods, amounting to \$184,677, was reduced by the agreed instalments to about \$54,000, and goods to the amount of \$274,000 were purchased for cash. This we should say was a most cheery showing, making a saving of over \$5,000 in the shape of discount for cash. In an able and concise report, Mr. NOTT, the General Manager, says:—"The business shews an increase over the corresponding months of the previous year, and is still steadily increasing, proving conclusively that the benefits and advantages of the Society in the distribution of pure and genuine goods at the lowest remunerative prices are being thoroughly appreciated, and should the efforts now being made to obtain the full capital meet with success, the utility of the Society can be enlarged and its benefits increased. The sales for the year amounted to \$339,786.38, which is an average cash receipt of over \$1,100 for every day the Company has been open for business." To do this enormous amount of business and keep a good capital is clearly insufficient, and therefore the Directors wisely advise that it should be increased to the full amount authorized by Act of Parliament. On this subject the directors say:—"The profits on the year's trading, after payment of all expenses and charges, amount to over \$12,000, representing a handsome return on the capital employed. The shareholders, who habitually avail themselves of the store, acknowledge that they effect a considerable saving on their expenditure, not only in price, but in quality, which, in itself, more than repays them for their original outlay in the stock. To maintain and increase this already extensive business requires a larger capital than is now at the disposal of the Board, and it would in many ways operate as a distinct and irreparable injury to the Shareholders and the Association generally, were they obliged to decrease the number of departments or reduce the stock of goods required by the business in its integrity. An increased capital being, therefore, absolutely necessary, they appeal to the Shareholders for additional subscriptions to the Preference Stock to the extent of \$50,000, which, if taken up, will complete the issue of the Authorized Capital of \$150,000.

They do this with confidence; for, in the face of a favorable result, they are justified by the business of the past year—during which they had to contend with exceptional circumstances not likely to recur—in looking forward to the payment in the immediate future of a good return upon any investment made in the capital of the Society. That the profits of the present year are not available for this purpose, having been absorbed by the loss on the old stock of goods, is not a circumstance within their control, for the condition of affairs making this a necessity was in existence before they entered upon their duties last May." On the whole, it is an interesting document, showing clearly what may be done in this line by good and careful management, with the aid of ready cash. Too much credit cannot be given to the General Manager and his officers, whilst the experience as a merchant of long standing, of Mr. MATHEWS, has been of immense service to the institution. The Annual Meeting takes place on the 9th of May next.

THE LATE RAILWAY NEGOTIATIONS

THE details of the recent negotiations between the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific Railways have at length been made public and the sudden collapse explained. From these it appears that final arrangements for friendly co-operation were actually concluded between the Presidents of the roads, namely, Sir H. W. TYLER and Mr. GEORGE STEPHEN. On the strength of this pact a joint cable despatch was sent on the 11th ult., by those two gentlemen to the General Managers of their respective Companies in Canada, Mr. J. HICKSON and Mr. VAN HORNE, informing them of the fact and instructing them to have such legal papers prepared as might be found necessary. This message explained that, under the agreement then arrived at, the Grand Trunk undertook to afford full and liberal facilities for Canadian Pacific traffic by all Grand Trunk lines and connections to and from Canadian Pacific, the intention being that, on completion of Canadian Pacific, traffic to and from the Canadian Pacific should go *via* Canadian Pacific, and meanwhile fair arrangements be made for Canadian Pacific traffic *via* Chicago in winter, and Algoma Mills or other points in summer; and the Canadian Pacific undertook to cede, on terms, to Grand Trunk, Credit Valley, Ontario and Quebec, Atlantic Northwest and Southeastern. Ontario and Quebec Railway to be completed, and the Lachine Bridge to be built unless other satisfactory accommodation be provided. Canadian Pacific to give their traffic, to Grand Trunk, and the two Companies to avoid competition and work together in all respects for mutual benefit. Thus a war wasteful and destructive to both sides appeared to have been brought to a termination on fair and honorable terms to each. On the 14th ultimo, however, a reply cablegram was received at the C. P. R. Co's.

offices in London stating that Mr. STEPHEN's colleagues, both in Canada and New York, wholly declined to recognise the conditions just before entered into in London, and insisted on the resumption of the *status quo ante*. And thus, for a time at least, ended the attempts made in the metropolis to put an end to exhausting and senseless hostilities on the basis of equitable mutual concessions. Some additional light will no doubt in time be thrown on the real cause of this unfortunate breakdown, but the above is all that has so far reached the public at large.

THE CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

OUR readers will remember that this Company was made lately the subject of attacks of unusual virulence instigated, as was supposed, by rival bodies. The eleventh annual report of the Confederation Life Association, just published, proves that these onslaughts have by no means had the effect of even temporarily checking its prosperity. We present it in another column, where those interested will find ample details. From it we learn that during the year new assurances to the value of \$2,497,387 were taken; and the full amount now assured by the Company is \$9,909,246. The deaths during the year were only 34 out of 6,357 policies, involving the prompt payment of \$51,656. And the accounts show that the policy-holders have a security over and above all liabilities of \$142,898. The quinquennial allotment of profits was acknowledged as most gratifying to all policy-holders. The hostile animadversions alluded to above seem to have been intended not alone to injure the interests of the Company but to inflict personal damage—and obloquy as well—on its Managing Director, Mr. J. K. MACDONALD. The Company promptly met both these attacks by resort to the Courts for redress, but it is stated that being unable legally to fix the responsibility on the authors of the libels they allowed the matter to drop. One of the main charges against this Co. was that it makes no adequate provision for the security of its policy-holders. Men of great experience in such matters, in the persons of Messrs. CHERRIMAN and HOMANS, were at once called in to investigate and report on this accusation, and their answer utterly refutes it. It is manifest by the report of the proceedings at Toronto this week that if the intention of the assailants of Mr. MACDONALD was to injure him in the estimation of those whom he has so long and ably served it has entirely miscarried. On the contrary, the Managing Director stands to-day in higher estimation, if possible, than ever before, and in presenting him with a vote of thanks and the accompanying comments this was unmistakably shown in language that must have been most gratifying to its object.

MERCHANTS' BANK, NEW YORK.—The Agency of the Merchants' Bank, New York, has been moved to 61 Wall Street.