

themselves omnipotent in the legislature, and the executive would be in their power. No government would be strong enough to prevent the most frightful abuses resulting. Corruption commencing at the centre, would permeate the whole of society, and moral and financial prostration would be the result.

Nothing half so unjustifiable as this creation of contracting rings in the Senate chamber and the House of Commons, has ever before been attempted, even in America. At Washington, these rings are obliged to keep to the lobby; they have not ventured to show themselves in the Senate or House of Representatives. Improvident and corrupt grants of land have often been made by Congress; but there is this difference, members at least did not allow the world to know that they desired to profit by these grants, they did not vote the lands to themselves as contractors with the government. If anything like what was proposed at Ottawa, last session, be carried out, Congressmen will hereafter come to Canada to perfect themselves in the more questionable branches of their art; and the new Dominion will be pointed at as a country where corruption flourishes with a rankness which will be sought for elsewhere in vain. We hope that in the approaching elections the people will not be so careful to ask what political party does a candidate belong to, as whether he gives proof of his trustworthiness by resolutely determining to do all in his power to purge the legislature of government contractors.

GORE DISTRICT MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—This Company has just terminated its thirty-third year, which appears to have been a successful one. The business has increased, and losses were less than during the preceding year. It is claimed that in the statement of assets and liabilities great care has been taken to exclude from the assets all doubtful items, and to include every debt in the liabilities. Moreover, every claim has been paid as soon after proof as possible, delay in no instance having been occasioned by the Company. The Directors are well satisfied with the cash premium system. The net receipts from that source amounted to \$18,939, while the claims under cash premium policies were \$11,323, or less than sixty per cent. of the net receipts. The Directors express the wish that the long existing privilege granted to Mutual Insurance Companies, to issue cash premium policies for one year, may not be withdrawn from them. We are glad to be able to congratulate this Company on its success, and trust

that its future experience may fulfil the just expectations to which the past good fortune must have given rise.

THE LATE ACCIDENT ON THE GRAND TRUNK.—Two separate inquests have been held with the object of ascertaining the cause of the serious accident which happened one mile east of Shannonville on the 22nd of June. The latter was held at the instance of the Government of Ontario. Both verdicts attribute the casualty to pure accident—the breaking of a flange. It was shown that the track was not in good repair at and near the point, but this was not proved to have any connection with the smash-up. It will be satisfactory to the public to learn from the evidence of Mr. Brydges elsewhere that the whole line between Montreal and Toronto is rapidly being relaid with steel rails, and that the whole distance will be gone over in less than two years. This improvement while tending to make travel more safe, will also admit of greater speed in the carriage both of passengers and freight. It is most important that the line between the two chief cities should be in first class condition, and nothing but the laying down of steel rails could have made it so.

Meetings.

GORE DISTRICT MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The thirty-third annual general meeting of the members of this Company was held on Monday, the 10th June, 1872 in the office of the Company, in Galt, Ontario.

John Fleming, Esq., having taken the chair, requested the Secretary, Mr. Thos. M. Simons, to read the

Thirty-third Annual Report.

The following is a summary of the transactions for the year ended 31st May, 1872. The number of Policies issued was 2539; the number of policies in force at the end of the year was 3825, insuring \$3,355,108; and the Premium Notes amounted to \$138,395. The average risk, after having deducted sums re-insured, was \$859. The net amount of cash premiums received was \$18,939. The number of claims paid during the year was 75, which, with contingent expenses, amounted to \$28,525.38. There were unpaid at the end of the year, assessments and due-bills amounting to \$5,806.97. Of assessments the sum of \$2,386 became due during the month of May, but would not be payable until June, parties almost invariably availing themselves of thirty days' privilege. At the end of the year there were four claims unadjusted which amounted to \$885, and two of them have since been paid. Every claim has been paid as soon after it has been proven as possible, and when there has been delay it has not been occasioned by the Company.

Of the three claims disputed, to which allusion was made in the Report of the previous year, two have again been before the Courts, but still remain in an undecided state, and the necessary notice has been given to compel the third claimant to institute his suit at the next Assizes.

Complete statements of Assets and Liabilities, and Receipts and Expenditures, accompany this Report. In the statement of assets and liabilities great care has been taken to exclude

from the former all doubtful assessments, and to include in the latter every debt.

While the receipts from cash premiums have largely aided in paying losses promptly, it is gratifying to be enabled to record the fact that the premium note capital of the Company also exhibits a very material increase. The Board of Directors continue to be satisfied with the working of the Cash premium system as adopted by them, one great cause of loss on assessments no longer existing, which was the insurance of moveable and encumbered real estate on the premium note plan.

At the last session of the Local Legislature the bill to alter and amend the present laws affecting Mutual Insurance Companies was again introduced, and an effort was made to deprive them of their long existing privilege to issue one-year policies for cash premiums, but the bill was laid over, to be re-introduced, however, at the next session, when there is every reason to believe that the present laws as regards the issue of cash premium policies for one year or a less period will remain unchanged.

The Board desire to acknowledge the carefulness of the Company's agents in the selection of risks, and the value of their efforts to extend its business. It will, however, be necessary to increase the staff at points where at present the Company is insufficiently represented.

For the insurance of isolated dwellings and their contents, a class of risk less productive of loss than any other (farm risks excepted), the Board of Directors have adopted a special tariff of rates, which they can recommend to the intending insurer as being not only economical but commensurate with the risk incurred.

It is a matter for congratulation that the Company's losses during the past year, so remarkable for devastating fires, have not been excessive—and while willing to acknowledge that they had but few risks in those localities which suffered most, the Directors cannot but regard the result of the year as in a very great degree attributable to careful and cautious management.

Statement for year ending 31st May, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

Cash on hand 31st May 1871	\$103.30
do. in Merchants' Bank	
May 31, 1871.....	869.77
Due by Agents, May 31st,	
1871	1,029.25
	\$ 2,002 52
Assessments and Cash Premiums,	
nett amount	42,481 23
Bills receivable.....	58 09
Division Court costs refunded.....	102 21
Total	\$44,644 05

EXPENDITURE.

Claims and contingent expenses.....	\$28,530.38
Bills payable.....	488.95
Division Court costs.....	142.19
Good's Life Policy.....	121.65
Bonus to Officers, voted annual meeting, 1871...	315.00
	\$29,598 17
Expense account.....	2,397.47
Directors' Fees.....	846.50
Salaries.....	3,311.31
Interest.....	544.82
	7,100 10
Balance being:—	
Cash on hand 31st May, 1872.....	2.25
Do. in Merchants' Bank	
May 31, 1871.....	2,277.51
Do. in Merchants' Bank at interest.....	5,000.00