

MONTREAL INSURANCE INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Insurance Institute was held at the Windsor Hotel, on the 6th inst. Amongst others present were:—Messrs. G. F. C. Smith, David Burke, R. Wilson Smith, M. C. Henshaw, S. P. Stearns, George G. Foster, J. W. Marling, T. L. Morrissey, W. L. Joseph, H. A. Fromings, T. W. Evans, George E. Cheese, Maurice Burke, C. C. Hole and A. J. Bowles. The chair was taken by Mr. G. F. C. Smith. The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, Mr. B. Hal Brown, vice-presidents, Mr. David Burke and Mr. M. C. Henshaw; honorary treasurer, Mr. H. A. Fromings; honorary secretary, Mr. T. L. Morrissey; executive committee, Messrs. S. P. Stearns, E. P. Heaton, Randall Davidson, C. R. G. Johnson, James McGregor, William Jackson, W. O. H. Dodds, M. Burke, E. E. Chauvin and Alex. Stewart.

The report of the honorary secretary, Mr. C. R. G. Johnson, refers to the syllabus of 1901-1902 as having been faithfully carried out. The papers read are said to have been all instructive and of sufficient general interest to deserve the appreciation of all the members. The services of those who contributed to the social enjoyment of the meetings are acknowledged. The papers read were as follows: October 7, 1901, Canada, its Constitution, by Mr. R. Prefontaine, M.P., mayor of Montreal; Canada, its Commerce, Mr. E. B. Greenshields, M.A.; Canada, its Insurance Interests, Mr. E. P. Heaton. On November 28 the president's inaugural address was delivered and two papers read, one on The Insurance of Impaired Lives, by Mr. T. B. Macaulay, F.I.A., the other by Mr. Alex. C. Hutchison, Architect, on Buildings, Slow-burning and Fire-proof Construction. On December 19 a paper was read by Dr. J. G. Adami, professor of Pathology, McGill University, on, Is Heredity a Negligible Factor in Life Assurance? On 6th February Mr. R. Wilson-Smith read a paper on The Development of Canada since Confederation, and Mr. J. J. Riley, jun., one on Marine Insurance; some notes specially applicable to Canadian business. On February 27 Mr. Donald Macmaster, K.C., contributed a paper on Conceptions and Misconceptions. On 27th March a visit was paid by the members to the Electric Fire-proofing Company's works, Cote St. Paul. On 24th April Mr. John Hague read a paper on Foreign Exchange and Mr. A. G. Brooke Claxton on The Contestability of a Life Assurance Policy.

The Secretary's report suggests that the discussions following papers read be stenographically recorded, so that they, or such of them as the Council approves, may be printed with the proceedings of the session. The attendance at the ordinary general meetings though on some occasions quite encouraging, "was less than was deserved." Regret

is expressed that the Associate members do not seem to have yet realized how much good they can get out of the Institute, nor indeed how much that is good for themselves and their fellow members they can put into it. The Institute as at 1st October inst., had, 81 executive members, 139 associates, 2 corresponding and 6 honorary members, a total of 228.

Regret is expressed in the Report at the death of Mr. Thomas Davidson and Mr. E. L. Bond, executive members, and Mr. R. O'Hara an associate.

Acknowledgments are made of books and papers from allied institutions, to whom have been sent copies of the Institute's proceedings for 1900-1901. Interchange of documents has taken place with British institutes.

The secretary, after concluding the official portion of his report, gives his views as to the present standing and future of the Institute. He very justly deprecates the apathy shown by some members. He remarks: "We have plenty of intelligence, ability and energy among us. I, therefore, say to our members, don't be shy, but come forward and show your willingness to take part in the work of this Institute. There is hardly a member who cannot help in some way, and the governing council will welcome you and direct your efforts." In regard to the probability of classes being formed as referred to by Mr. B. Hal Brown, in his report as honorary secretary, the secretary suggests that an experienced fire insurance inspector instruct a class on hazards attaching to certain classes of risks; that a qualified chief clerk teach the clerical details of office work, both the methods and the motives of what is done; another class should take up fire loss adjusting; others, insurance book-keeping; English composition; correspondence and other subjects. He would invite the contribution of prize essays, which should be read at the ordinary general meetings of the Institute and competition be open to all members.

The secretary is fully justified in his confidence that such a scheme as he outlines would increase the interest of the Associate, and especially the junior members of the Institute. Young men would be stimulated to enter upon the formal study of subjects of interest were they offered the opportunity of reading papers before their fellow members. It would be of the highest service to the juniors in insurance offices to afford them instruction in all such matters as have a practical bearing upon their daily work and their future calling. Modern office life is not calculated to impart such instruction as it is most desirable the young should have, nay, indeed, such as is essential to their advancement.

Mr. Johnson pointed out the needs of the Institute such as a "comfortable home with audience room accommodation for classes, a library and supply of books and periodicals." After the business meeting a "Smoking Concert" was held, towards the programme of which Messrs. C. Bethune, E. A. Terroux, F. S. Hickey, J. B. Giles, E. H. Bissett contributed, the accompanists being Messrs. Maurice Burke and C. C. Hole. The proceedings were closed by complimentary votes of thanks to past officers and all who had assisted the Institute last session.