

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

Assets.

Dec. 31st, 1885.	
To Mortgages, present value	\$ 993,757 59
" Property account	11,000 00
" Office furniture	817 64
" Balance in banks and office	6,300 63
	<hr/>
	\$1,011,875 86
Liabilities.	
Capital stock	\$ 297,326 95
Depositors	476,489 95
Debtenture account	161,480 63
Rest account	60,000 00
Contingent account	1,812 93
Western Bank, Oshawa	14,765 40
	<hr/>
	\$1,011,875 86

T. H. McMILLAN,

We hereby certify that the above statement contains a correct representation of the affairs of the company as shown by the books at December 31st, 1885. We have examined vouchers and securities and find the same correct.

G. H. GRIERSON, } Auditors.
JNO. B. HARRIS, }

Oshawa, February 16th, 1886.

The chairman rose and said :

"From the report submitted by the Secretary you will see that the earnings of the company have somewhat declined during the past year owing to the reduction in the rate of interest obtainable on new loans, and the fact that the interest payable upon deposits and debentures could not be correspondingly lowered. Had it not been for the handsome Rest of \$60,000 which has been accumulated it would not have been possible to have continued the somewhat exceptionally large dividends hitherto distributed to the shareholders.

"It does not seem probable that money is likely in future to command a higher price than now rules in the best agricultural centres of Ontario, to which it has always been our fixed policy to confine the operations of the company. If therefore your business in the future is to follow the same channel (which the retiring board of directors would strongly advise) the earnings can only be increased by obtaining money on better terms than before; to which circumstance all the present indications seem favorable. But whether this result is accomplished or otherwise, I think the permanent interests of the shareholders will be best conserved by building up the Rest to such a point as will ensure a permanent rate of dividend commensurate with the value of money invested in any other equally secure business."

With these remarks he moved the adoption of the report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Allen and carried.

Mr. Gibson, seconded by Mr. J. Cowan, moved that the sum of \$150 be paid the auditors, Messrs. Grierson and Harris for their services for the past year, and that they be appointed auditors for the current year. Carried.

On motion of Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Readwin, a vote of thanks was tendered to the president, vice-president, directors and sec'y-treasurer, "for the very satisfactory manner in which they have conducted the affairs of the company during the past year, and that the sum of \$300 be presented to the president, and \$200 to the vice-president, for their services to the company."

Mr. Dingle, seconded by Mr. John Cowan, moved that Messrs. John Carter and Wm. Readwin be appointed scrutineers for the election of directors by ballot. The scrutineers reported the following nine gentlemen duly elected directors for the ensuing year: W. F. Cowan, R. S. Hamlin, W. F. Allen, J. S. Larke, W. T. Dingle, J. A. Gibson, John Cowan, Thos. Patterson, and T. H. McMillan.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the chairman and the meeting adjourned.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors W. F. Cowan, Esq., was unanimously elected president, and W. F. Allan, vice-president.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE COMPANY OF NORTH AMERICA.

The eleventh annual general meeting of the Accident Insurance Company of North America was held at the head office of the company,

in Montreal, on the 12th inst., when the following report was submitted, and adopted:

REPORT.

The directors beg to report to the stockholders the operations of this company for the past year:—

During the year 25,427 Policies have been applied for, for sums amounting to	\$44,624,550 00
Of these, 4,750 were declined and cancelled for	5,453,650 00
Leaving 20,777 policies issued and renewed for	39,170,900 00
The gross premiums thereon, (including annual and short term policies and time tickets) being	378,577 42

The net amount of business remaining in force on 31st Dec., 1885, was 16,687 risks, insuring 28,884,700, the premiums thereon being

201,968 77

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The balance of receipts and expenditure account carried forward to next year amounts to \$323,725 22. The liabilities (exclusive of paid-up capital) including cost of collecting outstanding premiums and reserve for claims in abeyance

52,848 45

Net surplus in hand as regards policy holders, over and above uncalled capital \$270,876 77

Add—Reserve capital at call. 106,440 00

Net resources for security of policy holders \$374,316 77

In no year has this Company more fully demonstrated its usefulness and promptitude to meet its obligations than in the one just past.

The claims during 1885 have been unusually heavy, and have been largely in what is considered the less hazardous classes. The losses paid and claims provided for in the liabilities, amount to \$214,966.21 being an excess over last year of \$70,304.21. Every claim having the element of fairness has been promptly paid in full.

The total number of losses paid and provided for to date is 11,874, amounting to \$531,512.84.

During the year the Company has experienced additional and severe competition, and has had to contend with unworthy efforts of rival agents to counteract the increasing popularity which the Company has so justly gained. It is gratifying, therefore, to record that notwithstanding this the gross revenue of the Company for 1885 was \$386,897.97, being the largest in the history of the Company.

During the year the Managing Director perfected a system of joint accident insurance for partnerships, and introduced it for the first time to the public in May, 1885, and from the manner in which it has been received it is anticipated that it will become very popular and yield valuable results to the Company. The system has since been copied by competitors, but it is expected that this Company, being the originator of the principle, will receive its full share of the business.

The expenses have materially decreased during the past year, and arrangements are being perfected whereby a still further reduction may be expected during the coming year. The usual dividend of 6 per cent. has been paid to the shareholders during the year, this being nearly supplied by the interest on investments. The thanks of the shareholders are due to the various local directors and agents for their co-operation in the company's interest during the past year.

It has been the great misfortune of the company to lose by death, during the year, the late Donald Lorn Macdougall, Esq., who was one of the active directors in the formation of the company, and the Board desire herein to pay their high tribute to his value as a director always earnest in his support of the best interests of the company.

The following directors retire:—Sir A. T. Galt, and Hon. Jas. Ferrier, but are eligible for re-election. The vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Macdougall will also require to be filled.

During the year Mr. William Alexander, who has removed to California, resigned his seat and was replaced by the election of the

Hon. J. Gregory Smith, subject to the confirmation of shareholders at the annual meeting.

The certified balance sheet and Auditor's report are on the table for the inspection of the shareholders.

JAMES FERRIER,
Vice-President
EDWARD RAWLINGS,
Managing Director.

The gentlemen whose names follow, compose the Board for 1886:—Sir Alex. T. Galt, Hon. James Ferrier, W. J. Buchanan, Wm. Wainwright, Edward Rawlings, Hon. Donald A. Smith, Colonel C. S. Gzowski, Toronto; Hon. J. Gregory Smith, St. Albans; John Paton, New York.

Montreal, February 12th, 1886.

Correspondence.

MYSTERIOUS FIRES.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times* :

SIR,—The fires which are reported from day to day should, I think, open the eyes of underwriters, to the fact that more care and discrimination should be exercised in accepting risks. I cannot understand why old and well established companies, should allow their agents to accept undesirable and hazardous risks, still in the face of repeated warnings such risks are taken, and as a consequence heavy loss is entailed on the insurance companies, and many innocent business men and others ruined.

This indiscriminate insurance is no doubt a cause of many fires, the origin of which, you will see it stated, "is clouded in mystery," and "no clue can be found." The clue is not hard to find. It is simply the eagerness of insurance agents to do business for the sake of their commission, and the eagerness of the insured to get suddenly rich at the expense of the insurance company. There are few towns in Canada in which these mysterious fires (if such they can be called), are not from time to time occurring, and this town is not by any means an exception. The insurance companies make a mistake in not sending out their inspector until after a fire occurs. Let them at once write for mutual protection and employ good reliable men, who won't be hoodwinked, to visit the different towns, look closely into the business of each agency and after getting reliable information as to the character and antecedents of insurers, cancel without hesitation all undesirable risks, at the same time warning the agent that a repetition of the offence, for such it is against the community at large, will be followed by dismissal. If this policy is pursued I think it will have a salutary effect and we will not have our lives and property endangered by so many mysterious fires.

A better feeling, freer intercourse with mutual interchange of ideas and confidence, between insurance, monetary and other corporations and business men generally, would I think save many losses. A keen healthy competition in business is very well, but it should not be carried to the verge of suicide. This applies very forcibly to the insurance business.

Yours truly,
CITIZEN.

Port Hope, 3rd March, 1886.

WINNIPEG'S AGRICULTURAL MACHINE BUSINESS.

To the Editor of the *Monetary Times*.

SIR,—Market square in Manitoba's capital seems to be pre-empted by our great farm-machine firms, who occupy large premises—handsome brick and stone warehouses—with counting rooms and private offices containing a large staff of sub-agents, book-keepers, clerks, repairers, and so forth, wearing an air of prosperity which seems to smile through those clouds of dulness, which are continually hovering over our infant manufacturing industries. Stylish-looking signs denote to the traveller where he may find the well-known firms of Wesbrook & Fairchild, Harris Son, & Co., the Cochrane Manufacturing, the Massey Manufacturing Co., John Elliott & Sons, and other machine men who are closely identified with the agricultural interests of this fine province and the entire North-west. Their trade last year occupied the sixth