

consigned to the general superintendent of the O. P. R. last week to be tested in the locomotives. It proved satisfactory and burned freely with intense heat. In about two weeks the company will ship large quantities of the coal daily. The mines are a mile and a quarter from the railway, but the company intends building a siding to connect with it. There are three seams of solid coal, the upper three feet, the next five feet, and the lowest seven feet.

—The increase in the shipments of live cattle and dressed meats continues. The total shipments of live stock from the Atlantic seaboard to Great Britain during the past week amounted to 9,258 cattle and 10,157 sheep, against 8,421 cattle and 5,677 sheep for the week previous, and 1,629 cattle and 4,788 sheep for the corresponding week last year, which is a very marked increase. The following were the shipments of cattle and sheep at Montreal for the past week:

	Cattle.	Sheep.
SS Colina, Glasgow.....	317	314
Phoenician, Glasgow.....	326
Titania, Glasgow.....	335
Grecian, Glasgow.....	378	140
Grassbrook, London.....	169	1,225
Carmona, London.....	564	2,361
Viking, London.....	270
Quebec, Liverpool.....	266	875
Toronto, Liverpool.....	312	548
Lake Manitoba, Liverpool..	303	1,828
Bedewater, Bristol.....	88	65
Carlyle, Bristol.....	282
Total.....	3,580	7,351
" for like week last year....	1,239	2,706
" to date.....	36,219	57,378
" 1882.....	30,058	59,195
" 1881.....	32,868	42,410

—A correspondent in the Province of Quebec writes to ask the dates of our "big exhibitions." We are able to inform him as to three principal ones. These are, the Industrial at Toronto, September 11th to 22nd. The Dominion at St. John, N. B., October 2nd to 5th, and the Ontario Provincial, at Guelph, Sept. 24th to 29th.

Meetings.

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Royal Insurance Company was held on the 3rd August, in Liverpool.

REPORT.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.—The fire premiums for the period, after deduction of re-insurances, amounted to \$4,721,325, and the net losses to \$3,082,220. These amounts show an increase for the year of \$304,700 in premium, and of \$125,480 in losses. Deducting agents' commission and all management expenses, the net profit, including interest on fire fund and current balances, amounted to \$455,000 being an improvement on the results of the previous year of \$144,270.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.—During the year new proposals were accepted for \$2,494,135, of which amount \$2,236,875 has been completed, and the corresponding annual premiums obtained to the closing of the accounts were \$77,455. The proposals declined during the period amounted to \$369,170. The total income from premiums, after deducting re-assurances, amounted to \$1,260,785, and the interest received for investment exclusive of that on the annuity fund, was \$536,820. The claims during the year were:—By death—original sum assured, \$726,135; bonus additions thereon, \$106,820; by matured policies (including children's endowments)—original sum assured, \$34,890; bonus additions thereon, \$5,201; total \$872,555. In the annuity branch the purchase-money received for new annuities, together with the premiums on contingent annuities, amounted to \$49,375, and the interest to \$48,240. Twenty-nine annuities have expired during the year, the annual payment on which amounted to \$5,225. After payment of all claims, annuities, bonuses in cash, and expenses of every description, a balance of \$701,500 has been added to the life funds, making the total accu-

mulation of the life and annuity branches of the company \$14,390,795.

PROFIT AND LOSS.—The amount at the credit of the profit and loss account, after the payment of the dividend and income-tax for the year 1881, was \$709,985, to which have been added—fire profit of the year, \$455,000; interest \$309,975; total, \$1,474,970. The directors now recommend, in addition to the interim dividend of 10s per share paid in February last, a payment of 12s further dividend from the fire branch, and 3s per share from the balance of undivided life profits—all free of income tax—which will absorb \$603,215, leaving a balance at the credit of the account of \$871,750.

FUNDS.—After providing for payment of the dividend, the funds of the company will stand as follows:—Capital paid-up, \$1,447,725; fire fund \$2,750,000; reserve fund, \$4,750,000; balance of profit and loss, \$871,750; life funds, \$14,390,795, total, \$24,210,270.

DIRECTORS.—The following directors now retire, and are eligible for re-election, viz.:—Ralph Brocklebank, Esq., Thomas H. Ismay, Esq., W. J. Marrow, Esq., and Edward W. Rayner, Esq. The chairman, Mr. Ralph Brocklebank, before moving the adoption of the report, said:—Before putting to you the resolution I shall have to submit, I will make a few observations, as has been my custom upon the annual meeting of the Royal Insurance Company. I regret that your directors are not able to put before you on this occasion a better account, but this is not the fault of the directors, nor is it the fault of the management, because I think the management has been carried on with the same amount of efficiency and the same determination as has characterized it heretofore. The year 1882 has been distinguished by a greater number of fires than usual, and of greatest severity, but I do not see that the Royal has suffered any diminution in its prestige or its resources. I think you will agree with me that it stands prominently forward as one of the first insurance institutions, not only in this country, but likewise in Europe, or wherever it has been carried into foreign countries. The result of the year's business, upon the whole, may be considered satisfactory. Our losses have been excessive; as you will see from the report, they have been more than \$3,000,000, and the profits have consequently been less—very much less—than the great ones realized in years gone by. I do not allude to the working of 1881, but to those years when, through the assistance of the shareholders, we were able to build up that magnificent reserve which we still hold unassailed in our hands at the present time. I think our balance-sheet will compare favourably with any balance-sheet issued by any European insurance company for the past year (hear hear). There are some features of a favourable character. Our premiums have increased by the sum of \$304,700. That shows you, gentlemen, that the business of the Royal Insurance Company is progressing in a very favourable ratio indeed (hear hear). I have often thought and said, as I have said in this room before, I should never be satisfied until our premiums amounted to \$5,000,000 of dollars. They are approaching very rapidly to that sum, and when they get there I shall look for something more (hear, hear and laughter.) Now, there is another favourable feature, and that is a reduction in the ratio of the expenses of conducting the business. Further there is a reduction in the ratio of fire losses, an increase in the amount of interest from investment—in other words, an increase in all the items of income, and a reduction in all ratios of our expenses (applause). These, I think are favourable circumstances. I may tell you, gentlemen, I am only paraphrasing what you have before you in the balance-sheet and in the report. The profit, added to the interest of \$450,730, makes a total of \$764,980, which the directors have to deal with. These figures, as the report states make the result of the year's working an improvement over the working of the previous year of \$140,000 (hear, hear). Last year was an unfortunate year for us, and this year, though it has not been a good one, was somewhat better than last year. As I said before this year has been an exceptional one. In the English business to October last year we had done very fairly well, indeed. We always consider that we should have a very considerable profit out of our English business. Unfortunately, the Alhambra fire took place, from which we sustained a very heavy loss and it is a singular fact that from that period up to the beginning of the present year we had a succession of losses, which deprived us of those profits which we hoped to have made out of our English business, to which, as I said

before, we always look forward for obtaining a good profit. The fire losses in the past year have been almost, I may say, unexampled. We have had no large conflagrations like those of some years gone by, but we have had a continual series of large fires, which have reduced our profits in a very material way. These fires have not been confined to any particular country, for it almost appears as if a wave of fire had visited every country, or nearly every country where the Royal Insurance Company does business. Such an experience as that which we have passed through says much for the high quality of the business of the Royal, because though we have passed through such a trial, sharing in full the calamities of the period, we are able to produce a balance-sheet with a fair, if not a large amount of profit (hear, hear). Much has been said on the question of a reduction of the premiums. There is no doubt that the reduction of premiums has reduced the profits of the Royal, as of other companies. At the same time, perhaps, too much stress has been laid on this reduction of premiums in this respect, and it really is not so much the reduction of premiums through competition—we shall always have that—that has reduced the profits as the numerous fires to which I have already called your attention. In some countries, of course, the reduction of premiums has operated to a more serious extent than it has done in other places, but taking England and the Continent of Europe it is to the increased number of fires that we owe the great reduction of our profits (hear, hear). What the increase in England has been may be shown by referring to the fact that since April, 1882, no fewer than twenty-two companies have ceased to do business in this country, and yet it can hardly be said that the public have been sufficiently warned by this remarkable fact, because still there are promoters endeavoring to get up new companies that will cause competition to the old ones, and I should be very sorry for any shareholders taking shares in these new companies when they find that the old ones, those long established and having the confidence of the public, are not making large gains. The wealth and resources of the old companies to which I allude—particularly the Royal—are, I may say, inexhaustible.

I have been dealing up to the present time entirely with the fire business; but there is another important branch of our business, which must not be lost sight of, and that is the life business. The life business has been again satisfactory. The new business and the mortality remain very favorable. After all claims and expenses have been satisfied, the funds have increased by \$701,500. This, I think, shows that the life business goes on improving, and must be satisfactory to those greatly interested in it. The next division of profits in the life business will not take place until 1885. Every five years we have to consider the value of our lives, and likewise the profits derived from the business. Therefore, it would be hardly proper in me to make any calculations, as I may say, of what the result of the life business will be at the end of the next quinquennial period. I think we have very good hope that it will result favorably not only to the shareholders, but likewise to the insured. It has been customary for the directors, through me, to report to this meeting the market value of our securities. Now the book value of our securities, that is, the cost of them and the estimated value on the 31st Dec. stood in the company's books at \$8,883,025, the market value being \$10,539,695. That shows an increased value of \$1,656,670. It would seem from the accounts that the net balance of profit, including interest, amounts to \$764,980. The dividend absorbs \$603,215, leaving a balance of \$161,760, which it is intended to add to the profit and loss account to be carried forward to next year. This will make the total amount of this account \$871,750, a larger sum than it has been customary to leave, but in the present circumstances, I think you will agree with me that it is prudent to carry forward a balance sufficiently large to meet contingencies which it is possible may arise. The amount in the hands of the directors now exceeds the sum of \$25,000,000 of dollars. Gentlemen, I can assure you this is a very great trust, and the directors cannot but feel anxious when they have such a trust under their control. They have, fortunately, been able to invest this large sum continuously as it has arisen in securities which were all interest-yielding, and which I believe are certainly worth the entire sum, if not more than the entire sum, invested in them (hear, hear). I think I have clearly set forth to you the condition of the