

will sell their goods only in their stores we shall hear less of failures caused by attempting to carry stocks that were not required and only purchased through the representations and importunities of a score of "drummers."

—A statement of the operations of the Life Insurance Companies in Canada for three years is given on another page.

Meetings.

THE LANCASHIRE INSURANCE COMPANY

The nineteenth annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Lancashire Insurance Company was held yesterday afternoon, in the Company's offices, Lancashire Insurance Buildings, Exchange-st., Manchester, Eng.; Mr. Jno. Todd, chairman of the board of directors, presiding.

Mr. Stewart, the general manager, read the notice convening the meeting, after which the chairman affixed the seal to the list of shareholders.

Mr. G. Stewart, the general manager, then read the following report by the directors during the year 1870:—

Accounts and Balance Sheet.

Accompanying the present report will be found, as in former years, detailed accounts of the fire and life business, and the balance sheet of the company. These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the provisions of "The Life Assurance Act, 1870."

Fire Business.

The fire premiums received during the year 1870 (after deducting re-insurances), amounted to £102,283. The sums paid for claims for loss and damage by fire amounted to £45,917. After payment of all claims, expenses of management and re-insurances, and making due provision for claims unadjusted at 31st December, 1870, the surplus amounted to £30,639 18s. 1d., which has been carried to the profit and loss account.

Life Business.

The income of this department during the year (after deducting re-assurances), amounted to £47,227 7s. The claims from 53 deaths amounted \$19,449, and after providing for these, and the various other sums detailed in the balance sheet, including the cash value of last year's bonus paid to such of the assurers as elected to receive it in that form, the sum of £16,971 17s. 2d. has been added to the life reserve fund, which has thereby been increased to £198,804 6s. 3d.

Proprietors' and Reserve Funds.

The income of the proprietors' and reserve funds for the year amounted to £39,409 16s. 2d., out of which the directors have already declared a dividend of 10 per cent. per annum, and a bonus of one shilling per share.

On referring to the accounts, it will be observed that the sum of £3,209 16s. 2d. has been paid for the business of the Birmingham Alliance Fire Insurance Co. Limited, and the sum of £3,602 7s. 10d. to account of the purchase of the Birmingham Fire Office. The former of these accounts has been closed by the above payment, and only the sum of £3,197 has to be provided during 1871 for the latter account, which will then be closed. The general reserve fund has been increased from £50,169 to £56,520, and the Birmingham reserve fund from £18,300 to £25,870. The directors retiring are Messrs. Blair, Darbyshire, Holland (deceased) Knowles, Shelmerdine, and Wagstaff, of whom Messrs. Blair, Darbyshire, Knowles, Shelmerdine, and Wagstaff, being eligible, are recommended for

re-election, and Wm. Pilkington, Esq., of Blackburn, is recommended for election.

Revenue Accounts.

NO. I.—LIFE ASSURANCE ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Amount of life assurance fund at beginning of the year.....	181,832	9	1	
Premiums after deduction of re-assurance premiums.....	38,725	13	3	
Interest and dividends.....	8,501	13	0	
	£229,059	16	1	
PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
Claims under life policies (after deduction of sums re-assured).....	19,449	19	0	
Surrenders.....	1,244	6	7	
Commission.....	1,451	10	2	
Expenses of management.....	4,724	11	9	
Bonuses paid in cash.....	3,385	2	4	
Amount of life assurance fund at the end of the year.....	198,804	6	3	
	£229,059	16	1	

NO. II.—FIRE ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Premiums received after deduction of re-assurances.....	102,283	14	7	
PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
Losses by fire after deduction of re-assurances.....	45,917	8	3	
Expenses of management.....	13,564	8	2	
Commission.....	10,162	0	1	
Surplus carried to profit and loss account.....	30,639	18	1	
	£102,283	14	7	

NO. III.—PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.
Balance of last year's account, being reserve funds.....	68,469	4	0	
Interest and dividends.....	8,013	14	11	
Surplus from fire business.....	30,639	18	1	
Profit on sale of government stocks.....	747	3	2	
	£107,870	0	2	
PAYMENTS.		£	s.	d.
Dividends and bonuses to shareholders, including that due 20th January, 1871.....	18,267	10	0	
Purchase of Birmingham Alliance Fire Insurance Company Limited.....	3,209	16	2	
Purchase of Birmingham Fire Office (leaving £3,197 to be provided during 1871.....)	3,502	7	10	
Reduction in value of London lease.....	500	0	0	
Balance:—				
Reserve fund.....	£56,520	6	2	
Birmingham reserve fund.....	25,870	0	0	
	£82,390	6	2	
	£107,870	0	2	

Balance Sheet, December 31, 1870.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
Shareholders' capital.....	146,146	0	0	
Reserve fund.....	56,520	6	2	
Birmingham reserve fund.....	25,870	0	0	
Life assurance fund.....	198,804	6	3	
Claims under life policies admitted but not yet paid.....	8,198	1	3	
Outstanding fire losses.....	6,890	18	11	
Dividends due to the shareholders, including dividend and bonus, payable January 20, 1871.....	11,438	1	6	
	£453,861	13	10	

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
Mortgages on property in the United Kingdom.....	106,748	19	3	
Loans on the Company's policies.....	10,019	13	5	
Investments:—				
In colonial government securities.....	£20,554	19	8	
Railway & other deb't' re stocks.....	154,269	0	2	
Railway preference shares.....	22,000	0	0	
Loans on railway stocks.....	28,531	6	10	
House property and land.....	63,394	15	4	
	288,750	2	0	
Loans on personal security.....	1,661	4	0	
Agents and branch office balances.....	26,554	1	11	
Outstanding premiums at head office.....	2,322	4	8	
Interest accrued.....	5,217	13	11	
Cash at banker's.....	12,587	14	8	
	£453,861	13	10	

GEORGE STEWART,

General Manager and Actuary.

We have examined this account, and find the same correct.

A. MURRAY, }
JAS. HALLIDAY, } Auditors.

The chairman, in moving the adoption of the report, said:—

Gentlemen,—In moving the adoption of the report, I feel that very few words are needed from me to secure your approval of the resolution. The year 1870 has been the most successful in the history of this Company. (Hear, hear.) The income, the profits, and the return to the shareholders have never been previously equalled, and on such results we think we may fairly congratulate you. It is not my intention to go into the year's figures, as you will find ample details in the revenue accounts and balance-sheet, which have been printed and circulated amongst you. One word as to the altered form of these accounts. As you are all aware, we have for many years printed our annual accounts in one form, and this has been found to be a great practical convenience. We are, however, no longer allowed to use that form, as another has been prescribed by the recent Act of Parliament. On examining the act we came to the conclusion that in many respects our old form was superior to that given therein, and accordingly we applied to the Board of Trade for permission to continue its use. The Board of Trade, however, declined to comply with our request, giving as their reason the evident desire of parliament that all such accounts should be uniform. I think the reason is, after all, a sufficient one. Should any of you desire further information on any point, we shall be most happy to give it; and now I beg to move "The report now read be approved and adopted."

Mr. Shelmerdine, in seconding the motion, said he agreed with the chairman in the remarks he had made about the gratifying nature of the report which the directors had been enabled to lay before the shareholders. To the chairman and himself, who had been connected with the Company from its commencement, it was gratifying to be able to point to the successful working of the concern, and that they had been enabled to divide so large a sum as ten per cent. and a bonus, and at the same time to see their property standing so favourably with other concerns established before them or since they commenced business. (Hear, hear.) The items of account, showing upwards of £30,000 profit, had induced them to do what might have seemed extravagant—give ten per cent. and a bonus. This had been paid, and it had been earned, and he hoped it was not the last time they should have a report of that kind. (Hear, hear.) The purchase of offices was a moot point, on which various opinions were held. The pur-