

added claims since reported to the Head office, to the extent of £11,504 3s. 7d., on risks that previously ran out, as was supposed, without any claim having arisen thereon.

3. Such a large addition to the liabilities reported to you, as pending on 30th June, 1856, could not fail to be a source of serious embarrassment to your Directors, in the course of the past year, and they could not but feel, that if the new business of the Company should prove unprofitable, it would be but justice to the Stockholders, that additional liabilities and increased losses should not be accumulated upon them, and that it would be their duty under such circumstances to recommend them to provide the means for discharging all liabilities and gradually closing the operations of the Company.

4. Your Directors have now before them the result of the new business, for the year ending 30th June, 1857, and a most careful examination of its records establishes the fact that, the marine business has now become profitable to the Company, and it is confidently hoped, that the Fire business may, under precautionary measures lately adopted, be in time proportionately remunerative.

5. In the course of the past year, your Directors resolved to prohibit the taking of Hull time risks at the Halifax agency. The advantages of this restriction are as yet but partially felt, but will be more apparent in the ensuing year. The inland marine business has not been interfered with, the experience of the past year proving that the measures adopted by the Board of Lake underwriters, are beneficial alike to the insurers and the insured.

6. The number of Marine Policies issued in the past year was 1448. The nett amount of risks covered thereby was £765,475 10s. 9d., and the nett amount of premium received thereon was £13,456 12s. 7d. The losses reported on these risks have been but 27 in number, and the risks subsisting on 30th June last were 97, amounting in all to £66,481 3s. 4d. with unearned premium thereon to the extent of £4,134 10s. 7d. The result of this new business may be thus summed up,—