

Ottawa, who is intimately acquainted with the district, and has had every opportunity of eliciting information regarding business.

PEMBROKE, March 9th, 1877.

The weather here for a month past has been very mild and spring-like, the roads are nearly bare and sleighing of course almost impossible. As a consequence, merchants who have undertaken contracts for sending provisions up the river are unable to do so, and are patiently waiting the fulfilment of Vennor's February prediction of lots of snow. But in the meantime, these teamsters are running up bills which the merchant has got to shoulder, which would be all well enough if he in his turn could fall back on the lumberman; but unfortunately it is very difficult to realize anything from that quarter, so that the merchant must necessarily feel the want of money very much. On the Mattawan there has been considerable more snow than in the other lumbering sections of the Upper Ottawa. On this stream and its tributaries lumbering has been very successfully prosecuted thus far; but in most other districts there has been much time lost, from the impossibility of drawing out the timber. Cutting has been vigorously carried on in all sections with success, not being impeded by deep snow as is so often the case. There is another consideration which may prevent an extra quantity of lumber being put on the market this year; and that is the lowness of the water in the streams flowing into the Grand river. If a large depth of snow does not fall soon and melt with the Spring rain, it is believed that a quantity of cut lumber will have to remain on the limits. We can perhaps be allowed to hope that this may be the case, for the heavy stocks at present in the market would get worked off, and for next season we could prophecy better times and better prices for lumbermen than they have enjoyed for the past three or four years.

There is a much larger number of men in the woods this year than last, and wages are a little better, but still not much more than half what was paid three years ago. This, with the comparatively low price of provisions, will enable manufacturers to get out their timber on very favourable terms. In the towns nearest the lumbering districts, merchants do not complain so much of hard times as those living further South.

Taking the Ottawa Valley as a whole, I think it has stood the depression well, considering that lumber is, one may say, the only staple industry, and for three years now past, it has been in a very bad way; but I believe a year's good trading would put the merchants in as generally sound a position as those of any other section of the country.

The wail of hard times meets one everywhere, and I believe in reality that there is more habit in the cry than anything else; I will grant that every man in business is doing less than he did in prosperous times; but his stock is also smaller, and he does not trust so readily. Taking these things into consideration I am inclined to think that the average storekeeper is just as able now to pay his bills as ever he was.

Meetings.

THE MERCHANTS' MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The second annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held in Montreal on Tuesday 13th. inst., there was a good attendance of shareholders, among whom were Lieutenant-Governor Macdonald, Toronto; Hon. Peter Mitchell, Montreal; Messrs. A. W. Ogilvy, Wm. Angus, Jas. Lord, R. Ramsay, Ed. McKay, J. C. Hatton, McPhee, Montreal; W. B.

Scarth, Toronto; Jas. Laird and F. M. Audet, Quebec; Mr. Wyld, Halifax and Mr. Carvell, Prince Edward Island.

The chair was taken by the president, Wm. Darling, Esq., and Mr. J. K. Oswald, the general manager, was requested to act as secretary. After the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting, which were confirmed, the President appointed Messrs. Scarth and Wyld to act as scrutineers. The Chairman then read the annual

Report.

GENTLEMEN,—It is with pleasure that we now submit to you a report of the business of the company, for the year ending 31st December last, with a Balance Sheet, and a Statement of income and expenditure for the same period, all duly certified by the auditor of the company.

The gross premiums received during the year amount to \$172,765.28; after deducting rebates re-insurance, return premiums, cancelled policies the nett amount is \$141,499.15; and the balance of interest to our credit is \$3,071.73, making a total net income of \$144,570.89. Out of this amount, a sum of \$10,675 has been paid during the year for commissions to agents for the business done; \$26,499.56 for nett losses, after deducting re-insurances and salvages; \$6,154.05 for salaries, including those of inspectors in the West, and in the Lower Ports, and \$7,863.68 for all other charges, including head office and all agents telegrams, adjusters' fees, postages, travelling expenses, advertising, printing, book and stationery account, rent and taxes, legal expenses, exchange on American currency, and depreciation of office furniture—leaving a balance to the credit of profit and loss account, of \$93,378.60. Out of this sum we have written off in full the amount of organization expenses \$16,569.77, and have declared a dividend at the rate of eight per cent upon the paid up capital, amounting to \$8,000, leaving a balance of \$68,808.83 in our favor. Deducting from this a further sum of \$29,776.47, as the total amount of all losses up to the end of the year, which are not yet due, not adjusted, and in some cases not even yet claimed, there still remains a sum of \$38,032.36, which is carried to a fund for re-insurance of all outstanding risks of the company, up to 31st. December last,—a sum largely in excess of what would actually be required. Looking at the fact that this company has only been in operation since the 1st. of April last, a period of nine months, and taking into consideration the inadequate rates of insurance which have been obtainable during the past year I cannot but think that the result of our operations is highly satisfactory. We have written off out of the profits of nine months' business the whole of the organization expenses, an item usually spread over two or three years. The whole charges for the past year, inclusive of agents' commissions and every other expense of the company, amount to \$24,692.83, or less than 15 per cent. upon the gross premiums received; a very low percentage indeed. The policy of the company has been to avoid incurring large risks, and a careful supervision over all. Business, as well at agencies as at head office, has been exercised; the result of which is seen in the statement now laid before you. In accordance with the act of incorporation, three of the directors retire by rotation but are eligible for re-election.

WILLIAM DARLING,
President

Montreal, March 13th. 1877.

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1876.

Assets.	
Cash deposited with Government.....	\$50,000 00
Cash special in Bank of Montreal.....	15,384 06
Cash in bank.....	59,456 26
Cash in hand at head office.....	2,094 18
	106,865 10

Bills receivable.....	56,408 07
Balances due from agents.....	11,981 97
Balances due from other companies.....	6,997 88
Open accounts.....	629 71
Office furniture, etc., etc.....	1,200 00
	\$184,082 73

Liabilities.

Paid-up capital.....	\$100,000 00
Bills payable.....	2,633 91
Balances due to other companies.....	4,087 43
Open accounts.....	492 56
Profit and loss.....	93,378 60
Less organization expenses written off in full.....	16,569 77
	76,808 83
	\$184,082 73

GENERAL REVENUE ACCOUNT, YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1876.

Income.

Ocean hull premiums.....	\$ 86,327 88
" cargo.....	56,499 22
Inland hull.....	18,996 77
" cargo.....	10,941 46
	\$172,765 28

Less rebates, re-insurances, return premiums, and cancelled policies.....	31,266 13
Interest.....	\$141,499 15
	3,071 74
	\$144,570 89

Expenditure.

Commissions paid to agents.....	\$ 10,675 00
Losses paid gross.....	31,109 11
Less re-insurances and salvage.....	4,606 55
	26,499 59
Taxes and legal expenses.....	405 00
Exchange on American currency.....	378 88
Salaries, including inspectors.....	6,154 05
Rent and depreciation of furniture.....	1,093 30
Book and stationery account.....	515 96
Advertising and printing.....	1,241 29
Charges, including Head Office and agents' telegrams, adjusters' fees, postages, travelling expenses, &c., &c.....	4,229 25
Organization expenses—written off in full.....	16,569 77
Balance.....	76,808 84
	\$144,570 89

Certified correct,
PHILIP S. ROSS,
Auditor.

Montreal, March 8th, 1877.

•The report and statements were received with applause, and adopted.

Mr. Hodgson moved that the number of directors be reduced from fifteen to eleven. After some discussion this motion was allowed to stand as a notice of motion to be considered at the next annual meeting. The usual vote of thanks was accorded to the President, Directors and General Manager for the able manner in which they had discharged their duties. The elections of directors for the ensuing year was then proceeded with and resulted as follows:—Messrs. Wm. Darling, Ed. McKay, James MacDougall, James O'Brien, W. R. Oswald, C. H. Gould, James Lord and Hon. Peter Mitchell, M. P., Montreal; His Honor D. A. Macdonald, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario; D. C. Thompson, F. M. Audet and J. W. Laird, Quebec; William Ramsay, Toronto; Henry Lawson Halifax; Bennett Smith, Windsor, N. S., General Manager, Mr. J. K. Oswald, Montreal.

CANADA FARMERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The twenty-fifth annual meeting of this company was held in its offices, Hamilton, on Saturday, the 17th February, when the annual report was submitted to the policy-holders for their approval.

REPORT:

During the year ending 31st December, 1876, 6,751 policies were issued, covering \$5,733,004, viz:—