

HAMILTON AND GORE MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The annual meeting of this Institution was held on the 28th of February, when the following gentlemen were elected the Board of Directors for 1862:—

President, F. J. Rastrick, Esq.; Vice President, A. McCallum, Esq.; Directors: Richard Bull, Dr. Craigie, Thomas McIlwraith, C. R. Murray, George Murison, Alexander Stuart, H. M. Melville, Thomas Hilton, William McMichael.

We take the following extracts from the Report of the retiring Directors:—

“During the past year there has been a steady increase in the Membership of the Institution, with every indication of its continuance.

Number of Members as shown on the Register on the 1st February, 1861.....	396
Number joined since that date.....	168
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	564

Number resigned, died, left town, or in bad standing on the books.....	89
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Total number of Members, 1st Feb., 1862.....	475
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“The Receipts of the year, as per Financial Statement, have amounted to \$3,692 17½; the Expenditure to \$3,549 64½; leaving a Balance in hand of \$142 53.

The Final Balance Sheet shows Assets by cash in hand, value of Library, Furniture and Building, \$25,179 38; Liabilities by Mortgage account and Interest, and outstanding debts, \$13,059 54; Profit and Loss, \$12,119 85.

“Total number of Books in the Library on the 1st February, 1862, 2,702 volumes.

“Since the close of the Financial year, however, your Directors are happy to say, that they have been enabled to make an addition to this most important branch of your Institution. Mr. Brydges, in presenting the usual Annual Grant of the Great Western Railway Company, stipulated that the sum of \$100 be devoted to the purchase of Books. In this your Directors most willingly acquiesced to carry out Mr. Brydges' wishes. This they have done so far as lay in their power.

“It will thus be seen that the Library has participated in the improvement which has marked the other branches of the Institute.

“The cordial thanks of the Mechanics' Institute are due, and hereby tendered, to the proprietors of the papers hereafter named, for their continued liberality in supplying the Reading Room with the following publications, free of charge.

[Here follows a list of 36 periodicals.]

In addition to the free list referred to, the Directors report 54 other periodicals as being regularly received at the Reading Room.

“The Directors are gratified to find that the attendance at the News Room is largely increased; and in order to keep up the interest thus shown, they have used their utmost endeavours to have the most popular magazines and periodicals on the table at the earliest possible date after publication.

“Owing to the loss sustained by the course of Lectures given in 1860 and 1861, and the fact that the Lecture Season of this year was marked by an unfortunate war excitement, your Directors did not deem it prudent to organize a course. They regard the Lecture, nevertheless, as an Educational instrument which such an Institute as ours ought not to be without. They trust, therefore, that it will not be lost sight of.

“The Directors have much pleasure in stating that in the beginning of the month of August last, Isaac Buchanan, Esq., M. P. P., presented this Institution with the elegant Drinking Fountain which now stands in the Reading Room—the benefit of which appears to be fully appreciated by those visiting the room.

“Your Board have pleasure in referring to the efficient manner in which the Superintendent, Mr. Rutherford, continues to discharge the various duties devolving upon him. They believe that to his uniform courtesy, and the constant attention which he gives to the interests of the Institute, we are largely indebted for the present satisfactory condition of its affairs; and in consideration of which your Board would recommend that an increase of seventy-five dollars be made to his salary for the ensuing year.

“In conclusion, your Directors would congratulate the Members on the improved position of the affairs of the Institute, as compared with what they were twelve months ago. The amount of old debts paid off, the increase in the subscription list, and the additional sum derived from Rent of Hall, afford ample proof that progress has been made. They are sanguine that such will continue during the coming year, and believe that with an efficient Board of Directors, and the cordial coöperation of the individual members, your Institution may at no distant date, compare favourably with any similar Institution in the Province.”

Resolutions of thanks were passed to the Directors, Superintendent, and Auditors; and also to C. J. Brydges, Esq., and the Directors of the Great Western Railway, “for the very handsome yearly donation of \$400 to the Institute.”

ABRIDGED SPECIFICATIONS OF ENGLISH PATENTS.

Full specifications of all English patents issued may be obtained on application to Bennet Woodcroft, Esq., Great Seal Patent Office, 25 Southampton Buildings, Holborn, London; the price of which—varying from 3d. to 5s. sterling—must be remitted by Post Office order, made payable at the Post Office, Holborn.

Lists of all specifications may be seen at the Free Library of Reference of the Board of Arts and Manufactures, Toronto, as published in the Commissioner of Patents Journal.

1773. T. COBLEY. *A process for preserving and indurating timber, wood, and other vegetable matters, and for rendering the same non-inflammable.* Dated July 15, 1861.

Here a strong solution of potash, baryta, lime, strontia, or any of their salts, or of the salts of any