

charging us 2 cents per mile. We believe that, unless this rate were reduced to 1½ cents, that it would be almost as well to withdraw our arrangement with the railways, as a great many members are able to make much better private arrangements. We do not feel that this would weaken the Association, as a member who clings to it merely for the sake of the 2-cent per mile rate is not one who adds much strength to such a fraternity as ours.

The year 1898 has, so far as we can see, been one of the most prosperous in the history of Canadian journalism. Publishers have increased the value of their papers and have made improvements in such a way that revenues have been materially increased.

W. S. DINGMAN,  
1st Vice-President.

#### RAILWAY PRIVILEGES.

Mr. McGillicuddy asked that the secretary-treasurer give the association some information in reference to the existing arrangement with the railway companies, in order that the members might discuss the clause relating thereto intelligently.

Mr. John A. Cooper stated that the executive committee for the past four or five years had felt that the association ought to receive more consideration from the railway companies than is given to any other person connected with the press, in the way of canvassing and subscription agents. "There are men engaged in that work who get better rates from the railway companies, through the office in which they are employed, than are given to the members through the association. If one of the primary objects of the association is to secure for its members special railway privileges, the association, therefore, fails at that point because it does not secure anything special. It is a very common thing for members to say to me, when renewing certificates, that they do not amount to anything as they had not used it all the previous year, as they have certificates direct from the railway company. I must notify the railway companies of every certificate I issue, and the association certificate must be drawn up in the exact wording laid down by them. The Quebec men seem to have a great many more privileges than we have, on the Grand Trunk railway, the Canadian Pacific railway, the Intercolonial and the smaller roads. In view of the fact that the certificate issued by the association confers no material advantage upon the holder, which cannot be obtained in another way, it seems to me that we might as well abandon the present arrangements with the railway companies. We could then frame a certificate which would be more dignified and which would be of value to members when traveling abroad, or even in the Province. The present arrangement does not seem to me to be worth maintaining, as we have to observe the regulations observed by the railways and get nothing in return."

The Chairman: "I have had certificates rendered to me by the railway company, for all the employes of my office, at the two-cent rate."

Mr. Wm. Ireland: "Is it not a fact that the railway companies are beginning to think we are their servants? The railway companies are now sending out contracts for advertising, which contain a condition that the company shall be at liberty to cancel it if the paper criticized the railway unfairly or unjustly, and the company is the judge of the fairness or otherwise. In other words, they have established a censorship over us."

Mr. Ireland: "We, as an association, will only be doing our duty if we let the railways understand we can get along with-

out them, and that, if they don't treat the public as they ought to, they will get it in the neck. When going home, I have to spend twenty-one hours in a country hotel on the way, because the railway companies won't give connection."

Mr. Fawcett: "In my opinion, we should not ask the railways for any favors at all. I don't believe in passes being given to members of Parliament, or newspapermen, either. They should be left in an independent position and free to criticize the companies."

Mr. J. T. Clark: "Is it the intention to abandon his two-cent rate and pay three cents, unless we can get a better rate than two cents? My impression is, that while a great many members get a two-cent rate irrespective of this association, there are a great number who do not, and would have to pay three cents per mile if this arrangement is abrogated. Personally, I always carry two certificates, either one of which entitles me to a two-cent rate, but I know a weekly publisher who does not get a two-cent rate, and he is about to join this association for that among other reasons. I am in favor of a two-cent or a one-and-a-half-cent rate, if we can get it, and because I travel on that rate, I do not regard myself as bound to the railway companies. I take advantage of anything they offer, and I criticize them just the same."

Mr. Phillips, Ottawa: "When the two-cent rate was first given to the press, it was in recognition of the assistance they gave the railways, and was much lower than the rate given to anyone else. Since then, others have obtained the same rate, and, as the services which the press render to the railway companies generally are in no wise less valuable now than they were then, I think it is quite proper for us to ask to have it reduced in the same proportion as the rates have been reduced to others."

The matter was, on motions of Messrs. Pattullo and McGillicuddy, referred to the committee on resolutions.

#### SECRETARY-TREASURER'S REPORT.

Mr. John A. Cooper read the report of the secretary-treasurer as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS,—During the past year the expenses of the association have been comparatively light, as the increased amount on hand shows.

The receipts show a slight decrease. There were 164 certificates issued in 1898, as against 179 in 1897 and 161 in 1896. The annual report cost more than in the previous year, on account of the introduction of some new matter. In spite of these two features, the financial position of the association is more favorable than at any time during the past six years.

The detailed statement for 1898 is as follows:

#### RECEIPTS.

On hand from 1897.....	\$55 80
Advertising in Annual Report	
Warwick Bros. & Rutter.....	\$ 5 00
Canada Paper Co.....	10 00
MacLean Publishing Co.....	5 00
Toronto Type Foundry.....	10 00
Miller & Richard.....	15 00
E. B. Eddy Co.....	10 00
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	55 00
Receipts from fees.....	336 00
Interest.....	1 87
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	\$448 67