

TWENTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Canada Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company.

PRESENTED FEBRUARY 20th, 1872.

The Directors, in presenting their Twentieth Annual Report, have pleasure in announcing an increase of 414 policies over that of the preceding year, and of 1635 over that of the year 1868, of which this year's work was a renewal.

The business of the Company has shown a gradual and steady increase for some years past.

AMOUNT OF BUSINESS DONE.

6749 policies were issued during the year, covering \$5,349,818.00.

The total amount at risk on the 31st December, 1871, was \$13,696,623.00 covered by 18,079 policies, giving an average of \$757.60 to each policy.

LOSSES.

The number of claims notified during the year have been 107.— The amount claimed on them being \$32,593.09; of this the sum of \$23,347.29 had been paid previous to closing the books on the 31st of December, leaving an unpaid balance of \$9,245.80, of which \$8,190 has since been paid. The residue comprises claims not finally arranged, and upon which there may be some reduction.

Of the 107 claims shewn in the accompanying table of losses, 51 arose on dwelling houses and their contents, and 4 on school-houses. The cause in 30 instances is attributed, directly or indirectly, to defective or dirty chimnies; 50 losses occurred on barn buildings and their contents. There were 4 losses attributable to lightning, 11 to fire spreading from burning bush or stumps, and 11 to incendiarism. In several instances no clue as to the cause could be discovered.

The cause of the destruction of so many dwelling houses being so palpable, the Directors deem it their duty to urge upon members the necessity of satisfying themselves that their chimnies are securely constructed, and that they are regularly swept, and not left foul until a roaring fire on a washing or a baking day burns out the chimney, and burns down the house at the same time.