

Meetings.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Confederation Life Association was held at the head office of the company, Yonge, Richmond and Victoria streets, Toronto, on Tuesday, the 16th inst., at the hour of 2 p.m.

There was a large attendance of policy-holders, shareholders, and members of the agency staff.

On motion, the Hon. Sir W. P. Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., was called to the chair, and Mr. J. K. Macdonald, managing director, was appointed secretary of the meeting.

The report and financial statements relating to the business of the association for the year 1896 were submitted as follows:

REPORT.

The directors are pleased to meet the policy-holders and shareholders in the twenty-fifth annual meeting, and to lay before them the report for the year 1896.

It is scarcely necessary to say that the year was one of continued and widespread depression, causing an accentuation of the financial stringency which has existed for some years past, and rendering it difficult to obtain a large volume of new business by legitimate means. Your directors, however, have not been tempted to depart from the policy which has marked the past management. It will, therefore, be all the more pleasing to note the large amount of new business secured, as well as the gratifying indications of progress which a perusal of the statements will afford, the more so that this has been done with a decreased ratio of expenses to income.

Including a few deferred cases at the close of 1895, we have had 2,058 applications for assurances amounting to \$3,286,996; of these 1,952 for \$3,111,046 were approved, and 106 for \$175,950 were declined. Including bonus additions, the total new business written for 1896 was 1,951 policies for \$3,131,995. The total business on the books on December 31st, was 18,253 policies for \$27,560,423 on 15,978 lives.

The claims by death, while less in number than in the previous year, called for a larger amount, as it happened that several large policies became claims. There were ninety-nine deaths, calling for \$223,487 under 114 policies. Of these nine deaths, calling for \$41,000, were accidental. There were re-assurances to the amount of \$23,328, which reduced the net claims to \$200,159. The foregoing will show that the directors continue to exercise the greatest care in admitting only good lives.

The usual financial statements accompany the report, and will be found to exhibit the condition of the association at the close of the year.

The auditors have continued to give strict attention to the duties of their department, making their audit from month to month as formerly. Their report will be found appended to the financial statements.

A perusal of the report and statements will show the following satisfactory evidences of progress:

1. A satisfactory volume of new business secured by purely business methods and at a fair cost.
2. A satisfactory increase in the total insurance in force.
3. A satisfactory increase in income, both from premiums and interest.
4. A large increase in the assets.
5. A gratifying increase in surplus, notwithstanding the payment out to policyholders during the year of the large sum of over \$82,000 for profits.
6. A decreased ratio of expenses to income.

The directors, realizing that the rate of interest obtainable on good investments may be considered as permanently lowered, gave careful consideration to the rate of interest to be employed in calculating the policy and annuity obligations of the association, and as a result decided to use a rate of $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. for all the business written subsequent to December 31, 1895, instead of $\frac{4}{4}$, as formerly. This will have the effect of strengthening the position of the company and affording greater security to its policyholders.

The directors are pleased to call attention to the fact that the head office building is gradually filling up, and that there is every prospect that in the near future, with a revival in business, it will be fully occupied. In the mean-

time, in view of the incorrect impression occasionally sought to be made, we are not saying too much when we state that the building is paying fully as well as any similar building in Canada.

The directors have had under consideration the question of going outside of Canada for business, and, while it has not been definitely decided, it is quite probable that, subject to the approval of this meeting, the right to do business in some parts of the United States of America may be sought for at an early date.

The directors are also pleased to report that the field and office staffs continue to discharge their duties with efficiency and faithfulness.

All the directors retire, but are eligible for re-election.

W. P. HOWLAND,
President.
J. K. MACDONALD,
Managing-Director.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Receipts.

Premiums, net	\$ 907,321 69
Interest and rents, net.....	225,295 97

\$ 1,132,617 66

Disbursements.

To policy-holders—	
Death claims.....	\$ 203,797 34
Endowments.....	103,130 00
Annuities	6,260 21
Cash values	55,227 10
Cash profits	82,696 25

\$ 451,110 90

Expenses, salaries, commissions, etc.	260,685 06
Dividends to stockholders	15,000 00
Balance	459,821 70

\$1,132,617 66

Total assets	\$5,779,210 95
Total liabilities.....	5,407,280 11

Cash surplus above all liabilities	\$ 371,930 84
Capital stock.....	1,000,000 00

Total surplus security for policy-holders	\$1,371,930 84
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AUDITORS' REPORT.

We beg to report that we have completed the audit of the books of the association for the year ending December 31st, 1896, and have examined the vouchers connected therewith, and certify that the financial statements agree with the books, and are correct.

The securities represented in the assets (with the exception of those lodged with the Dominion Government, amounting to \$84,500, and those deposited with the Government of Newfoundland, amounting to \$25,000) have been examined and compared with the books of the association, and are correct, and correspond with the schedules and ledgers.

The bank balances and the cash are certified as correct.

W. R. HARRIS,
JAS. WATSON, } Auditors.
Toronto, March 4th, 1897.

The president, Sir W. P. Howland, moved the adoption of the report, and in doing so, referred to the gratifying increases that had been made in the business of the association for the past year, emphasizing the following points: Increase in premium income of over \$55,287; increase in interest income, \$15,528; in cash surplus, after the payment to policyholders of over \$82,000; in cash profits of \$37,776; and in assets of \$454,772. The insurance at risk at the close of the year amounted to \$27,560,000, and represented a gain for the year of nearly one million dollars; and, continuing, said: "While we have reason to be gratified at these results of the year's business, at the same time it affords important evidence to us of the favorable opinion that is entertained by the public generally of making investments in life insurance, and their full measure of confidence in the company which we represent."

He referred, in conclusion, to the important change which had been made in the basis of the valuation of the company's assurances, and which would have the effect of affording fuller protection to its policyholders, and of strengthening the financial position of the company in the future.

Mr. W. H. Beatty, vice-president, seconded

the adoption of the report, which, after a few remarks by the managing director, and by one or two of the policy-holders present, was carried unanimously.

Mr. J. A. Paterson, barrister, moved, seconded by Mr. Henry Swan, a resolution thanking the officers and directors of the association for their services and attention to the affairs of the company during the past year. Both of these gentlemen referred in complimentary terms to the very excellent report which had been presented to the meeting.

The resolution, which was duly approved, was acknowledged by the president, on behalf of the directors.

Resolutions of thanks were also passed to the actuary, solicitors, medical, agency, and official staffs, which were duly acknowledged by the representatives of the several bodies referred to.

All the retiring directors were re-elected, and a meeting of the new board held immediately thereafter. Sir W. P. Howland, C.B., K.C.M.G., was re-elected president, and Messrs. Edward Hooper and W. H. Beatty vice-presidents.

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The forty-sixth annual meeting of the shareholders of the above company was held at its offices in Toronto, on Thursday, 25th February. The Hon. Geo. A. Cox, president, occupied the chair, and Mr. C. C. Foster, having been appointed to act as secretary to the meeting, read the following annual report.

REPORT.

In presenting the annual report of the business of the company for the year ending 31st December, 1896, the directors have pleasure in stating that, while there has been a falling off in the premium receipts, the revenue account shows a profit on the year's transactions of \$119,708 43. Out of this two half-yearly dividends, at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, have been declared; \$5,752 38 has been written off for depreciation in securities, and the balance added to reserve fund, which now amounts to \$1,086,908 21.

Owing to the reduction in the volume of business transacted, the amount necessary to provide for running off the liability on unexpired policies is \$23,804 88 less than at the close of 1895. After making provision for this and all other liabilities, the net surplus has been increased to \$316,252 34.

The directors have pleasure in acknowledging the efficient services of the officers and agents of the company during the past year.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Total cash income	\$2,336,727 95
Total expenditure, including appropriation for losses under adjustment.....	2,217,019 52

Balance

Dividends on stock	\$ 100,000 00
Total assets	2,324,427 18
Reserve fund.....	1,086,908 21
Cash capital.....	1,000,000 00
Subscribed capital	1,000,000 00
Security to policy-holders	3,086,908 21

The annual report of the directors having been read, the president in moving its adoption, stated that he was pleased to be able to say that the year had not been marked by any serious individual losses, such as he had had to refer to at the last annual meeting. The business of the company had been carried on upon the same lines as had been followed in the past, and the results, as shown in the statements submitted, were, he thought, upon the whole, as favorable as the most sanguine shareholder could have anticipated, bearing in mind the prevailing condition of general business throughout the continent during the year 1896. The comparatively small falling off in the premium income of the company was such as might naturally have been looked for under the circumstances. An amount of \$5,752 38 had been written off for depreciation in securities, which was necessary to bring them to their market value at the close of the year, and which must be regarded as a very moderate shrinkage on total assets of upwards of two and a quarter millions. Briefly speaking, he said that the figures in the report submitted showed that while the company had done a somewhat reduced volume of business, there had been a fair margin of profit on the year's