

This may be reduced before our books are closed on Mar. 31st, if we are successful in collecting our accounts. The only uncertain item in the calculation is the amount that will be realized from unpaid subscriptions, and ample allowance has been made for this.

2. The deficit, i.e., the difference between the assets and the liabilities, at the close of the financial year (May 1st, 1896, to April 31st, 1897) was \$1,869.81. If to this we add the liability to subscribers for the unexpired portion of their subscriptions at that date, we have a total deficit of \$5,037.06. This is the sum that would have been required, over and above assets, to pay all debts and refund subscribers at the close of the Church's financial year. The sum quoted by your correspondent was the total liability of the committee at that date. If from this we deduct the assets, \$3,166.60, we get the deficit of \$1,869 mentioned above.

3. Inasmuch, however, as subscriptions to periodicals were largely paid for in advance for the whole of the calendar year 1897, and the amounts credited to the financial year 1896-1897, while the cost of supplying these same subscribers for eight months (May to Dec.) would be charged against the next year's income, a more correct view of the financial position of the committee is obtained by ascertaining what the deficit would be at the close of 1897. This the committee have shown, as accurately as possible at the time it was made, in Table V. appended to their report. There it is shown that if we should receive \$2,500 for Children's Day, and \$1,000 from a special appeal for personal contributions, the probable deficit on December 31st, 1897, would be \$3,731.98. We estimated that we would require to receive \$2,500 + \$1,000 + \$3,734.98 (\$7,235) from outside sources if we wished to close 1897 free of debt. This is the \$7,000 that your correspondent has heard about. It is not the deficit at the time of the Assembly, but the estimated probable deficit on December 31st, supposing that we received nothing from any other source than the subscriptions to our periodicals. Our expectations in regard to Children's Day have been fully realized. The special appeal for \$1,000 has not been made. If we deduct the amount expected from it from the estimated receipts in Table V. the estimated deficit at this date will be \$4,735. The actual deficit on December 31st, is \$1,260, that we should come so near the correct amount eight months ago shows how carefully our estimates have been made.

My answer to your correspondent's first query therefore is - The loss upon the "Lesson Helps" for 1897 is \$465. The answer to his second query is - The real deficit to day is \$1,260.

The accuracy of the Committee's accounts is certified by an official auditor, and the above is a sample of the care with which all estimates have been made. If any who do not understand the very full statements laid before the last Assembly will ask questions I shall be happy to answer them. Only in this way can incorrect views of the committee's position be rectified.

T. F. FOTHERINGHAM

DEAR EDITOR, This week brings another circular from Rev. T. F. Fotheringham with another appeal to wipe out the existing deficit.

This committee was given leave to make a special appeal on Children's Day. Programmes were arranged and sent out to all the Sunday schools in our Church, and accompanying these were envelopes in which a special collection was taken up for this purpose. Our two schools contributed liberally to this fund in the expectation that the money would be thus applied. There has, however, been no account given of the money received on Children's Day, whether it be small or great. Of course a detailed statement would not be required before next Assembly, but certainly it is necessary to know how much has been contributed on that day. According to the Statement and Appeal it would appear that the Convener and the three endorser are still liable for the whole deficit, but it should be materially reduced by the children's offering.

The questions which naturally arise are - 1st. What amount was received from the Children's Day exercises?

2nd. To what was this money applied?

3rd. If applied to the note to meet the deficit, how much still remains unpaid?

Naturally the whole amount of the original

note does not yet rest upon these brethren! More definite information regarding this matter will be required before any more appeals can be entertained by us at least.

During these times of threatened retrenchment in Home and Foreign Missions, it should be still more seriously considered whether it is wise to continue the publication of our own Sunday School Helps, when it is putting the Church into more debt.

Moreover we have never yet been able to secure the Canadian helps on time. They sometimes arrive as much as a month behind time. True we are far West, but that makes no difference; they should be here, otherwise they are of no use whatever. For this reason we have been compelled to order our helps elsewhere this year.

Yours very truly,
W. B. CUMMINS.

NANAIMO, B.C., Jan. 26th, 1898.

NORTH AMERICAN LIFE.

STILL IN THE FRONT RANK.

The annual meeting of this Company was held at its head office in Toronto on January 25th. The Directors' report presented at the meeting showed marked proofs of continued progress and solid prosperity in every leading branch of the Company's business.

Summary of the Financial Statement and Balance Sheet for the Year ended December 31st, 1897.

Cash income.....	\$ 699,550 49
Expenditure (including death claims, endowments, matured investment policies, profits and all other payments to policy holders.....)	431,367 26
Assets.....	2,773,177 22
Reserve Fund.....	2,245,920 60
Net surplus for policy-holders.....	427,121 33

Wm. McCABE, Managing Director.
Audited and found correct.
JAS. CARLISLE, M.A.,
Auditor.

The Company's consulting actuary reported to the Directors that he had very carefully examined the accounts and balance sheet of the Company, as at December 31st, 1897, and found that in every branch of the Company's work tending to its solid progress and prosperity substantial gains had been made.

Your objection for investment policies that matured in 1897 called for an outlay of over \$69,500—the individual settlements not only being generally satisfactory, but, as a matter of fact, comparing more than favorably with the settlements made by other companies upon similar forms of policies.

The President, Mr. John L. Blaikie, on moving the adoption of the report, said:—

“As on many previous occasions, you will be pleased to observe that in everything that goes to make a life insurance company successful the North American Life again shows progress, solidity, and gain for the policy holders.

For example, compare the business of 1897 and 1896 under the following heads:

	Increase over 1896	Per cent Increase
Assets as at Dec. 31, 1897.	\$2,773,177 22	\$257,343 81 10.2
Cash Income.....	699,550 49	57,762 41 9.
Ins. in force.....	18,945,878 00	1,451,708 00 8.3
Premium Income.....	532,131 96	42,670 41 7.9
Interest Income.....	117,118 53	15,092 00 14.8

The assets of the Company are of a high class, and after providing for every liability, there remains a net surplus of \$427,121.33, the percentage of net surplus to liabilities being 18.2, and the percentage of assets to liabilities being 118.2.

A year ago I submitted a table showing the experience of eleven companies doing business in Canada, the amount of insurance issued, the total terminations each had experienced, and what the percentage was. The North American made a far better

showing than any of the eleven, and official figures given in the last Dominion Government report, showing a like experience, again place the North American in the first position.”

The Hon. G. W. Allan, Vice-President, said:—

“I think the very best evidence of the excellent character of the assets of the Company, and the care shown by the Directors in the investment of the funds, is the large increase in our interest income for the year, namely, \$15,092, and the fact that our interest and rents, due and accrued, at the end of the year, should show a decrease of \$1,119 57. Now, here is the position of our assets. We have invested in:—

	Amount.	Percentage of total assets
Mortgages, etc....	\$1,108,563 93	40
*Debentures.....	635,197 89	22.9
**Real estate.....	292,263 83	10.5
Stocks and bonds	203,331 41	7.3
Loans on policies	176,331 61	6.4
Loans on stocks.	157,730 00	5.7
Outstanding premiums in course of collection, and quarterly and half-yearly premiums, being balance of year's premiums not yet paid.....	100,460 37	3.6
Cash in banks....	57,743 07 1/2	2.1
Cash on hand.....	31 78 1/2	
Interest and rents, due and accrued.....	38,376 95	1.4
Reversions.....	3,046 35	.1
	\$2,773,177 22	100.

*Market value exceeds this by \$21,425.15.

**Including the Company's building.

“I think you will agree with me this shows a highly satisfactory state of affairs and must be doubly reassuring to all the policy-holders of the Company, as well as its excellent agency staff, as to the high standard this Company has attained among the life companies in this country. So far as I can judge it stands at the head.

“Our real estate, as compared with last year, shows but a slight addition in amount, except that we have now added thereto our own home, this handsome building, in which we are holding this meeting. It was an excellent stroke of business on the part of the Company in securing this property, as we have now every accommodation for the proper conduct of the business, in fact, one of the best equipped offices in the city, and the cost to the Company will be but a moderate one. Already the space we have to rent is well tenanted, and the one office at present vacant is already bespoken. All the properties in possession of the Company are well rented, and giving the Company a fair return.”

Mr. J. N. Lake, in moving a vote of thanks to the Company's provincial managers, inspectors, and agency staff, said:

“It will be gratifying to everyone interested in the Company, and speaks volumes for the energy displayed by our agents, that our new business this month is the best business for January in the history of the Company.

“It is interesting to note the great progress this Company has made during the last ten years, as shown by the following table:—

	7th Year.	12th Year.	17th Year.
Cash Income.....	\$225,282.64	\$434,626.42	\$699,550.49
Assets.....	\$12,318.99	1,413,978.00	2,773,177.00
Ins. in force.....	6,974,390	12,060,080	18,945,878
Net Surplus.....	54,895.94	225,635.80	427,121.33

“You will see that the cash income increased over three-fold; assets over five times, insurance in force nearly three fold, and net surplus nearly eight-fold—the latter indicating that the Company is a good one for the policy holder.

Mr. McCabe, managing director, said he could heartily endorse all that had been said as to the efficiency of our agency staff, and the energetic and satisfactory manner in which they had accomplished their work during the year just closed. He knew that the agents had unusual competition during the latter part of the year, owing to four