1899

FIFTY-FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY

OF TORONTO

The Directors have pleasure in presenting to the Stockholders a Report of the transactions of the Company for the past year.

The rapidly increasing consumption of gas has rendered it necessary to make very considerable additions to the Company's premises and plant.

Early in the year, the Directors purchased from the Executors of the late Dr. Small, the property on the north side of Front Street between Parliament and Erin Streets, 425 x 88 feet, on which has been erected a purifying house 160x52 feet, and a lime and oxide of iron shed 160x24 feet, for the Lowe process (water gas) works. These buildings are of brick, with steel frames and roofs, are fire-proof, and of a most substantial character. Within the purifying house four purifiers 30x35x5 feet, with connections, are in process of construction. The purifying plant of the coal gas works, is being duplicated by the erection of four purifiers 30x30x5 feet, now nearing completion. A new and improved system for operating these purifiers will be adopted.

Three multitubular condensers 24 x 6 feet for the coal gas works, have been erected, space having been left in the present buildings for these as well as the coal gas purifiers.

The office premises having become much too contracted for the Company's business, the Directors after careful consideration, decided that the best—in fact the only feasible—plan to secure the much needed accommodation would be to take down the wall between the Company's office and the Company's adjoining building, and extend the office across the whole frontage of both buildings, leaving a hall-way at the south end It had also been found impossible to let the offices in the upper stories, owing to there not being an elevator and the lack of other accommodation. This, together with the necessity of having the floors of the buildings on the same level, and the desirability of having the front of both buildings of the same architectural design, rendered it necessary to take down and rebuild the adjoining office premises and remodel the present premises. These alterations are now approaching completion, and when finished will give the Company a commodious and handsome office, a large board room and a number of desirable offices for rental, while the whole building will be a most attractive architectural feature.

During the past year 1,388 new services have been put in, and nearly three miles of mains have been laid, making the total mileage over 245.

To meet a part of the expenditure for these extensions, and for economical reasons, the Directors have decided to avail themselves of the power conferred by the Legislature, to issue $100,000 of debentures, payable in ten years, and bearing interest at four per cent. per annum, in preference to issuing more Capital Stock.

The average illuminating power of the gas for the year was 20 candles.

The output of gas for the past year was 775,926,000 cubic feet, being 68,715,000 over that of the preceding year, which is the largest annual increase in the Company's history.

A comparative statement with that of the preceding year shows:—

	STREET LAMPS.	METERS.	GAS RENTAL.
Year ending 30th September, 1899	1,021	25,460	$625,464 51
" " " 1898	1,012	24,257	568,128 51
Showing an increase of	9	1,203	$57,336.00

The Manager and his assistants continue to give every satisfaction, and the works are in the most efficient condition.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LARRATT W. SMITH,
President.