

The president, in moving the adoption of the report, said:

Before proceeding with the business for which we have been called together, it is fitting that some reference should be made to the sad calamity which has recently befallen the Empire in the death of our beloved Queen.

Amid the grand chorus of love and affection which has gone up from every quarter of the wide world, and the many eloquent tributes that have been paid to her life and character, we can only lay our humble wreath of sorrow on her tomb, deeply conscious that we have not only lost a great ruler, but one who was a true friend to her people, and whose heart was filled with love and tenderness. Her lofty example of a pure and stainless life, her wise counsel and her genuine desire for the extension of the commercial and financial interests of her people, were largely instrumental in placing the Empire in the proud position it occupies to-day.

Let us be grateful that she was spared to us so long, and that in her declining years she was permitted to receive unmistakable evidence of the loyalty and devotion of her "sons beyond the seas." The company's business for the past year has proved most satisfactory in all respects, and the results compare favorably with those of our best years.

All expenses have been met, full provision made for all doubtful accounts, half-yearly dividends of 4½ per cent. paid as usual, and the reserve fund has been increased by \$35,000 from profits, and \$25,000 previously written off to provide for depreciation in land values and found to be unnecessary.

The reserve is now over 63½ per cent. of the paid-up capital, and amounts to \$890,000.

Payments have been satisfactory, and the amount of principal and interest in arrear on mortgages is less than at any time since 1878, when the records of the company first showed this item separately. In that year the sum in arrear was over double what it is now, although the business of the company has been more than trebled. Compulsory proceedings were only found necessary in a few instances, and our total losses for the year are less than one thousand dollars. The system of requiring small annual payments on principal, leading, as it does, to a gradual improvement in the margin of security, has doubtless assisted in producing these excellent results.

The company had on hand at the end of the year three farms aggregating 235 acres, valued at \$5,700; the sale of 100 acres is now being completed for \$2,800, and we anticipate no difficulty in disposing of the remainder at the prices at which they have been taken into account.

During the year, the total assets were increased \$257,190, nearly all of which was in Canadian debenture account.

By recent amendments to the acts governing loan companies, their borrowing powers are considerably enlarged, and they are permitted under certain limitations to invest in and lend on securities which formerly they could not take, and they are thus enabled to compete in several classes of profitable business from which they were formerly debarred. These matters will no doubt be fully discussed at the special meeting to be held to-day, and should the shareholders deferred to take advantage of the powers conferred on us by these amendments, they may rest satisfied that the directors will, as in the past, exercise the greatest care and not allow themselves to be led by the prospect of extra profit, into the acceptance of any securities that are not beyond question.

The vice-president, Mr. Philip Mackenzie, in seconding the motion, said:

The field of the company's operations is restricted to Western Ontario. Competition, especially between the financial corporations, to secure investments of the kind sought by the company, is nowhere more keen than in this field; nevertheless, so popular is the company that it has received applications for \$2,410,824. Such, however, has been the discriminating care exercised, that of all these applications an aggregate representing less than \$1,000,000 has been accepted. But care, as I have said, has also been taken to maintain the high character of the securities. Thus, although a comparison with the company's former statements shows an increase of business, a further comparison shows that the amount of real estate left with the company is no greater than formerly. And, again, notwithstanding the policy of the company in recent years has been to require yearly payments on account of principal, a policy we would naturally expect to result in increased rather than diminished arrears, the amount of arrears as has been shown is very small.

The report presented should be the cause of satisfaction to all who are interested in the company.

Prof. Wm. Saunders made the following remarks in support of the motion: The position of the Huron and Erie Loan and Savings Company is without a parallel in the history of loan companies in this country. While nearly all other companies in Canada have materially reduced the dividends to their stockholders, the Huron and Erie continues to maintain its dividend as heretofore, and still adds yearly large sums to its reserve fund. This, I think, is due in part to the very efficient and economical management of the company's business for many years past, to the wise and thoroughly conservative principles which have actuated the directors and officers during the whole period of the company's existence, to the constant employment of its funds, and their use almost exclusively on farm loans, and these within an area in Ontario sufficiently limited to permit of the thorough inspection of every loan before the money is advanced, and renewed inspection from time to time as needed.

In this way losses have been minimized, and at the same time the uniformly fair dealing of the company with its borrowers and others has given it the confidence of the public in a very marked degree, which has been very helpful.

A gratifying condition of agriculture prevails in almost all parts of Canada, due, I believe, largely, to the more general adoption of mixed farming and the greater intelligence brought to bear by the farmers of this country, in conducting their work, and as a result, farm lands are more in demand; they command a readier sale, and at somewhat increased values. The immense resources which our country has in the vast areas of fertile lands within her boundaries will ever be an important element in connection with her prosperity, and will insure, with increased settlement, further development.

The usual votes of thanks were unanimously adopted, and the following gentlemen elected to serve as directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. J. W. Little, Philip Mackenzie, Prof. Wm. Saunders, F. E. Leonard, V. Cronyn, and John Labatt.

A special meeting of the shareholders was held immediately after the close of the annual meeting, the object of which the president explained as having reference to the new securities allowed by law for investment in by such societies. A motion was unanimously adopted, giving consent to loans and investments being made by the company upon the securities indicated in a list given.

At a subsequent meeting of the board, Mr. J. W. Little was re-elected president, and Mr. Philip Mackenzie, vice-president.

HOME LIFE INSURANCE CO.

The annual general meeting of the company was held at the head office, 70 King street East, Toronto, on Tuesday, February, 12th. Among those present were: Messrs. W. Amor, Hamilton; Charles Arnoldi, Rev. Wm. Briggs, D.D.; Thomas Bates, J. W. Curry, K.C., Toronto; Thomas Elliott, Brantford; John Firstbrook, N. W. Ford, John Hillock, J. A. Hill, John S. King, Dr. John S. King, Albert Ogden, W. T. C. Keeler, Toronto; Thomas H. Parker, Woodstock; A. J. Pattison, F. Roper, Toronto; W. V. Wadland, Woodstock.

The directors' report contained the following:

REPORT.

On the 31st of December last, the company completed eleven months and thirteen days of its operations under the new license issued in accordance with the special act granted by the Dominion Parliament in 1899.

During the year your directors have considered 1,201 applications for insurance, amounting to \$1,665,125, as compared with 715 applications for \$758,250 in the year 1899. The business of the year 1900 was disposed of as follows:

Policies issued	995	\$1,412,225 00
Policies issued, not paid for	151	185,650 00
Applications declined ..	55	67,250 00

1,201 \$1,665,125 00

The total insurance in force at the close of the year was \$2,385,155, under 1,838 policies.

Much the greater part of this is level premium business, upon which the high standard reserve of 3½ per cent. is maintained.

The subscribed capital of the company was:

On December 31st, 1899	\$740,000 00
On December 31st, 1900	823,900 00

Increase

The assets of the company for the protection of policy-holders were upon the same dates, as follows:

December 31st, 1899	\$748,383 79
December 31st, 1900	996,696 27

Increase

The death claims during the year have been fourteen for \$15,792.89. Of this amount two for \$2,000 were not completed at the close of the year, but have since been paid. It will be noted that the death rate has been very low, an evidence of the continued care which has been exercised in the selection of risks.

In the financial statements, appended to this report, and to which the auditors have certified, will be found full information regarding the position of the association. Your directors congratulate you upon the fact that the premium income has more than doubled, while the ratio of expenditure to the volume of business has largely decreased.

Gross premium, 1900	\$58,294 12
Gross premium, 1899	27,856 26

Increase

It must be no less gratifying to you than it is to your directors to be able to put on record the fact that the Home Life has steadily advanced in all respects amidst the keenest competition.

Your board have pleasure in testifying to the continued zeal and efficiency of the official staff of the association.

R. HARCOURT,
President.

A. J. PATTISON,
Managing Director.