

making a similar effort to secure some measure of reciprocity in the business of fire insurance. As a practical step in this direction, it was decided to establish a branch office of the company in London, England. This was opened on the 1st of December last, and placed under the management of Mr. W. B. Meikle—a gentleman, who, we believe, possesses all the qualities of a successful insurance manager. A board of directors has been appointed in London, upon which we have been fortunate in securing the following gentlemen to serve, namely: The Right Hon., the Earl of Aberdeen, C.C.M.G.; the Right Hon. Sir John Kennaway, Bart., M.P., and Mr. James Stevenson, of Messrs. Grahams & Co., British and East India merchants, and I am pleased to say that we feel that we have every reason to be encouraged at the start which we have made in the chief metropolis of the Empire, and at the agencies which have thus far been established in connection with this new branch.

Mr. J. J. Kenny, the vice-president, seconded the adoption of the report, which was carried unanimously. The election of directors for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, resulting in the unanimous re-election of the following gentlemen, viz.: Hon. George A. Cox, Hon. S. C. Wood, Messrs. Robert Beaty, G. R. R. Cockburn, George McMurrich, H. N. Baird, W. R. Brock, J. K. Osborne, and J. J. Kenny.

At a meeting of the board of directors, held subsequently, Hon. George A. Cox was re-elected president, and Mr. J. J. Kenny, vice-president, for the ensuing year.

HAND-IN-HAND INSURANCE COMPANY.

MUTUAL AND STOCK.

FOUNDED 1873.

The twenty-seventh general ordinary meeting of the members and shareholders was held at the offices of the company, Queen City Chambers, Church street, Toronto, on Wednesday, 28th day of February, 1900, when the following report was submitted.

REPORT.

The directors beg to submit to the members and shareholders the revenue account for the past year, and the balance sheet, showing liabilities and assets on 31st December, 1899.

The number of policies in force at the end of the year was 1,797, covering at risk, after deducting reinsurance, the sum of \$2,590,191.

The total revenue from the Fire Branch was \$57,389.11, and after deducting all expenses and claims for fire losses, there was a reverse balance of \$243.72.

The balance now standing at the credit of revenue account of the Plate Glass Branch is \$16,433.22.

The usual two per cent. dividend on the capital of the company, being equal to ten per cent. on the paid-up portion thereof, was declared.

The retiring directors this year are: Dr. L. W. Smith and Thomas Flynn.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
 HUGH SCOTT, L. W. SMITH, D.C.L.,
 Vice-Pres. and Secretary. President.

REVENUE ACCOUNT, FIRE BRANCH, FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DEC., 1899.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To premium income	\$55,472 91
Interest income	1,916 20
Contingent account	243 72
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	\$57,632 83
<i>Cr.</i>	
By cancelled policies and rebate	\$ 2,724 53
Reinsurance	22,179 67
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	\$24,904 20

Salaries, directors' fees, commission, advertising, rent, plant, postage, etc.	8,382 69
Claims—fire losses...	17,551 93
Claims under adjustment (since paid) ..	6,794 01
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	24,345 94
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	\$57,632 83

REVENUE ACCOUNT, PLATE GLASS BRANCH, FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DEC., 1899.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To balance carried forward from 1898	\$14,866 92
Premium income and interest, 1899	4,626 89
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	\$19,493 81

<i>Cr.</i>	
By commission, stationery, proportion of advertising, rent, directors' fees, etc.	\$1,408 97
Claims — breakage replacements	1,058 98
Cancelled policies	592 64
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	3,060 59

Balance to contingent account, Plate Glass Branch	16,433 22
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	\$19,493 81

BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1899.

<i>Liabilities.</i>	
To capital stock (\$20,- paid-up)	\$100,000 00
Contingent account, Fire Branch	\$37,211 69
Contingent account, Plate Glass Branch.	16,433 22
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	53,644 91
Reinsurance undertakings in force	7,297 16
Debtors' and creditors' balance	3,470 35
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	\$164,412 42

<i>Assets.</i>	
By capital liable to call	\$80,000 00
Undertakings in force.	\$15,085 47
First mortgages on real estate valued at \$56,500	21,686 33
Cash on deposit, Ontario Bank	4,308 75
Cash on deposit, Dominion, and on hand	2,918 05
Cash on deposit, Imperial Trusts Co.	3,074 32
Loans on Stocks—Imperial Bank, Canadian Bank of Commerce, Western Assurance Co., Commercial Cable, C.P.R.	35,863 00
Accrued interest	1,226 50
Toronto Mortgage Co., stock	250 00
	<hr/>
	84,412 42
	<hr/>
	\$164,412 42

I hereby certify that I have audited the books and examined the vouchers and securities of the company for the year ending 31st December, 1899, and find the same correct, carefully kept, and properly set forth in the above statements.
 HENRY WM. EDDIS, F.C.A.,
 Auditor.

Toronto, February 1st, 1900.

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

The statements before you, although not as satisfactory as we could wish, or as that exhibited at our last annual meeting, must be, taken as a whole, considered highly satisfactory, as we now have at the credit of our contingent account alone, the very large ratio of 2.07 per cent., to amount of risks in force, being a ratio largely in excess of that of similar companies, including their capital.

The anomaly that strikes me is, that whilst an increase in the volume of premiums with most insurance companies seems to carry with it an increased expenditure to obtain the business, the experience of other financial institutions shows the reverse.

Going back a few years, we find from the reports of the superintendent of insurance that the ratio of expenses of fire insurance companies has gradually increased from twenty-five to thirty-three per cent., of the premium income. This difference of eight per cent. would amount to a very substantial sum were it not squandered on commissions in the rivalry for volume of business, and which has to be paid by the assured by the increased rates exacted.

The report was adopted, the retiring directors unanimously re-elected, and at a subsequent meeting of the board, L. W. Smith, Q.C., D.C.L., was elected president, and Hugh Scott, vice-president.

Among our shareholders are the following prominent names:

A. W. Austin, director, Dominion Bank; A. H. Campbell, president, British-Canadian L. & I. Co.; John D. Chipman, vice-president, St. Stephen's Bank, N.B.; L. Coffee & Co.; William Davies, William Davies & Co., Limited; Estate B. Homer Dixon; Estate William Elliot; Estate Sir C. S. Gzowski; Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal; Estate Sir D. L. Macpherson; Hon. Justice MacLennan; Prof. Goldwin Smith; L. W. Smith, Q.C., D.C.L.; W. H. Smith, manager Ontario Bank.

FIRE INSURANCE EXCHANGE CORPORATION.

STOCK AND MUTUAL.
 Capital Authorized, \$250,000.

ESTABLISHED 1886.

The annual meeting was held at the offices of the Corporation, 32 Church St., Toronto, on Monday, 26th February, 1900, the president, Frederick Wyld, in the chair, the manager acting as secretary, when the following report was submitted.

REPORT.

Your directors beg to submit the thirteenth general statement of the business of the Corporation, comprising revenue and profit and loss accounts for the past year, and the balance sheet showing liabilities and assets on 31st December, 1899.

The number of policies in force at the close of the year was 439, covering, after deducting reinsurance, the sum of \$1,530,730.

The revenue for the past year amounted to \$26,026.25, and after deducting reinsurance and all expenses, including claims for fire losses, the balance remaining to carry over was \$3,765.72.

By referring to the profit and loss account, it will be seen that the surplus over all liabilities, including reinsurance reserve, amounts to \$9,544.25.

The retiring directors this year are Messrs. J. L. Spink, Thomas Walmsley, and Hon. A. W. Ogilvie.

All of which is respectfully submitted.
 HUGH SCOTT, FREDERICK WYLD,
 Manager and Secretary. President.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31ST, 1899.

<i>Dr.</i>	
To premium income, 1899	\$24,603 95
Interest income, 1899	1,422 30
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	\$26,026 25
<i>Cr.</i>	
By reinsurance	\$ 1,584 96
Cancelled policies and rebate	1,130 20
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	\$ 2,724 16