

his efforts so far all for his own benefit? The loss to the insurance company is still \$4,000, because that much in value has been destroyed. If the assured continue his efforts and save another thousand dollars worth, he lessens the companies liability without loss to himself. The company, besides paying him \$3,000 for the goods destroyed, pays him in addition its proportion of damage to the \$3,000 worth of goods saved. In this, as in all other matters, honesty is the best policy.

One point more deserves notice: that of the \$40 paid, in the case cited by our correspondent, to Mr. W. for damage to his goods by removal. It is said that "he had to accept \$40 in full of his claim." There was no reason why he should accept that sum, or any other sum less than what he was justly entitled to. If the claimant and the representative of the company cannot agree as to the amount of loss sustained, the policy of insurance provides a way by which the matter can be left to disinterested appraisers, whose award is binding on both parties. We do not think that any insurance company "ignores claims for removal." The damage done to goods in removing them to escape destruction, is as legitimate a claim as that made for goods destroyed, and Mr. W. has only himself to blame if he accepted less from the company, less in full of his claim, than its ratable proportion of the damage that his goods sustained by removal.

THE MONTREAL FLOOD.

Very serious interruption to business, loss of property and discomfort to individuals and families has resulted from the flood which inundated the business portions of Montreal on Friday to Tuesday last, and is scarcely yet abated. Some thousands of families in Griffintown are pent up in their dwellings, with from two to six feet of water all around them. The Grand Trunk, the Central Vermont and the South Eastern Railways are all unable either to receive or despatch freight. The only road able to do anything in this way is the Canadian Pacific.

This flood is undoubtedly the highest and most destructive on record and to give an idea to those familiar with the city, of the height to which the water attained, our correspondent tells us that in some business establishments on lower St. Peter Street,—measuring from the cellar floor,—there was twenty feet of water, while up town there was water on Victoria Square to half way between Craig Street and the old Zion Church. Trains coming from the West, can only reach the city limits, and trains from the South cannot proceed beyond the Victoria Bridge, passengers coming all the way from thence to the heart of the city in boats.

The damage to property and merchandise cannot be calculated at the moment, but will be immense, and there is reason to believe that many storekeepers and traders in a moderate way will be ruined. The western portion of the city has been without gas for three nights, while the plant of the electric lighting companies is also under water, and it is believed seriously damaged. "It can thus be easily understood that business has nearly been brought to a standstill." This was the position on Tuesday, but the water has since subsided, and matters have improved,

Meetings.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of this association was held on Wednesday, 14th April, 1886, in its offices, Toronto, the president in the chair.

REPORT.

The uniform success of this association has made it an agreeable task for the directors to submit the annual report, and to meet the policy-holders and shareholders from year to year. The experience of the past year, 1885, has only varied from that of previous years in so far as the results in some very essential points have been even more satisfactory.

Your directors regret that the apparent determination to secure business at any cost, exhibited by many competing companies, and which arose probably to a large extent, at least in the first instance, from an apparent determination on the part of foreign companies to crush out the native institutions, and the introduction of plans which relieve the companies working them from the responsibility of paying immediate profits, has led to a degree of extravagance in the securing of new business, which must have a serious effect upon the balance sheets of the companies. Your directors conceived that a due regard to the interests of existing policy-holders, would not permit them to pay for business more than it was worth, and that a smaller new business, with a well-cared for balance sheet, would be better for both existing and in-coming policy-holders. The result has been a slightly decreased volume of new business, but, on the other hand, the large sum of \$108,757.86 as the surplus for the year, and with the ratio of expenses to income again reduced.

1,491 applications for assurances, amounting to \$2,497,012, were received and considered. Of these 1,385, for \$2,289,012, were approved, and 7 lapsed policies, for \$8,026, were revived, making the total approved 1,392, for \$2,297,038. 103 applications, for \$205,000, were declined, and 3, for \$3,000, stand deferred.

The year closed with 8,436 policies, for \$13,009,715 of assurance, on the books.

The death claims continue to bear testimony to the care exercised in the selection of the risks. There were 47 deaths, calling for (including declared and Interim Bonuses) the gross sum of \$87,525.33; under fifty-three policies. \$5,000 having been re-insured, made the net death losses \$82,525.33. It is worthy of mention that no less than \$20,977 was paid on deaths due to accidental causes and that claims to the amount of \$24,157.40 were reported in or for the month of December, and though the proofs in a number of cases were only received at a considerably later date, all were placed and provided for in the year to which they belonged. No claim to our knowledge, arising in 1885, remains unpaid or unprovided for.

The financial statements which accompany and form part of this report do not call for any remark. They exhibit the transactions of the association in a thoroughly clear and simple manner.

The two auditors have continued to give close attention to the monthly audit, and it must be a cause of entire satisfaction to all concerned in the company's affairs, that two capable gentlemen have been appointed with such remuneration as will admit of their giving sufficient time to the thorough and complete checking of the operations of the association.

It will also be a source of sincere gratification that the fourteenth annual report shows that the association possesses a cash income from premiums of \$380,733.15, and a cash income from interest and rents of \$85,968.78, forming together \$466,701.93, while the cash assets have reached the large sum of \$1,676,334.68,—and if the subscribed, but unpaid capital be added, as some companies are now doing, the assets are \$2,596,344.68.

It will be no less gratifying to the policy-holders to observe the magnificent surplus of \$282,199.11, over all liabilities, including current unpaid accounts; and if the subscribed, but unpaid capital, be included, and the liability of the stockholders excluded following the practice of other companies, as above, the surplus, as security to policy-holders, is \$1,282,199.11.

Your directors have decided to further popularize the policies of this association by changing the quinquennial period from the arbitrarily fixed year, to that of the quinquennial year of the policy itself. This change will make the quinquennial advantages apply to each policy at the regular intervals of five years, without waiting for any particular year, and thus do greater justice to policies passing out of existence in the interim.

It affords your directors great pleasure to bear testimony to the continued faithfulness of the office staff, as well as of the present staff of general and local agents.

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

CASH STATEMENT.

Receipts.

Dec. 31st, 1884.
Cash on hand and in banks.....\$ 56,076 24

REVENUE ITEMS.

Dec. 31st, 1885.
Premiums 380,088 22
" paid in advance..... 644 93
Interest 84,468 80
Rent 1,499 98
Repayment of investments, etc.... 208,819 70

As follows:—

Loans on policies, \$4,494.48; loans on mortgage, \$63,661.41; loans on stock, \$137,092.56; sale of real estate, \$1321.25; debentures matured, \$2,250.00.
Agents' balances 142 37
From sundry sources 907 01

\$732,647 25

Expenditure.

Dec. 31st, 1885.
Expenses for year.....\$ 82,573 16
Re-insurance 4,417 66
Surrendered policies.....net 13,183 40
Death claimsnet 83,671 67
Matured endowments 1,144 00
Dividends to stockholders..... 8,000 00
Taxes on same 134 20
Annuities 2,692 30
Profits to policy-holders in cash .. 2,477 52
Profits in reduction of premiums.. 9,891 51
Commission on loans 539 00
Rent..... 2,374 78
Taxes 607 25
Interest paid on overdrafts, &c.... 270 18
Insurance superintendence 332 85
Agents' shortages assumed as a loss written off 1,087 78

INVESTMENTS:

Mortgages, \$227,013.22; real estate \$32,577.84; loans on policies, \$17,864.01; loans on stocks, &c., \$104,150.00; loans on debentures, \$900.00; debentures purchased, \$42,210.00; government stock, \$42.08; Accrued interest on same to date of purchase, \$574.98; total..... 425,332 13
Fire prem., &c., paid for mortgageors 1,082 79
Erskine Church acct. 1,254 97
Sundry advances, current accounts, &c. 1,632 24
Cash on hand, \$181.49; in banks, \$89,766.37 89,947 86

\$732,647 25

BALANCE SHEET.

Assets.

Dec. 31st, 1885.
Debentures (par value).....\$ 166,539 00
Mortgages 1,125,042 22
Real estate 56,058 27
Loans on stocks and debentures.. 31,755 00
Govt. 5% stock and savings' bank deposit 4,658 18
Loans on company's policies.... 50,144 84
Agents' balances 249 22
Quebec Government tax (in suspense) 890 00
Sundry accounts 1,810 56
Furniture, \$2,485.54, less 10 per cent. written off for year, \$248.54 2,237 00
Fire premiums, &c., repayable by mortgagors 2,046 27
Cash on hand 181 49
Cash in banks 89,766 37
Premiums in course of collection (reserve thereon included in liabilities), of this the sum of \$38,965.21 is covered by short notes 77,215 78