

A PROSPEROUS AUSTRALIAN LIFE CO.

The 29th annual report of the Australian Mutual Fire Insurance Society gives a striking exhibit of the profitable nature of the company's business in 1900. The income for past year is stated to have been \$197,435, and the entire expenditure, including losses, \$112,620, showing, says the report, a clear surplus for the year of \$84,815, equal to 43 per cent. of the income. The income was made up of \$168,380 in premiums, and \$29,055, "interest received and accrued on investments and rents." The surplus, with a portion of the balance of profit and loss account to extent of \$1,785, were applied as follows: Contingent Fund, \$31,250, Reserve Fund, \$15,000, Bonus of 20 per cent. on premiums of past year, \$40,350.

The bonus is halved between the shareholders policyholders. The Company holds assets to and amount of \$826,950. The Australian Mutual is manifestly a very prosperous institution, and highly creditable to the manager, Mr. G. Howard Pope.

OBITUARY.**THE LATE MR. ANDREW ALLAN.**

At the ripe age of 78 years, Mr Andrew Allan passed away on the 27th ult., at his city residence. For some time past his health had been so precarious as to arouse grave alarm. He had for a length of time been senior partner in the firm of H. & A. Allan, whose shipping enterprises are of world-wide fame, and probably have done more than anything else of a mercantile character to give distinction to Canada. None of the great nations outside Great Britain, have such a splendid line of ocean steamers owned by one firm, few indeed have a merchant marine at all comparable to the Allan Line. The rise and progress of the firm as shipowners is a remarkable chapter in the history of Canada, as it is also in that of ocean navigation. To the genius and marvellous energy of the late Sir Hugh Allan the firm owes its origin and prestige, but the late Mr. Andrew Allan was a gifted successor to his distinguished brother whom he joined in 1846, soon after which their shipping enterprises were in full swing, and in spite of very serious disasters, highly successful. Though singularly quiet in manner, Mr Allan was a very dynamo of energy, push, enterprise and ambition. His ambition was to make the vessels bearing his name equal, if not superior in every feature, to those of any competitor, especially so in regard to the comfort and safety of passengers. In those respects Mr. Allan's ideas were so carried out that the Line has a splendid reputation. The vessels are navigated by officers whose skill and popularity are not surpassed—thanks to the excellent judgment of the deceased, who had the gift of selecting the

most capable seamen. Mr. Allan knew, it is said, more about every one of the vessels than anyone else, and his sound judgment was recognised throughout shipping circles. He made an offer to provide a fast Atlantic service for Canada which, for political reasons, was not accepted, and a scheme so hopeful for Canada fell through. Deceased was president of the Merchants' Bank, and chairman for several years of the Harbour Board. In the latter position it is known that he felt keenly the obstructions which arose from influences not favourable to his advanced and progressive ideas as to the needs of this port for which the Allan firm have done so much, and in whose welfare they are so vitally interested. In private life deceased was unostentatious; he was a liberal giver to benevolent objects, and throughout his long career was a noble example of enterprise, of honour, and devotion to duty.

THE LATE HON. J. O. VILLENEUVE.

Few citizens of Montreal were more widely known or more generally respected than the Honble J. O. Villeneuve, who died on the 27th ult., at the premature age of 65 years. Deceased entered business life in 1853, and commenced on his own account in 1865, in which enterprise he was so successful as to lead to his establishing the wholesale firm of J. O. Villeneuve & Co. The needs of his business suggested better transport facilities with the north and east suburbs, for which he provided an omnibus service that for many years was a great convenience and help to the citizens of Mile End, Sault au Recollet, Terrebonne and district, as well as helpful to the trade of this city. For twenty-one years he was Mayor of St. Jean Baptiste, when the municipality was annexed to Montreal, and of which he was representative in the City Council until 1894, when he was elected Mayor. For 19 years he was Warden of the County of Hochelaga, for which constituency he was elected to the Quebec Legislature 1886, 1890, and 1892. In 1888 he was appointed a Harbour Commissioner, and in 1896 he was elevated to the Senate of Canada. He also was a member of the Board of Trade, director of the Jacques Cartier, now the Provincial Bank, Director of the Montreal Cotton Co., and a governor of Laval University. In his inaugural address as Mayor, he advised the Council to be "more prudent than ever in awarding contracts for the Corporation," urging also that "the fire protection service be put on such a footing as will enable it to cope with the increased needs of the city," and commending to the Council a serious consideration of the question whether any proposed improvements "are proportionate to our means and resources." Senator Villeneuve's career was a striking example of the man deeply engaged in business being able to give considerable attention to public duties, by which he won public honours and the esteem of all classes in the community.