FEDERAL LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of this company was held at the company's head office in Hamilton on Tuesday, 7th March, at one o'clock p.m., and was well attended. The president, Mr. Jas. H. Beatty, occupied the chair, when the following reports were submitted :—

REPORT.

Your directors have pleasure in submitting for your consideration the eleventh annual report of the company, including a statement of receipts and disbursements for the year, and of assets and liabilities on 31st December last, to which is appended a report from your auditors.

During the year 1,233 applications for assurance, to the amount of $2,115,000, were received. On examination, 1,164 of these applications were accepted for $1,916,000 of insurance; the others were declined because the risks offered were not up to the standard required by the company.

The new assurance written is of a most satisfactory character, being mostly on our investment plans, which have continued to grow in favor with applicants and have largely increased our premium income. The premiums for the year amounted to $254,198.32, an increase of $29,613 50 over the preceding year.

Claims by death during the year amounted to $100,269 (re-insurance deducted) under 37 policies. In addition to which two endowment policies matured for $7,000. The claims by death were $17,600 less than in the year preceding.

It will be seen from the accompanying statement that your directors have, as heretofore, practised economy in the management of the company, while having due regard for its welfare in the promotion of legitimate business. In pursuance of this policy a reasonable amount of assurance has been written ($157,000 in excess of the previous year) on carefully-selected lives, and on plans believed to be the best in the interest of the policy-holders and of the company.

The results of the year afford much gratification in the important items of premium income, interest income, and in surplus of assets over liabilities, all of which show a marked improvement. The assets assuring protection to our policy-holders now amount to $882,919.78, while the liabilities are but $192,706.90.

Our record of the previous year, for the highest rate of interest earned on its investments by any company in Canada, and the low rate of expenses to the aggregate amount assured, has been well maintained. Great care is exercised in making investments, and none are made excepting on first-class securities.

The accompanying certificate from the company's auditors vouches for the correctness of the financial statement submitted herewith. All accounts, securities and vouchers have been carefully examined by them.

JAMES H. BEATTY, President. DAVID DEXTER, Managing Director.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the president and directors of the Federal Life Insurance Company :

GENTLEMEN,—We beg to advise completion of the audit of the books of your company for the year ending 31st December last. The books, vouchers, etc., have been carefully examined, and we have much pleasure in certifying to their accuracy. As usual, all assets of a doubtful character have been eliminated. The accompanying statement indicates the financial position of your company as at 31st December.

Respectfully submitted.

H. STEPHENS,
SHERMAN E. TOWNSEND, } Auditors.

Hamilton, March 1st, 1893.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1891.

Income.

Ledger assets, January 1st, 1892		$163,466 73
Premiums	$254,198 32	
—Less re-insurance.	12,402 58	
		241,795 74
Interest		13,446 37
		$418,708 84

Disbursements.

Claims by death	$111,834 91	
Less re-insurance	10,000 00	
Matured endowments.	7,000 00	
Dividends to policy-holders	32,313 76	
Surrendered policies	1,313 99	
Total to be paid to policy-holders		$142,462 66
Commission and medical fees, salaries and other expenses		71,955 68
		$214,418 34
Balance		$204,290 50

Assets.

Municipal debentures, bonds and mortgages		$121,335 51
Loans on policies		30,192 77
Cash in banks and in hand		43,086 44
Other ledger assets		11,771 40
Premiums deferred & in course of collection	$ 42,769 61	
Short date notes for premiums on policies in force	17,939 94	
Less 10 per cent. for collections	6,070 95	
		54,638 60
Interest accrued		2,092 06
		$263,116 78
Guarantee capital, subject to call		619,803 00
Total resources for security of policy-holders		882,919 78
Reserve funds		192,706 90
Surplus to policy-holders		$690,212 88
Amount assured		$10,564,893 22

Mr. James H. Beatty, the president, in moving the adoption of the report, called attention to the large increase in income over previous years, to which both premiums and interest had contributed a large percentage, also to the very considerable addition to the assets of the company, increasing the already ample security offered to policy-holders. The experience of the two months already past strongly indicated that a similar addition to the income and assets would be made during the current year. He said that though the amount of risk carried by the company had not been increased owing to the termination of many term policies for large amounts, which had fulfilled the purpose for which they had been taken, the number of lives assured had been increased. The premium income had advanced nearly 12 per cent. through the encouragement given by the company to applicants for investment insurance, and the substitution of contracts of this kind for less desirable forms when the latter had been discontinued. He believed that the care and foresight with which the management of the company had directed its course through the most difficult periods of its earlier history would become more apparent from year to year.

Mr. Kerns, vice-president, in seconding the motion, stated that no doubt some would be disappointed because we had not written more business during the year, thus leaving more insurance in force at 31st December last, but the directors felt that it would be largely a waste of money to attempt to write too much new business while the state of trade throughout the Dominion was somewhat depressed. We, therefore, followed a conservative course, and believe the wisdom thereof will be demonstrated later on. Our agents can now point with satisfaction to our low ratio of expenses, which taken together with our high rate of interest earnings (already referred to by the president), augur well for future profits to our policy-holders. With the foregoing conditions fully established and a premium income which now amounts to over a quarter of a million dollars annually, I feel that we have strong grounds for congratulation as to the past and good reason to predict a very prosperous future. I second the adoption of the report.

The report was unanimously adopted.

Dr. Woolverton read a carefully prepared analysis of the mortality experience of the company for the year and a comparison with the previous year, for which the thanks of the shareholders were tendered him.

On motion of Dr. Burns, a vote of thanks was given to Mr. Dexter, the managing director; his assistants, and to the agents of the company, to which the managing director responded briefly, warmly commending the faithful attention of the officers and the good work done by the agents of the company.

The retiring directors were all re-elected. At a subsequent meeting of the directors the officers were all re-elected.

OUR TREATY WITH FRANCE.

Hon. Mr. Foster laid on the table of the Commons at Ottawa on Monday night, 6th inst., a copy of the treaty which has been completed between Great Britain and France, with respect to Canada. We give its substance:

ARTICLE 1.

Wines sparkling and non-sparkling, common soaps, savons de Marseille (castile soaps) and nuts, almonds, prunes and plums of French origin, entering Canada, shall enjoy the following advantages :—

1. Non-sparkling wines gauging 15 degrees by the centessimal alcohol meter or less, or according to the Canadian system of testing, containing 26 per cent. or less of alcohol, and all sparkling wines, shall be exempted from the surtax or ad valorem duty of 30 per cent.

2. The present duty charged on common soaps, savon de Marseille (castile soaps), shall be reduced by one-half.

3. The present duties charged on nuts, almonds, prunes and plums shall be reduced by one-third.

ARTICLE 2.

Any commercial advantage granted by Canada to any third power especially in tariff matters shall be enjoyed fully by France, Algeria and the French Colonies.

ARTICLE 3.

The following articles of Canadian origin imported direct from that country, accompanied by certificates of origin, shall receive the advantage of the minimum tariff on entering France, Algeria or the French Colonies :

Canned meats.
Condensed milk, pure.
Fresh water fish, eels.
Fish preserved in their natural form.
Lobsters and cray fish preserved in their natural form.
Apples and pears, fresh, dried or pressed.
Fruits, preserved, others.
Building timber in rough or sawn.
Wood pavement.
Staves.
Wood pulp (celluloise).
Extract of chestnut and other tanning extracts.
Common paper, machine made.
Prepared skins, others whole.
Boots and shoes.
Furniture of common wood.
Furniture other than chairs of solid wood, common.
Flooring in pine or soft wood.
Wooden sea-going ships.

It is understood that the advantage of any reduction of duty granted to any other power on any of the articles enumerated above shall be extended fully to Canada.

ARTICLE 4.

The present agreement having received the sanction of the Parliament of Canada and of the French chambers, shall be ratified, and the ratifications shall be exchanged at Paris as soon as possible. It shall come into operation immediately after this formality has been accomplished, and shall continue in force until the expiration of twelve months after either of the contracting parties shall have given notice of their intention of terminating the same.

It is agreed, likewise, that if non-sparkling wines gauging 15 degrees at the most, or sparkling wines become subject later on to an increase of duty in Canada, the French Government, by denouncing the present agreement, could terminate its operation immediately without waiting for the expiration of the 12 months' delay provided for above.

In witness whereof the respective plenipotentiaries have signed the present agreement and affixed thereto the seals of their arms.

Done in duplicate at Paris this 6th day of February, 1893.

[Signed]

DUFFERIN AND AVA,
CHARLES TUPPER,
JULES DEVELLE, Deputy Foreign Min.
JULES SEIGFRIED, Deputy Min. of Commerce.

—Quite an industry is carried on in Barnston, Que., by the farmers in shipping hop poles to the New York market. Mr. Hall has also received orders for two car loads of maple sugar to be shipped to Chicago this spring.