1890

FORTY-SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY

OF TORONTO

The Directors beg to submit to the Stockholders the Forty-second Annual Report, with the accompanying statements of the financial position of the Company.

Notwithstanding the additional competition from electric lighting, owing to the Toronto Incandescent Electric Light Company having commenced operations in February last, the Directors have pleasure in being able to state that the percentage of increase in the output of gas during the past year over that of 1889 exceeded the increase of that year over the preceding one. This increase during the past year is partly to be attributed to the reductions made in the prices of gas, at the commencement of the year, partly to the growth of the city, and partly to the more general use of gas for cooking, heating, manufacturing purposes and motive power. This branch of the Company's business has increased until it has become an important source of the Company's revenue, the consumption for the purposes named being over three times that of 1885, which was five times greater than that of 1882. The business is as yet in its infancy, is capable of almost indefinite expansion, and will go far towards making good whatever loss in consumption the Company may sustain by the competition of other methods of lighting, if it does not entirely do so.

Two sets of improved Lowe Water Gas Apparatus, of a capacity of 800,000 cubic feet per diem, for which a contract was entered into with the United Gas Improvement Company of Philadelphia, have just been erected and have been in operation for a few days. A considerable saving in the cost of gas, as compared with that manufactured by the superseded apparatus, has been guaranteed by the manufacturers. Larger boilers and engines of improved construction have also been introduced to meet the increased requirements of the Company.

1,844 new services have been put in, and over 13 miles of new mains laid, making the total length upwards of 193 miles. In addition, considerable lengths of small mains have been replaced by larger ones.

The Stockholders will notice that, notwithstanding the reduction made in the prices of gas, the receipts from gas rent considerably exceed those of the preceding year, and that the profit shown by the working statement is almost as large.

In response to an advertisement for tenders, the Company recently put in very low bids for the street lighting of the whole or part of the city. The City Council have decided to light the principal portion of the city by electricity, and have only awarded the Company a contract for five years from 1st January next for 1,000 lamps upon the line of the present mains, and for such other lamps as may hereafter be required on these mains or new ones laid for the purpose. This decision of the Council will do away with about 2,300 gas lamps, for which the Company will have no use.

On account of lamps already dispensed with, including a number of the expensive "Lambeth" lamps, the Directors have considered it proper to write off from the street lamp account the sum of $15,000 and charge it against the profits of the past year.

To pay off loans from banks temporarily used on capital account, and to meet other legitimate requirements from time to time, the Directors have decided to ask the Stockholders to authorize them to issue in such allotments as they may consider it advisable, in manner provided by Act of the Legislature of Ontario, $500,000 being the balance yet unissued, authorized by said Act.

A comparative statement with that of the preceding year shows:

	STREET LAMPS		METERS IN USE	GAS RENTAL
For the year ending 30th September, 1890	3,448		13,242	$499,997 03
" " " " 1889	3,640		11,532	476,291 80
Or a decrease of	192	and an increase of	1,710	$ 23,705 23

The Manager and his efficient staff have continued to give the Directors entire satisfaction in the performance of their various duties.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES AUSTIN, *President*