regarding the actual value of life within the limits of the Company's operations. They have therefore declared a dividend to the assured of the first six years, whose policies are now in force, equivalent to 15 per cent. upon the gross premiums received from them in the year.

This rate of return, taken in connection with the low premiums charged by the Company, secures to the assured a very important saving in comparison with that which may be attained in other offices doing business in the Province. This circumstance, while affording motives to the preference of this Office, of which the public may be supposed to be well qualified to judge, presents a cogent reason to justify the Directors in abstaining from any hasty extension of the dividend.

Of that proportion of the dividend now declared to which each of the assured is entitled, a notification will be sent to him, according to the mode which he has selected, and at as early a date as possible after the meeting.

A dividend of £3 10s. per share has been declared to Stockholders from the interest upon paid-up capital and that proportion of the profit in the assurance branches to which they are entitled. Following the practice adopted in previous years, the Board have decided to add this dividend to the paid-up Stock of the Company, in preference to authorising its distribution in cash. A small undivided balance of £29 10s. 11d. remains at the credit of Shareholders.

In compliance with the terms of the Charter, a General Abstract of the estimated Liabilities and Assets of the Company, exhibiting a balance of £63,045 9s. 8d. at its credit, is submitted herewith. This large sum arises from the valuation of the gross premiums receivable upon existing policies, and cannot be considered profit without an important deduction to provide for the future expenses of the Company, and to meet the diminution which experience teaches every Office to look for yearly from the voluntary discontinuance of policies.

The practice of the best managed Companies would sustain the Directors in basing their annual valuations upon this