

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT  
 —OF THE—  
 CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY  
 OF TORONTO

In presenting to the Stockholders the fortieth Annual Report, the Directors have much satisfaction in being able again to state, as on many former occasions, that the Company's business has continued to increase, and that its affairs are in a prosperous condition.

This large gas-hold, to which reference was made in the last Report, was completed early in this month, and on testing it, it was found to be gas-tight, and the workmanship and construction in all respects of a most satisfactory character. Gas was drawn into the holder and distributed therefrom for the first time on Thursday, October 18th. It has fulfilled the expectations of the Company's officers in affording an ample supply of gas to those portions of the City where it had been defective, and in addition, it will give sufficient storage capacity for the Company to tide over the period of the highest consumption during this winter, with its present manufacturing capacity.

Of the other works referred to in the last Annual Report, the Retort and Purifying Houses have been completed for some time, the Condenser, Exhauster, Meter, Pumping and Engine Houses are well forward, and it is expected that they and the various apparatus will be ready for supplying gas early in the coming year, the Purifiers and Retort Stack being already completed.

The Station Meter has been furnished by Messrs. William Parkinson & Company, London, England; the Kloeene-Bredel Regenerative Furnaces by Mr. Fred. Bredel, of New York; the iron stage floor for the Retort House by the St. Lawrence Foundry Company, Toronto, and all the other apparatus by Messrs. R. & J. Dempster, Manchester, England.

The gasholder and new works were visited and inspected with much interest by the Members of the American Gas Light Association, who met here for the first time in Canada, on the 17th, 18th and 19th inst. They were without exception loud in their praises of all they saw, and freely expressed their conviction that the buildings were unequalled on the Continent of America, and the workmanship of the various apparatus, including the gasholder, to be unsurpassed. This Association comprises within its membership, the Engineers and Managers of all the gas works in America, and their mutual interest in the progress of the industry coming from such a source cannot but be highly gratifying to the Directors and Officers of the Company, and satisfactory to the Stockholders.

Applications for new less than 464 new street lamps from the City of Toronto, Parkdale and West Toronto Junction have been received during the year, in most instances new pipes having to be laid for them. The Company have supplied Parkdale with gas for a considerable period and they have recently consented to supply the rapidly growing suburb of West Toronto Junction, some six miles distant from their works. The mains of the Company are therefore spread over a very largely extended area, the number of miles now laid being over 160, 144 miles of which have been put down during the past year, including larger, substituted for smaller ones previously used. In addition 1 441 new services have been put in.

The gas supplied during the year has at all times more than complied with the requirements of the Gas Inspection Act, both as to illuminating power and purity.

The demand for gas for other than lighting purposes continues to increase at a rapid ratio.

Owing to the state of the money market, and having arranged with their bankers to advance the money required at a very low rate of interest, the Directors have not considered it expedient to issue any more of the new stock authorized, but will await a more favorable opportunity for doing so.

The Secretary having had for a number of years the general supervision of the Company's affairs, the Directors considered that the time had arrived to give him his full designation, and accordingly during the year appointed him General Manager and Secretary.

Since the last annual meeting the Directors have again to regret the loss of one of their fellow Directors by the death of Mr. James Crowther, one of Toronto's oldest and most respected citizens, who for many years gave his valuable assistance to the Board, and the vacancy has been filled by the appointment of Mr. G. S. C. Bethune.

A comparative statement with that of the previous year shows:

	Street Lamps.	Consumers.	Gas Rental.
For the year ending 30th September, 1888.....	3,272	10,020	\$433,829.32
“ “ “ “ 1887.....	3,002	9,004	\$378,705.37
“ “ “ “ Increase.....	270	1,016	\$55,123.95

The Directors in conclusion have to express their high appreciation of the valuable services of the General Manager and of the Superintendent of Works, in carrying so successfully toward completion the extensive works now in progress, and at the same time to recognize the efficient services rendered by the Chief Clerk, Superintendent of Street Mains, and the whole of the staff of the Company.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES AUSTIN, *President*