The Manchester Fire Assurance Company.

Report of the Directors to be presented to the Shareholders at the 74th Annual Meeting to be held at the Company's House, 98 King Street, Manchester, on Tuesday, the 5th April, 1898.

The directors have pleasure in presenting to the shareholders the 74th Annual Report of the operations of the company.

The net premiums for the year 1897, including those of the "American" of New York, amounted to £850,599 13s. 9d., being £3,120 more than the combined premiums of 1896. The combined losses thereon, including full provision for all unsettled claims, amounted to £491,754. 15s. 9d, say 57.8 per cent.

FIRE AND REVENUE ACCOUNT.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
After paying all expenses, commissions and taxes, the fire a/c for the year closed with a surplus of.				£61,754	13	0
The income from interest, etc., yielded........				24,358	17	5
Balance carried to funds, as per other side...				£86,113	10	5
Add "American" of New York Funds from its last year's a/c.	£180,434	18	3			
Less cost of "American" stock.	163,333	6	8	17,101	11	7
				£103,215	2	0

DIVIDEND.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
An interim dividend of 2s. per share was paid in September last, and the directors now recommend a further dividend at the same rate for the past half year, and also a bonus of 2s. per share, making 15 per cent....	£30,000	0	0			
Interest paid and accrued on "Times Mutual," "Sprinkler," and "Cambridge" bonds.....	2,992	1	8			
Amounts written off ledger value of company's property.......	5,178	17	1			
Cost of "Commercial" of Cape Town business, and "Times Mutual" and "Sprinkler" commuted Bonus payments, etc.	17,425	10	2			
"Cambridge" bond cancelled...	10	0	0	55,606	8	11
Leaving to be added to the funds for the year (after providing for dividend, interest, and amounts written off, as above).......				£47,608	13	1

The directors have pleasure in reporting that the businesses of the "American" of New York, and of the "Commercial" of Cape Town acquired during the year have both, so far, yielded favourable results.

The Capital Accounts and Reserve Funds now stand at £801,891. 5s. 10d., and the growing financial strength of the Company during the past five years is shown by the following figures:—

At the 31st December, 1892, the Funds in hand amounted to £463,699
" " 1897, " " £801,891.

The Directors retiring by rotation are C. W. Farbridge, Esq., the Honourable John E. Cross, James Eckersley, Esq., and Alfred Neild, Esq., who are eligible, and will be proposed for re-election.

The Directors cordially acknowledge the valued services rendered by the United States Trustees, and by the various Local Boards and Representatives of the Company at home and abroad.

REVENUE ACCOUNT.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.
Net premiums................................	850,599	13	9
Interest and dividends............................	24,358	17	5
	£874,958	11	2

EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Fire losses paid and outstanding..............	491,754	15	9
Agents' commissions and expenses...........	149,925	17	11
Home, foreign and colonial state taxes..........	15,323	12	2
Expenses of management.....	131,840	14	11
	86,113	10	5
Balance carried to funds....	788,845	0	9
	£874,958	11	2

BALANCE SHEET.

LIABILITIES.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Capital A/c 100,000 Shares of £20 each, £2 paid...							200,000	0	0
Funds from Last Year's Account				£524,282	12	9			
Balance of Revenue Account				86,113	10	5			
				610,396	3	2			
Add "American" of New York Funds from its last year's a/c.	180,434	18	3						
Less cost of "American" Stock.	163,333	6	8	17,101	11	7			
				627,497	14	9			
Interim Dividend paid Sept.	10,000	0	0						
Dividend & Bonus payable 5th April, 1898	20,000	0	0						
Interest paid and accrued on "Times Mutual," &c., Bonds	2,992	1	8						
Written off Ledger values of Company's Property	5,178	17	1						
Cost of "Commercial" of Cape Town business, "Times Mutual" and "Sprinkler" Bonuses, &c	17,425	10	2	55,596	8	11			
Reserve Funds............................							571,901	5	10
Total..							£771,901	5	10
Sundry Bondholders:—									
"Times Mutual" 10 p.c. Bonds, Series A....	£10,000	0	0						
* "Cambridge" 10 p.c. Bonds, Series B— *Less* Bond cancelled (£10 0 0)........	9,990	0	0						
"Sprinkler" 10 p.c. Bonds, Series C........	10,000	0	0				29,990	0	0
							801,891	5	10
Outstanding Losses..................................							117,960	10	1
Other Liabilities....................................							7,046	19	0
Dividend and Bonus payable to Shareholders, 5th April, 1898							£20,000	0	0
							£946,898	14	11

*Including Bonds for £37 10s. to be issued.

ASSETS.

	£	s.	d.
Railway and other Debentures, Bonds and Stocks....	282,662	8	7
United States Govt. 4 p.c. Registered Bonds........	85,873	15	3
Municipal Bonds..................................	163,783	12	5
British Railway and other Stock..................	25,083	18	4
Canada Govt. Inscribed Stock.....................	43,785	8	1
Cape of Good Hope Govt. 3½ p.c. Inscribed Stock...	9,853	6	0
Transvaal Govt. 5 p.c. Loan........................	5,256	8	4
Austrian Govt. 4 p.c. Gold Rentes..................	8,710	0	0
Spanish Govt. 4 p.c. Redeemable Stock.......	628	8	2
Mortgages on first-class Property (with ample margins) and Loans on approved security........	26,386	5	0
Interest accrued, not yet payable..................	7,365	8	1
House Property and Furniture, Land, Manchester, London & Newcastle, &c	50,327	0	8
Balances in hands of Branches and Agents (Home and Foreign)................................	87,473	2	3
Due by other Offices................................	45,377	11	4
Outstanding Premiums.............................	39,617	10	3
Cash at Bankers and in hand.......................	64,714	12	2
	£946,898	14	11

T. BARHAM FOSTER, *Chairman.*
C. W. FARBRIDGE, *Deputy Chairman.*
WILLIAM LEWIS, *Manager and Secretary.*