

# Consumers' Gas Company

The Forty-third Annual Meeting of the Consumers' Gas Company was held at the Company's office, 19 Toronto Street, on Monday, 26th October, 1891, at noon.

Present—The President, the Vice-President, M. Baldwin, Rev. A. H. Baldwin, Dr. W. B. Geikie, Jas. Henderson, Jno. Stewart, Thos. Long, Geo. Boyd, C. H. Greene, Jos. Ketterson, Jas. Scott, Walter S'Lee, J. M. Treble, G. S. C. Bethune, R. Gilmore, Geo. R. R. Cockburn, M. A., M.P., Samuel Risley, A. J. Somerville, Edward Lemon, Jas. Crocker, H. Langlois, A. M. M. Kirkpatrick, James Mason, I. C. Gilmore, George Gooderham, Robert Gooderham, R. H. R. Munro, J. Laxton, Wm. Mulock, M.P., Chas. Potter, W. H. Pearson, A. H. Marsh, Q.C., B. Saunders, T. H. Bull, J. H. McKinnon, H. R. Boulton, W. B. Baines, S. G. Wood, R. Dennistoun, Jos. Cawthra, O. R. Macklem, J. L. Brodie, Daniel Lamb, J. G. Boyce, Rev. Dr. Seadding, D. F. Jessopp, Henry Swan, O. Gilpin, J. Brown, W. C. Crowther, Rev. J. D. Cayley, E. C. Rutherford, J. George, D. McKay, G. P. Reid, Henry Cawthra, Dr. Andrew Smith, M. O'Donnell, A. F. Banks, John M. Bond and J. C. Fitch.

The President occupied the chair and read the Annual Report. He then called upon the General Manager to address the Stockholders and give such explanations of the various items in the Report as he might consider advisable.

The Manager then took up the items in the Report, seriatim. He stated that the number of services introduced and miles of mains laid during the past, had only been exceeded in two previous years. The reduction in consumption in the past year, by the loss of street lamps, amounted to about 28,000,000 cubic feet, or more than 5½ per cent. of the total output, so that the private consumption had really increased nearly 8 per cent. as compared with the preceding year, which was certainly most satisfactory. He called attention to the fact that the profits were \$7,000 more than the previous year, which was largely due to the better sale for residual products, and said that as there was a good prospect of a much better price being obtained for coal tar, after the expiration of the present contract on January 1st next, an increased revenue from this source might be looked for.

A very considerable number of electric light consumers had returned to the use of gas, wholly or partially, and a number, over their own signatures, had stated that the incandescent electric light had cost them about double the price of gas.

In addition to the 40,000,000 cubic feet of gas consumed through separate meters for cooking, heating and motive power, at least 10,000,000 had been used through meters supplying illuminating gas, the combined quantities being more than 10 per cent. of the total consumption.

The average illuminating power of the gas for the year ending 30th September 1890, had been 17.42 candles, while the average for the past year was over 20 candles. This improvement the Manager said was due to the introduction of the new water-gas apparatus. Giving ordinary consumers 20-candle gas at \$1.12½ per 1,000 feet was equivalent to supplying them with 16-candle gas at about 90 cents; and furnishing large consumers 20-candle gas at \$1.00, was equal to supplying 16-candle gas at about 80 cents. He considered that the most effectual way to compete with electric lighting, was to supply gas of a high standard of illumination. Gas managers throughout the United States were recognizing this, and to increase the illuminating power are in many instances supplementing their coal gas works by the introduction of water gas. He then called attention to a diagram on the wall showing the annual output of gas from the time of its introduction in Toronto up to the present, which he commented upon, and adverted to the fact that the output of gas had increased from 1,146,000 cubic feet in 1842 to 509,414,000 in 1891.

He expressed gratification that his predictions made at the last Annual Meeting, with regard to the prospects of the business of the Company, had all been verified. He then referred to the recent meeting of the American Gas Light Association in New York, and stated that from what he could gather, the prospects for gas companies in all large cities, was most satisfactory, and concluded by saying that no fears need be entertained regarding the business of the Company in the future.

A resolution for the adoption of the Report, moved by the President, seconded by the Vice-President, was unanimously carried.

A resolution of thanks to the President, Vice-President and Directors was moved by Mr. S. Risley, seconded by Mr. James Henderson, and carried unanimously. In seconding the resolution, Mr. Henderson expressed his satisfaction at the excellent management of the Company, and thought that, considering the opposition from electric lighting, the statement was an exceedingly satisfactory one. He quite coincided with the Manager in the opinion that the business of the Gas Company would not be seriously affected by the competition referred to, and that the loss caused by the introduction of electric lighting would be compensated for, largely, by the introduction of gas for cooking, heating and motive power.

A resolution of thanks to the General Manager and Secretary, and the other officers and employees of the Company, was moved by Dr. Geikie, seconded by Mr. A. J. Somerville, and carried unanimously. The mover referred in complimentary terms to the services rendered by the General Manager and other officers of the Company, and expressed his satisfaction with the results of the past year. He also referred with pleasure to the improved quality and reduced cost of the gas supplied.

By a resolution moved by Mr. T. R. Wood, seconded by Mr. John M. Bond, Messrs. W. A. Sampson and C. C. Baines were unanimously appointed auditors for the ensuing year.

Upon a ballot being taken for Directors for the ensuing year, the scrutineers, Messrs. W. S. Lee and R. Gilmore, reported the following gentlemen elected:—Samuel Alcorn, James Austin, M. Baldwin, G. S. C. Bethune, Henry Cawthra, Geo. R. R. Cockburn, M.A., M.P., I. C. Gilmore, George Gooderham, James Scott, L. W. Smith, D.C.L., Q.C., Thos. R. Wood and Hon. Frank Smith.

At a Board Meeting held subsequently, James Austin, Esq., was unanimously elected President, and L. W. Smith, Esq., D.C.L., Q.C., Vice-President for the ensuing year.