

Those present at the meeting were:—Denis Murphy, Ash Kennedy, Charles Pope, W. H. Wood, George Mills, David Kelly, J. A. Lescarbeau, Robt. Orr, J. A. Hibbard, A. J. Barr, C. J. Smith, John Emo, Horatio Hymers, Victor Boisvert, A. W. Fraser, K.C., H. Greene, J. M. Dudley, Dr R. P. Robinson, H. A. Church, D. Cameron, J. P. Dickson.

The report of the directors was adopted unanimously.

The following directors were elected for the ensuing year:—Denis Murphy, C. J. Smith, D. Kelly, Thomas Lowry, George Mills, A. J. Barr, Alonzo Grant, J. A. Hibbard, Robt. Orr, H. K. Egan, Wm. Anderson, J. A. Lescarbeau, Thomas Birkett, Thomas McKenna, E. B. Eddy, W. H. Woods, Joseph Fahey, Albert Maclaren, Charles Pope, Ash Kennedy.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and the Management for their efficient services during the year, and was responded to by the President, Mr. Denis Murphy, Mr. C. J. Smith, the General Manager, Mr. John Emo, and the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. J. P. Dickson.

A vote of thanks was also tendered to the Agents of the Company for their splendid services to the Company. The following figures show the rapid and satisfactory growth of the Company:

Yearly Increase of the Gross Business Since Inception of the Company.

Year.	INSURANCE	PREMIUM.	Year.	INSURANCE.	PREMIUM.
1895	\$ 859,400 00	\$ 9,130 98	1900	11,326,515 00	91,060 00
1896	4,272,750 00	35,025 88	1901	14,663,215 00	117,837 12
1897	6,125,900 00	44,555 93	1902	17,271,974 00	157,381 76
1898	7,945,007 00	62,375 03	1903	18,887,602 00	186,800 61
1899	10,468,014 00	83,866 83	1904	\$25,965,581 00	\$244,662 20

SECURITY TO POLICY-HOLDERS, \$286,827.50.

Notes and Items.

At Home and Abroad.

MONTREAL CLEARING HOUSE.—Total for week ending March 30, 1905—Clearings, \$22,746,371; corresponding week 1904, \$16,126,540; corresponding week 1903, \$22,613,596.

MR. LAWSON COMPLIMENTED.—A prominent New York lawyer, when asked about "Frenzied Finance" said, "It is entertainingly written. As a work of the imagination, it deserves to rank with the realistic fairy tales of Jules Verne and Baron Munchausen."

WHAT GREAT EVENTS, ETC.—At Colchester, England, a cow, by a switch of her tail, knocked a lamp over, by which says "The Review" a whole range of farm buildings was burnt, along with three animals. This is given as an illustration of the insecurity of farm risks.

POLITICAL UNREST IN UNITED STATES.—It is only a few weeks ago since President Roosevelt was officially declared elected, yet an agitation has already commenced looking to the next Presidential election. The organization of a nominating Convention to be held next June is in progress. The love of political contests amount to a mania across the line.

NEW ZEALAND SOCIALISM.—In New Zealand the socialistic spirit is becoming more and more dominant in legislation. The latest move is an Act for closing all stores where two or more persons are employed at 6 p.m. 4 days per week, 1 p.m. on a fifth day, and 9 p.m. Saturdays. Though this Act has been passed it is a dead letter owing to the strong feeling against it.

A COMMERCIAL UNION ACCIDENT CASE.—On 4th inst., a case against the Commercial Union Assurance Co., was heard at Liverpool, arising out of the accidental drowning of the captain of a steamer. The case was very complicated, but was settled out of Court, the company being adjudged to pay £400, without costs. The widow had claimed £5,000.

POSTAL ANOMALIES.—Another illustration is given of the working of postal arrangements between the United States and England to develop American trade is found in what the St. Louis "Globe-Democrat" says needs to be explained. "A four-pound package sent by mail from St.

Louis—to a post office in St. Lou' County costs sixty-four cents in postage. After April 1 a package weighing 4 pounds 6 ounces can be sent from St. Louis to any point in Great Britain for forty-nine cents postage. Will Congress favour the people with the reasons for this singular arrangement?" The reason is on the surface, it is done to facilitate the shipping of small parcels from America to England.

A REMARKABLE PROTEST.—The Congregationalist ministers of New England have addressed a protest to the Foreign Missions Board of that body against a gift of \$100,000 offered by Mr. J. D. Rockefeller being accepted, on the ground that the Standard Oil Company, of which Mr. Rockefeller is the head, "stands before the public under repeated and recent formidable indictments in specific terms for methods which are morally iniquitous and socially destructive," and that "the acceptance of such a gift involves the constituents of the board in a relation implying honour toward the donor, and subjects the board to the charge of ignoring the moral issues involved." Mr. Rockefeller, being a prominent member of another religious body, the above has created a sensation. The money will be accepted.

THE BROCKTON BOILER EXPLOSION.—The boiler that recently exploded at Brockton, U.S., with such terrible results, was of the "lap seam" variety, in which rolled steel plates half an inch thick are beat into cylindrical shape, then overlapped and riveted. The bending of the plates is apt to crack them, and this defect is said to be difficult to discover. As when a piece of cardboard is bent the resulting crack appears first on the outward surface of the cylinder thus formed, so also the first weakening of the steel plate invariably appears on the exterior. For these physical reasons the first break in a lap seam boiler appears on the exterior of the flattened surface of the plate, and usually between the rivets. When the crack occurs on the overlapping or outer plate it is easily discernible in an external inspection, but where it occurs, as in this case, in the inner plate, unless extending through the entire thickness it cannot be discovered by the most careful internal inspection, and it is hidden from the outside by the overlapping of the other plate. Such a defect is occasionally traced by a small jet of escaping steam, but here there appears to have been no such a tell-tale jet.

It is believed that the pressure at time of explosion was well within the limit of 90 pounds. If this were the case, the boiler was a very dangerous one, and its weakness would have been discovered had proper tests been applied.