

1898

FIFTIETH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY OF TORONTO

In presenting to the Stockholders the fiftieth Annual Report of the Company, with the accompanying financial statements, it affords the Directors pleasure to be able to exhibit an increase in the consumption of gas, number of consumers, receipts and profits.

These results have been brought about by improved methods, decreased cost of material, and the Company's liberal policy in extending the mains to outlying districts.

The suit brought against the Company by a gas consumer, in which judgment had been obtained by the Company, and which was appealed by him to the Privy Council, was heard on the 22nd March, and his appeal, upon hearing the Appellant's case, and without calling upon the Respondent's Counsel, was dismissed with costs.

During the past year, 1,268 services have been put in, and over five miles of mains have been laid, making the total mileage over 242.

A comparative statement with that of the preceding year, shows:—

	STREET LAMPS.	METERS.	GAS RENTAL.
Year ending 30th September, 1897.....	1,014	22,951	\$529,839.48
“ “ “ “ 1898.....	1,012	24,257	568,128.51
	Decrease, 2	Increase, 1,306	Increase, \$38,289.03

The Directors regret having to report the death, during the year, of Mr. Morgan Baldwin, for many years a prominent citizen of the community, and a useful and valuable member of this Board for nearly 20 consecutive years.

The vacancy has been filled by the election of Mr. A. J. Somerville, a manufacturer and merchant, well and favorably known in the business community.

A new generating house for water gas, to replace an old building which had become unsuitable for the purpose, is in course of construction, and is nearing completion.

The Company's works and plant have been maintained in a thorough state of efficiency and repair.

This being the Company's jubilee year, a reference to its progress, during the past fifty years, will not be out of place. The output of gas for the year 1848 (the year of the Company's Incorporation), when the population of the city was 23,500, was 5,854,000 cubic feet, its illuminating power 12 candles, and the net price \$5.00 per thousand cubic feet. There is no record of the number of meters then in use, but in 1849 there were 317, while a small quantity of gas was sold at so much per burner per hour.

The output of gas for the year ending 30th September last was 707,211,000 cubic feet, its illuminating power over 20 candles, the net price 90 cents per thousand cubic feet, and the number of meters in use 24,257,—the population of the district supplied about 200,000.

To have obtained such substantial results in the face of the keen competition, for some years past, with electricity, no small credit is due to the energy and ability of the Manager, Mr. Pearson, who for forty years and upwards as an employé of the Company, including thirteen years as Secretary, and ten years as General Manager and Secretary, has done so much, aided by an efficient staff, to promote the interests of the Company.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LARRATT W. SMITH,
President.