

yielded for years past the best results reported by any company doing business in this country. Expenses have been kept within reasonable limits, while due effort is being made for new business. The chief officers and agents of the company are entitled to much credit for their able representations of the company's interest. The office staff has also proved faithful in the company's service.

The accompanying certificate from the auditors vouches for the correctness of the statements submitted herewith. All accounts, securities and vouchers have been examined by them.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Income.

Premiums, interest and rents. \$ 410,831 73

Disbursements.

Paid policy-holders for death claims, endowments, dividends, etc. \$ 143,702 25

General expense, re-insurance and dividends on capital 127,548 09

Assets.

Debentures, mortgages, policy loans, real estate, cash and other securities \$866,283 41

Guarantee capital 609,000 00

Total resources for security of policy-holders \$1,475,283 41

Liabilities.

Reserve funds \$ 757,399 20

Surplus to policy-holders 717,884 21

Insurance written and taken during the year 2,021,585 00

Amount assured 11,125,566 43

JAMES H. BEATTY, DAVID DEXTER,
President, Managing Director.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

To the president and directors of the Federal Life Assurance Company:

Gentlemen.—We have made a careful audit of the books of your company for the year ending December 31st, 1898, and have certified to their correctness.

The securities have been inspected and compared with the ledger accounts and found to agree therewith.

The financial position of your company, as on December 31st, is indicated by the accompanying statement.

Respectfully submitted,

H. S. STEPHENS,

SHERMAN E. TOWNSEND,

Auditors.

Hamilton, March 1st, 1899.

In moving the adoption of the directors' report, Mr. Keñs referred to the steady and substantial growth of the company's business; the large increase from year to year in its income, assets and surplus. He stated that while the expenditure had been decreased 6.56 per cent. in the last year, the assets of the company had been increased 19.90 per cent., the net surplus, 37.92 per cent., and the reserve funds, 21.41 per cent., the capital and assets having now reached \$1,475,283.41.

He quoted from the December number of The Economist to show that the company had so carefully managed the investment of funds as to earn a better rate of interest in each of the past eight years than the average rate earned by all of the Canadian life assurance companies. The rate earned by the Federal in 1897—the last year in which the average can be obtained from the report of the superintendent of insurance—was 5.64 per cent., and the average rate earned by all the Canadian companies, 4.48 per cent.

After the adoption of the directors' report, an interesting report of the mortality experience of the company and of the history of medical examinations for life

assurance was read by the medical director, Dr. Woolverton.

Congratulatory remarks, regarding the substantial progress of the company and regarding the management, were made by several of the shareholders.

A vote of thanks to the officers, agents and office staff was responded to by David Dexter, the managing director.

The retiring directors of the company were re-elected, with the addition of T. H. Macpherson, M.P.

The auditors were re-appointed.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND OYSTERS.

The oyster, not long ago almost unknown as a product of Queen's County, is now forcing itself into a position of prominence in our list of exports. Ten years ago the yearly shipments from Charlottetown would amount to from 50 to 100 barrels of a value not exceeding \$200, while in the last three years the annual product of the oyster beds in this county alone will be little, if any, short of 10,000 barrels, and distributing wealth to the extent of \$15,000 to \$20,000 amongst our fishermen. Of this product about 12 to 15 per cent. is used for home consumption, the remaining large proportion finding a destiny in the leading markets of Canada, Newfoundland, St. Pierre, and some even to England, the United States, Bermuda, and the West Indies.

There is no probability of any increase in the output for at least some time to come, but with prompt and proper action on the part of the Government, aided and encouraged by our fishermen and exporters, the oyster industry is capable of almost indefinite enlargement. On the part of the fishermen the crudest methods prevail. The stock is in many instances brought to market in packages having only a resemblance to a barrel, with heads hewn out of old fence rails, and the interior nice enough sometimes on the top, but filled to the bottom with shells, dirt, seaweed, small oysters, mussels, etc., and the barrel rarely ever filled.

A good oyster is always in demand, and the few fishermen who realize this fact are finding the most remuneration. The peculiar characteristics of our oyster beds will not submit to any general rule, with a generally satisfactory result. Almost every location requires to be placed under separate regulations and the strictest local supervision. In a general sense, the idea of a close season is open to serious objection. A fully matured oyster should be allowed to be taken at any time of the spawning season. To close a bed for the protection of the small oysters, allowing the large ones to go to decay, is not advisable. The seed germs from a handful of oysters number up into the millions, so that surrounding conditions for cultivation purposes are of greater importance than the presence of larger quantities of present stock. The taking of oysters under the legal size should be effectively prohibited. All such should be carefully returned to the beds. Oysters less than three inches long are scarcely marketable.

Two of our most valuable qualities are the North River and Pownal Bay oysters. Keen demand has resulted in extensive fishing from these localities, especially from Pownal Bay. To give these grounds a chance to recuperate they should be closed until November 1st of each year for a few years. Following up the natural restocking of the grounds, the open season here might be gradually extended back, say to the middle of October. In Vernon River an opposite condition prevails. There a miserable, ungainly, almost worthless oyster is found. For a year at least fishing should be encouraged at almost all seasons, until all the ugly clusters are taken out and the

young undeveloped stock spread evenly over the river bed. After this process it could be brought under the general regulations with regard to size and season. The preservation of our fishing-grounds in this way effects also an improvement in the quality of the product. With direct steamers to England, we have the vision before us of unlimited demand for good stock, well put up, especially in those seasons when our Canadian markets become overstocked.—Charlottetown (P.E.I.), Patriot.

THE LIVERPOOL TIMBER MARKET.

Respecting the English market for Canadian lumber, timber and deals, Farnworth & Jardine's Wood Circular, dated Liverpool, 1st March, says:

The arrivals from British North America during the past month have been 2,969 tons register, against 710 tons register, during the corresponding month last year, and the aggregate tonnage to this date from all places during the years 1897, 1898, and 1899 has been 26,107, 33,704 and 26,448 tons, respectively. Business during the past month has been fairly satisfactory, the arrivals have been moderate, and as the deliveries of most articles have exceeded the imports, stocks, with the exception of a few items, are considerably reduced, and values steady; contracting for next season has not been brisk, still some headway has been made.

Canadian Woods.—Pine Timber.—Of Waney the deliveries have again been fair; stocks of prime wood are light and prices firm. Square continues dull in demand; the stock is ample. Red pine is inactive; stocks sufficient. Oak.—There is very little enquiry and the deliveries nominal; prices are difficult to maintain, stocks are adequate. Elm.—There has only been a small consumption, but the stock of prime wood is very light, and values are firm. Ash.—The import consists entirely of round wood from the United States; for square wood there is only a limited enquiry. Pine Deals.—Little impression has been made, and the stock is still far too large, it contains, however, a large quantity of oddments and unsalable specifications; prices rule low and sales difficult to effect. Red pine deals continue in active demand at advanced rates and stocks are small.

New Brunswick and Nova Scotia Spruce and Pine Deals.—The arrivals, amounting to about 2,000 standards, have been from St. John, N.B., and Halifax, N.S., by steamer, and are in excess of same time last year; the deliveries, however, have been large, and stocks are decreasing, though still quite ample; prices are fairly steady, but little contracting has been done for the coming season. Pine deals are neglected.

Birch.—Of logs the import has been very small; there has been fair enquiry, and stocks are light; values have improved. Planks have arrived too freely, and stocks are increasing; fresh planks of suitable specification have been in fair demand, but inferior shipments are difficult to move.

Pitch Pine.—The arrivals during the past month have been 3 vessels, 2,267 tons, against 4 vessels, 4,301 tons, during a like period last year. There has been a large consumption during the month, and stocks are considerably reduced. Of hewn there has been no import and the small stock is further reduced by about 23,000 feet; logs of good quality are wanted, and early arrivals will do well. Of sawn there has been a large consumption, the quantity amounting to about one-half the entire stock now held the stock is low and prices are firmer. Of deals and boards there has been a good