

# The History of the "Gore."

1839 TO 1895.

## THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN :—

We are met together to-day, for the first time, in the new and handsome Head Office of the Company, which has never before possessed a building of its own, although now one of the oldest and most successful institutions of its kind in Ontario.

The history of the Gore Fire Insurance Company is so closely interwoven with the progress and development of our Province, and associated with it at different periods were so many of its prominent business men—now, alas! nearly all gone over to the "silent majority"—whose vigorous bodies and active brains helped so much to make Central Ontario the Garden of America which it is to-day, it has been deemed fitting that, on an occasion so memorable in the Company's history, I should make a few observations on its formation, and long and useful career.

With this object in view, I have carefully looked over the minutes of each meeting of the different Boards of Directors since 1839—a period of fifty-six years—the subjects discussed, at least those of early days, being all dead issues now, but of pressing and vital importance then.

In making this review, nothing is more striking than the evidence afforded of the great progress made by our Province in population and wealth, and in the comforts and circumstances of the people. In 1839, however, it was still

### LITTLE BETTER THAN A WILDERNESS.

There was little business other than farming, and very few of the newspapers, banks, insurance and kindred institutions still exist which were in operation when the "Gore" began its career. Whether it is a case of "the survival of the fittest" or not, it at least must be admitted that this Company has survived nearly all its early contemporaries, and it is not too much to say, that at no period during its life of fifty-six years did it enjoy anything like so large and successful a business as it does to-day.

The first steps to form the Company were taken in the then little town, but now the ambitious City of Hamilton. The notice of meeting requested "The freeholders of the Gore District to meet at Plumer Burley's hotel, in the Town of Hamilton, on the 13th of