

## CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY.

The Fifty-second Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of the Consumers' Gas Company of Toronto, was held in the Company's Board Room, No. 17 Toronto Street, on Monday, October 29th, 1900, at noon.

Present—J. J. Long, Wm. Hendrie (Hamilton), Prof. Fletcher, J. A. Black, Victor Cawthra, W. H. Cawthra, Henry Cawthra, F. W. Gates (Hamilton), Geo. Gooderham, Dr. L. W. Smith, W. S. Lee, A. W. Austin, W. H. Pearson, T. R. Wood, J. L. Blaikie, G. N. Reynolds, A. J. Somerville, Geo. R. R. Cockburn, M.A.; I. C. Gilmor, Dr. Jas. Henderson, D. F. Jessop and C. C. Baines.

The President having been called to the chair, read the Annual Report, after which, in a few remarks, he congratulated the Shareholders on the continued prosperity of the Company, and on the satisfactory condition of the works, due to the energetic efforts of the Manager and his competent assistants.

The past year had been an unusually trying one for the Manager, taking into account the numerous demands upon him, arising mainly from legislation affecting the Company, the extension of works and the contracts connected therewith, in addition to his usual routine work; but he had risen equal to the occasion, and had performed his duties to the entire satisfaction of the Board.

In reference to the legislation to which he had alluded, the President remarked that the Company had always been ready to meet the City with the view of settling the differences between them, and in the early part of the year, when the City sought by legislation to effect certain changes in the Act of 1887, the opportunity seemed to be afforded to give the City, by considerable concessions, what they were asking for, and accordingly representatives of both parties met on a number of occasions and endeavored to formulate some agreement to accomplish this object. In this they succeeded, an agreement being prepared which appeared to be satisfactory to a majority of the representatives. The City Council, however, refused to confirm it, and there appeared to be nothing left but litigation of the most costly description to determine the rights of the respective parties, under the Act.

Referring to the recent sale of 1,000 Shares of Stock, it was gratifying to notice the very high prices which had been realized, indicating the confidence of the public in the soundness of the Institution.

Another gratifying feature was the rental of all the offices in the Company's building.

On the motion of the President, seconded by Mr. George Gooderham, the Report was unanimously adopted.

On motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Prof. Fletcher, the usual vote of thanks to the President, Vice-President and Directors for their services, was carried unanimously.

In moving a resolution of thanks to the Manager and officers of the Company, Mr. Gates (President of the Hamilton Gas Co.), the mover, took occasion to compliment the General Manager on his zeal and efficiency, and the Company on the value of the services rendered by him. In the course of his remarks, Mr. Gates expressed his conviction that for many considerations, economical and otherwise, gas would continue to hold its own, and had nothing whatever to fear from any other illuminant. The resolution was seconded by Mr. G. N. Reynolds, and carried unanimously.

In returning thanks for the resolution the Manager availed himself of the opportunity to refer to the rapid growth of the business during the past ten years. In 1891 the output of gas had been 509,414,000 cubic feet. For the year ending Sept. 30th, 1900, it had reached 838,215,000 cubic feet, the total increase in the ten years amounting to 328,801,000 cubic feet, or 64.5 per cent. He showed that during the same period no less than 12,562 services had been laid, and that the number of meters in use had increased from 14,838 in 1891, to 26,982 in 1900. He further stated that these increases during a number of years had resulted, to a considerable extent, from the constantly increasing use of gas as fuel, and to the adoption of incandescent gas burners, more especially since the recent reduction in their price. In many instances these burners had superseded incandescent electric lights owing to the much greater brilliancy of the light given—to which he might add, and at very much less cost.

Messrs. W. E. Sampson and J. C. Corp were re-appointed Auditors for the current year.

Messrs. Walter S. Lee and C. C. Baines were appointed scrutineers, and as the result of their scrutiny reported the following gentlemen to have been unanimously re-elected Directors for the ensuing year:—A. W. Austin, J. L. Blaikie, Henry Cawthra, Geo. R. R. Cockburn, M.A.; Isaac C. Gilmor, George Gooderham, James Henderson, M.A., D.C.L.; Thos. Long, L. W. Smith, Q.C., D.C.L.; Hon. Sir Frank Smith, K.B.; A. J. Somerville and Thos. R. Wood.

At a Board Meeting, subsequently held, Dr. Larratt W. Smith was unanimously re-elected President, and Hon. Sir Frank Smith, Vice-President, for the ensuing year.

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