

tion with the Northern Colonization Road, which, as well as the Kingston and Pembroke and such other roads as the Government may stipulate, is to have running powers over the new line.

The contract for the Georgian Bay Pacific line, 85 miles in length, has been awarded to a company, of which the Hon. A. B. Foster is the head. The terms are ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand acres of land per mile, with a guarantee of four per cent. on \$7,500 per mile. On becoming the accepted contractor, Mr. Foster announced his intention of resigning his position of Senator.

BEAVER AND TORONTO MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.—The annual statement submitted to the members of this company shows the cash receipts for the year to have been \$102,938, and the number of policies issued 6,062, covering property to the amount of \$5,428,664. The losses in the mercantile branch have been very heavy, amounting to 47,447, while those in the city branch which has been carefully managed have been *nil*. The business of the company has been divided into four branches, and we think that the management has acted wisely in deciding to abandon all but the city branch. The year's business has been an improvement upon its predecessors.

UNION MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY.—Upon an examination of the twenty-fifth annual statement of this company it will be seen that there was an increase of 1,284 in the number of policies issued over last year, making the total for the year 6,732. It will also be noticed that the premiums on the new business has increased fifty per cent in 1874; amounting to \$483,229 as against \$320,432 in 1873. Another point we notice is that the interest receipts have been sufficient to pay all the death claims of the company and leave a nice surplus besides. This exhibit cannot fail to be gratifying to the management and policy holders.

CANADA FARMERS' MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY.—During the past year this company has shown marked evidences of prosperity. The number of policies issued was 7,443, being an increase of 2,198 over the previous year. The cash premiums for the year amounted to \$45,343, and the premium notes to \$140,719. The statement of the company will be found in another column and shows that although the losses have been heavy, that the company has a large balance of Assets over Liabilities.

THE AGRICULTURAL MUTUAL INSURANCE ASSOCIATION.—The annual meeting of this Company was held in London a few days ago. The statement submitted to the members showed that the Company has continued to prosper. 14,101 new policies were issued during the year, making the total number of policies now in force 38,427, covering property to the amount of \$34,756,276. The amount paid for losses during the year was \$45,047. The board continue to urge upon the Government the necessity of appointing a Fire Inquisitor to investigate fraudulent cases.

—HON. J. H. CAMERON recently introduced a Bill to amend the law relating to bills of exchange and promissory notes. The object of this Bill is to do away with all the laws existing in the several Provinces on the subject of damages, and place them all on a uniform footing, and make the amounts recoverable on a bill of exchange, in addition to the amount of the Bill itself—the interest on it, the expense of noting and protest, and the amount necessary for exchange and re-exchange—the same in all the Provinces of the Dominion.

—The annual meeting of the Quebec Marine and Fire Insurance Company was held on the 25th ult., and the following gentlemen were elected Directors:—Messrs. Whithall, Joseph, Henry Dinning, F. M. Audet, John Ross, J. B. Renand, A. F. A. Knight, M. G. Mountain, and D. C. Thomson. At a subsequent meeting of the Directors, Mr. W. Whithall was elected President, and Mr. A. Joseph, Vice-President.

Meetings.

BEAVER AND TORONTO MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of this Company took place on Friday the 26th inst., at the Company's offices, Toronto Bank Buildings, C. E. Chadwick, Esq., of Ingersoll. President, took the chair. The following is the report of the Board of Directors:—

Annual Report.

The Board of Directors have much pleasure in meeting the members of the Beaver and Toronto Mutual Fire Insurance Company on this occasion, and in congratulating them on the general prosperity of the company, and its thorough ability to meet all demands upon it, present and prospective.

As will be seen by the statements furnished herewith, which have been prepared in the most rigidly careful manner, our available assets, after providing for all cash liabilities on the 1st January, 1875, amounted to the large sum of \$119,511 94, or more than double the reserve necessary to provide for re-insurance of the unexpired term of all policies in force on that day. We have besides, \$38,640, in the shape of subscribed Guarantee Stock not yet paid up, and not included in the subjoined statement of Assets and Liabilities, but which in reality increase our resources for the protection of policy-holders, in all to \$158,151 94. It may be added, that of the item of \$45,384 19, classed as "Bills Payable, including claims not matured, &c.," about one fourth had been paid previous to the date of this report, without any corresponding addition to our liabilities. All this certainly constitutes good cause for satisfaction to all parties concerned.

It is, however, to be regretted, that our losses by fire in one branch—the Mercantile—have been so unusual that the Board has been compelled, under the statutes by which we are governed, to impose a special assessment on the members of that Branch, sufficient to cover the extra amount of claims, about \$20,000, over and above the ordinary average of losses. In this matter, the Directors had no option, as the law provides that no such losses shall be charged against policies not in force during the time when the losses were sustained.

The business of 1874 may be stated in brief as follows: Cash receipts (including cash in hand January 1st, 1875), \$102,938 20; Expenditure, \$100,588 55. Number of policies issued, 6,062, covering property to the amount of \$5,428 664. Number of expired and cancelled policies, \$6,991, covering \$4,597.805. Total policies in force, 17,020, covering \$13,092,030. Total number of claims settled and unsettled was: Mercantile Branch, \$47,447 31; Farm Branch, \$4,197. 10; Manufacturers' Branch, \$11,934 80; City Branch, none. Total, \$67,828 51.

It will be observed that, as was the case last year, the number of policies in force has slightly decreased, while the amount of premium notes and the general value of business done, shows a large increase. This is due to the system of rejecting inferior risks, and encouraging a safer and better class of insurance altogether. Thus amongst farm risks, the lower class of log buildings is rejected entirely; and our agents withdrawn from those districts of country where the buildings are exposed to running fires, or are not worth careful looking after by their owners.

Under the Ontario Act of 1873, this Company is entitled to insure on the cash system to one-half the amount of unpaid premium notes in force at the end of the previous year, which in our case would be \$46,000 nearly. It will be seen that we have not reached that amount by a considerable sum. This limitation your Board entirely approve, and indeed, they used their best efforts to secure it, while the Bill was under consideration of the Legislature.

Your Board, after several years' experience of the effect of sub-dividing the Company's operations into several branches, have finally come to the conclusion that such sub-division is open to serious objections. Fifteen years ago, farm insurance was far less hazardous, in fact, than it has since proved itself to be. With increased cheapness has come increased risk. Incendiarism, which was then rare, and has become so common and difficult of detection, that it is doubtful whether a return to the old high rate of 1½ per cent. per annum (on property now insured at one-sixth that expense) would not be an actual boon to the farmers themselves. However this may be, it is quite certain that farm property is equally hazardous with buildings in villages. It was for this cause, that our Household Branch was in 1869-70 merged in the Farm Branch; and for the same reason, your Board have decided on issuing all farm policies hereafter, in the Mercantile Branch. The great difference of rates, and the very small amount of the farm premium note, afford ample protection against unfair charges upon non-hazardous risks. Those policies now in force in the Farm Branch, will be assessed for their own share of losses only, and not for any losses on new policies issued in the Mercantile (or General) Branch.

So with regard to the Manufacturers' and Live Stock Branches; these were established by way of experiment, to test the relative risk of loss on such property. In neither have the losses exceeded the ordinary mercantile ratio, and no reason now exists why they should be maintained separately. Economy in the office and uniformity of system will be promoted by their cessation, which has accordingly been resolved and acted