

The Council hopes that as the attractions of the Reading Room become generally known among members, they will avail themselves more freely of the privilege to attend, offered them without extra charge.

#### THANKS TO CITY M.P.'S.

The Council, at prorogation of the Dominion Parliament, ordered that its thanks be transmitted to the Hon. Senator Abbott, to Sir Donald A. Smith, Mr. J. J. Curran, and Mr. C. J. Coursol, M.P.'s, for the valuable assistance afforded by them to the Board during the session.

#### PROVISION FOR THE FAMILIES OF DECEASED MEMBERS.

As provided in By-law 42, each member of the Board was in July notified by circular that he might, by payment of an entrance fee of twenty dollars within sixty days of such notification, become a member of the Guarantee scheme for families of deceased members; but although the details of that scheme had been approved and adopted by the general membership at last annual meeting, the responses to that circular numbered less than two hundred. The Council therefore appointed a committee, Messrs. Judge and Archer, to consider the whole question anew and, if possible, to devise a scheme which should meet with more general acceptance.

That committee reported,—That after examining many schemes of different Associations, and studying Insurance tables, &c., it had concluded that the uniform assessment principle must be abandoned as unfair, and assessment according to age adopted,—That instead of collecting assessments on death of members, it would be much simpler and more advantageous to fix an annual assessment on the basis of the actual net cost of insurance as defined by the recognized actuarial tables, beyond which amount a member would not be liable,—That while the revised scheme presented might appear less attractive than others of which members might be cognizant, the committee had borne in mind the Council's instruction that no scheme should be entertained which lacked the essential elements of soundness and stability, and that many of the schemes examined, with very low premiums and promising large gratuities, required but little examination to prove that they were neither sound nor stable,—That if the scheme submitted seems to be too conservative, it must not be forgotten that should profits accrue, they will belong to the members of the scheme, and can, a few years hence, be applied to the reduction