

Meetings.

CANADA LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

The 50th annual meeting of the Canada Life, held Tuesday in the head offices, Hamilton, finds the company with assurance business reaching the large sum of \$70,747,557.21, upon 23,638 lives under 32,302 policies, an income of over two and three quarters million dollars a year, and assets exceeding seventeen million dollars. Such results fully warrant the directors, upon this jubilee occasion, in expressing their hearty congratulations upon the company's past successful career, its present sound and prosperous position, and their hopeful anticipation that such prosperity will be continued in the future.

The new applications for assurances in 1896 were 2,555 in number, for \$5,685,252.42, but 234 for \$704,270 having been declined, and 205 for \$488,325.67 not having been carried out, the actual issue of the year resulted in 2,116 policies for \$4,492,656.75.

The year's claims by death were again largely under what was looked for, being for \$725,583.70 upon 232 lives; \$101,900 was also paid to policy-holders under 58 matured endowment policies. These payments, along with profits amounting to \$361,105.15, allowed to policy-holders, expenses of management and all other disbursements, left a balance on the year amounting to \$1,098,812.17, by which sum the assets were increased.

FINANCIAL ABSTRACT.

Total income (less reinsurance premiums)	\$2,741,912 00
Payments to policy-holders....	1,308,140 91
All other payments	380,909 84
Total payments	\$81,689,050 75
Ledger assets.....	\$16,650,399 73
Other assets (net)	770,126 77
Total assets.....	\$17,420,526 50
Net re-assurance reserve fund (4 per cent.).....	\$15,957,617 00
All other liabilities	425,920 50
Total liabilities	\$16,383,537 50
Surplus over all liabilities	1,036,989 00
.....	\$17,420,526 50

PRESIDENT RAMSAY'S ADDRESS.

In moving the adoption of the directors' report on the occasion of the company's jubilee, its 50th annual meeting, I would ask you to look back at the formation of the institution, in 1847, when it began business in somewhat humble quarters in Hamilton, then a comparatively very small place, with a population of some seven or eight thousand inhabitants. It was a time when Canada was sparsely settled, when railways were practically unknown, and when postal and other facilities of communication were slow and difficult, when there was, happily perhaps, little of that rush and eager competition for business which now exists. It could hardly then, I think, have crossed the mind of even the most enterprising and sanguine of the promoters of the institution, which they were then launching upon its career with some anxiety and many gravely expressed doubts of success, that it would have supporters and agencies in every city, town and village, I may say, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and would attain in 1897 the present prominent and leading position which the Canada Life occupies to-day among the financial institutions of the Dominion.

Of the original founders of the company in 1847, we rejoice to have with us to-day two of its oldest and most valued friends, Hon. Justice Burton and Nehemiah Merritt, who we all trust may be long spared to continue their useful and welcome services as directors. The business of the first year consisted of 136 policies assuring £55,650, or in the present currency, \$222,600. Of these but nine are now in existence for \$12,000 upon the lives of gentlemen varying from ages of 82 down to 70. This small and modest beginning of 1847 now finds the company in its jubilee year with 32,000 policies in force for over \$70,000,000, equivalent to about \$12 per head of the whole population of the Dominion, and when I mention that the total amount of assurances in force was but \$3,000,000 in 1859, the increase since then to \$70,000,000 indicates the progress and develop-

ment which the company has made since that time. Of the increase of the income, I may say that what was in 1859 but \$135,000 for the year, is now in 1897 increased twenty fold, to \$2,755,648 for last year, and as regards the assets there were in 1859, \$467,894, and there are to-day \$17,423,289, an increase of about forty fold. These figures are very clearly and forcibly illustrated by the interesting diagrams on the walls of this room, to which I would ask your attention. All the results which the diagrams disclose have been accomplished by a prudent enterprise, combined with careful and honorable efforts to afford to assurers every possible advantage and security which a scrupulous regard for the safety of the company warranted. Its large business has been obtained without extravagant expenditure, for it has been the policy of the company to abstain from any high pressure system of obtaining business, which must be ultimately unprofitable and unsatisfactory, and the beneficial results of that policy will be seen when I mention that the percentage of our company's expenses is from 3½ to 30 per cent. lower than that of any other Canadian company. I am pleased to be able to announce that our death claims last year, although somewhat heavier in amount than during previous years, as the increasing ages of our assurers indeed naturally lead us to expect, are yet largely under the mortality calculated upon and provided for, a conclusive proof of the wise discrimination exercised by the directors and medical and other officers in the selection of the lives offered to the company for assurance. The deaths during the past year were 228 in number, and the ages attained ranged from 89 to 24, the average age at death being 58½ years, and the average duration of the policies on the deceased lives being eighteen years. Since the commencement of the company there has been paid to it by assurers a total sum of \$28,900,000, of which the company holds now for future claims and profits over \$17,000,000, and having already paid to assurers and their representatives by the way of profits, death and endowment claims, etc., \$15,500,000, it will be seen that the receipts for interest alone have exceeded all the management and other expenses of the company by no less than \$3,600,000. I need hardly allude to the blessing which the company must have been to that large number of widows and orphans of assurers, who were left in many cases without other provision than that of their life policies, the payment of which placed them in comparative independence and comfort, in place of being left in poverty or in dependence upon friends or relatives.

As you are aware, the basis upon which the valuations of our policy liabilities are at present made is that of the American experience table of mortality, with the interest at 4 per cent., a table compiled by that well-known actuary, Sheppard Homans, from the experience of the largest American life company. Upon the present occasion, however, as is required by our laws, a valuation has been made by the Canadian insurance department upon the Dominion Government standard, which is based upon the experience of twenty leading British companies, and called the institute of actuaries' tables, with interest at 4½ per cent. We are thus fortunate in having this year for the first time the opportunity of comparing the results of the valuations of these two different standards, and it will interest you to learn of the sound position of the company, as is shown by the fact that our own valuation of liabilities is \$617,000 in excess of that of the Dominion Government standard, it being in the ratio of \$104.01 to each \$100. Such a result is a matter of great satisfaction, and it will further confirm the public confidence which the company enjoys, and you will be glad to know that the advantages which it offers continue to be appreciated by assurers, for in this current year, up to the present time, the new assurances exceed in number and amount those of any previous year for the corresponding period, and I believe I will be sustained by you when I say that no Canadian institution stands higher than the Canada Life in the public esteem, and in none do the directors and management more earnestly seek to retain that eminent position, by giving to assurers every advantage and liberality which prudence, and safety, and justice can suggest.

F. W. Gates, vice-president of the company, seconded the adoption of the report in an interesting speech, and referred to the erection of the company's handsome building in Montreal, and to the increasing difficulty of securing

investments at a high rate of interest. After telling some plain truths about mining investments, he alluded in feeling terms to the absence from the meeting of Lieut.-Governor Kirkpatrick, one of the directors.

A vote of thanks to the president and directors was moved and seconded by Messrs. E. B. Osler, M.P., and Major Henry McLaren, in highly complimentary terms.

Adam Brown moved, and B. E. Walker seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the agents, officers and medical and legal advisers of the company, expressing in suitable terms the appreciation of the shareholders. The motion was responded to by Dr. J. D. MacDonald, David Kidd, Alexander Bruce and R. Hills on behalf of the medical advisers, agents, legal advisers and the staff respectively, the president also adding an expression of his appreciation.

The following directors were elected: Very Rev Dean Innes, F. W. Gates, B. E. Walker and Alexander Bruce, Q.C.

At a subsequent meeting of the directors A. G. Ramsay and F. W. Gates were re-elected president and vice-president respectively.

SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA.

The annual meeting of this company was held at the company's head office building, in Montreal, on April 2nd. The president, Mr. Robertson Macaulay, occupied the chair. The following is a summary of the report submitted:

The life applications received were 10,898 in number, for assurances to the amount of \$11,110,292.19. Of these 10,161, covering \$9,741,258.38, were accepted, and policies issued therefor, the balance being declined or not completed. The assurances on which premiums were actually paid in cash before the close of the year were 6,519 for \$7,468,281.57. This new business is not only larger than that secured by the company in any previous year of its history, but also much larger than that of any other Canadian life company.

The policies in force on Dec. 31st last, were 26,840, assuring \$38,196,890.92, being an increase for the year of 4,539 policies for \$3,441,050.67.

The cash premium income, after deducting sums paid for re-assurances, amounted to \$1,529,624.34. In addition to this \$120,644.02 was received as consideration for annuities granted. The total net premium income was thus \$1,650,268.36, being an increase of \$348,679.29 over the figures of the previous twelve months. The total receipts for the year, including interest and rents, were \$1,886,258.

The death claims which fell in were 215, on 190 lives, and assuring \$350,185.17. The amount "expected," according to our mortality tables, was \$454,541.75. It will thus be seen that while the sum paid was large, the company's experience was in reality very favorable. In addition to the foregoing, 53 endowment assurances for \$64,934.90 matured during the year. The total payments made to policy-holders were \$512,886.86. It may be interesting to know that in the twenty-six years of its active history, the company has returned to policy-holders or beneficiaries \$3,626,628.80. It would be difficult to estimate the extent of the influence for good of this large amount, which has been paid chiefly to widows and orphans, or to persons in advanced age.

The assets now amount to \$6,388,144.66, being an increase of \$1,022,374.13 during the year. After setting aside the amounts needed to cover all outstanding claims; after valuing the policy liabilities by the very severe standard which the company has voluntarily adopted (the Institute of Actuaries Hm. Table with four per cent. interest); after providing for the paid-up capital stock; and after distributing \$27,835.23 in cash profits to policies entitled to participate during the year, there remains a net surplus over all liabilities of \$282,608.65.

For the purpose of showing what the corresponding surplus figures would have been had any of the following tables been used in valuing the policies, the several net results are here appended:—

SURPLUS OVER ALL LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL STOCK.

By the Dominion Government standard (the Hm. table with 4½ per cent. interest)	\$595,902 02
By the American table with 4 p. c.	432,604 32
By the American table with 4½ p. c.	749,555 88