

practise the strictest economy, and the secretary acknowledges the careful oversight of the president in this connection. By means of this economy the statement shows about the same balance as last year, while the outstanding liabilities have been reduced from \$260 to \$168; or nearly \$100 less than they were a year ago. But when it is considered that the amount received from fees was less than the previous year by \$47, it will be seen that the Executive have made a total saving during 1895 of nearly \$150. A similar course of conduct during 1896 would make the association a capitalist.

The detailed statement for the year is as follows:

Receipts.		
Balance on hand 1894	.....	\$ 3 58
Fees	.....	365 00
Receipts from banquet	.....	239 00
		<u>\$607 58</u>
Disbursements.		
Secretary's salary 1894	.....	\$100 00
A. Speers & Co., printing	.....	13 25
J. B. MacLean & Co., copies annual report	.....	19 05
A. F. Pirie, Michigan Press Association	.....	2 90
Apsted Bros., printing	.....	8 90
Executive meetings	.....	55 30
Banquet	.....	250 00
T. H. Preston, printing, etc	.....	25 25
L. W. Shannon, printing	.....	12 50
W. L. Edmonds, reporting	.....	15 00
J. Dickson Patterson, portrait	.....	75 00
Postage	.....	27 89
Sundries	.....	4 00
		<u>\$599 04</u>
Balance on hand	.....	8 54

JOHN A. COOPER,
Sec.-Treas.

This was then referred to the auditors.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The president then read his address as follows:

Gentlemen,—“In the rapid flight of time the season has once more arrived when we are called upon to meet together and complete the business of the year.

“During the twelve-month now closing an important work has been accomplished in bringing into agreement British and Canadian views and interests upon the subject of Canadian copyright legislation. For over fifty years this has been a subject of dispute and controversy between the Imperial and the Canadian Governments respectively. The former contended that the exercise of its undoubted constitutional powers by the latter would seriously interfere with the arrangements entered into with foreign countries; and, holding that Canadian literature was of so trifling extent as to be practically non-existent, withheld assent from Canadian legislation in the avowed interest of Canadian publishers. In Canada this action was resented as an unwarranted infringement of the terms of confederation, and in 1889 an Act was passed for the purpose of once more asserting our strong views in the matter. The statute was not approved, and a correspondence ensued between Ottawa and Downing Street somewhat acrid in its terms, while the feelings of Canadians were by no means softened by the indiscreet expressions indulged in by certain English writers. Last fall, however, Mr. Hall Caine came to our shores as a representative of British authors, and in November he had a conference with members of the Government, at which Mr. Daldy, representing the British publishers, and members of the Canadian Copyright League were present. At the request of your Executive Committee I also attended in support of the legislation proposed by the Can-

adian Copyright League. The outcome of this conference was an agreement upon a modified bill which is to be brought before Parliament this session and which embodies the result of compromises made by all the parties interested.

“The twenty-eight years for which copyright was granted by the Act of 1889 have been extended to forty two years. The month allowed authors or copyright owners within which to register at Ottawa has been extended to sixty days, after which a license may be issued to any applicant. On application for license the author or copyright owner is to be notified and to have seven days within which to elect, to retain the copyright and for that purpose to register. There is a clause prohibiting importation after registration which promises to provoke the opposition of the book-selling trade when the bill comes before Parliament. On the whole, however, the measure contains a fair solution of a vexed problem in which this association and its members are interested.

“It would be regrettable if the protest entered by France within the past few days should prevent the settlement arrived at from being carried out.

“The arrangement made with Mr. John King, Q.C., by which that gentleman agrees to act as permanent counsel for such papers as choose to retain him on certain favorable terms, has been taken advantage of by a fair proportion of the press, but not by so great a number outside of Toronto as might have been anticipated. I am sure it would be a great advantage to the fraternity at large to join in the arrangement. Libel suits are numerous, many of them coming into court involving heavy costs and many more being settled in their early stages by payments more or less onerous on the part of publishers. Mr. King stands in the position of a specialist whose advice and assistance are of special value, and are well worth the small expenditure called for. There may be an idea prevalent that his residence in Toronto makes him less available for outside publishers, and would be attended with inconvenience in their dealings with him; but this, I am certain, is an error.

“The annual trip which it was proposed to take last summer through the Maritime Provinces fell through, a very small number only having signified their intention of participating. Excursion rates are now so low on both land and water, and transportation is to be had so cheaply and easily that a trip of the kind no longer possesses the attractions that it once did. Nevertheless, I believe that it would be a good thing for pressmen, their wives and families, to travel together occasionally during the holidays, and become better acquainted with each other. The result of intimacy would be to strengthen esprit de corps, and fraternal feeling has every kind of good effect.

“I would suggest that the members of the association take every opportunity of disseminating information about Canada, our own country, in their various publications. This I say in no jingo spirit, for jingoism in presence of a neighboring republic with seventy million people would be absurd and ridiculous. But in the desire to promote a rational love and intelligent interest in our native land it would, it appears to me, be wise to familiarise the public with the course of its history, the extent of its resources, the marks of its development, the striking and beautiful features of its scenery. This would be a wise means of cultivating a true national spirit, and the information so conveyed would be copied and republished elsewhere, and tend to attract capital