

1897

# FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY OF TORONTO.

The Directors are pleased to be able to lay before the Stockholders a satisfactory report of the business of the Company for the past year.

The judgment of the Court of Appeal in favor of the Company, in the suit brought by a gas consumer, has been appealed by him to the Privy Council and the case has not yet been argued.

The Company's appeal to the Supreme Court against the assessment of its street mains was partially successful, it having been decided that the Company was liable only for the taxes on mains laid in the ward in which the assessment was made, the whole of the mains having been assessed in one ward. The taxes on the mains so illegally assessed, which had been paid under protest, are therefore returnable to the Company, and amount to a considerable sum.

Notwithstanding the general depression in trade, the consumption of gas has materially increased. This, is to be attributed partly to the great reduction in the price of gas, partly to the introduction of improved burners, and partly to the growing recognition of its economy and convenience as a fuel and for mechanical purposes.

During the year, 1,065 services have been put in, and over 6½ miles of mains have been laid, making the total mileage now over 236.

A comparative statement with that of the preceding year, shows:

	STREET LAMPS	METERS	GAS RENTAL
Year ending 30th September, 1896.....	1,026	22,107	\$550,016.74
1897.....	1,014	22,951	529,839.48
Decrease, 12	Increase, 844	Decrease, \$20,177.26	

The Directors have had to regret, during the year, the loss of their esteemed colleague, Mr. James Austin, a member of the Board for over thirty-seven years, for seven of which he filled the position of Vice-President, and for twenty-three, of President of this Company. During all this period, he was indefatigable in his efforts to promote the best interests of this Company. Sound in judgment, and practical in his views, he assisted by his wise counsel, in guiding the Company through many difficulties.

The vacancy on the Board has been filled by the election of Mr. Thomas Long, well-known in this community as a thoroughly practical business man.

The Board unanimously elected the Vice-President, Dr. Larratt W. Smith, President, and the Hon. Sir Frank Smith, Vice-President of the Company.

The Company's works are in a satisfactory condition, and no opportunity has been lost in introducing and adopting the latest improvements in every department of the business.

The Directors have much pleasure in again testifying to the faithful and valuable services of their Manager, assisted by his able and efficient staff.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

LARRATT W. SMITH,  
President.

TORONTO, 19th October, 1897.