

ECONOMICAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

The annual meeting of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Co., of Berlin, was held at the company's offices, on Friday, 28th January, 1898, at 2 o'clock p.m.

The president, Mr. John Fennell, occupied the chair, and Mr W. H. Schmalz, the secretary, acted as secretary of the meeting.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read, and on motion of Mr. Jansen, seconded by Mr. Pabst, were adopted.

The president read the following directors' report:

REPORT.

This is the 26th annual report of your company. An examination of the financial statement herewith submitted shows that the company has had a fairly prosperous year. The volume of business now carried is \$13,034,695, being an increase over 1896.

The fire loss during the past year was \$81,417, against \$91,449 in 1896—a reduction of fully \$10,000, which enables the company to add nearly \$2,000 to its reserve. This cash reserve fund now stands at \$83,958.78, to which we add agents' balances, assessments in course of collection, accrued interest and rent, making the total cash assets (exclusive of Goad's plans) \$90,918.10. To re-insure all our risks under both Mutual and Cash Systems would require \$60,100, thus leaving our cash surplus \$30,818, besides the unearned premium notes, amounting to \$189,253, making a total surplus above all liabilities of \$220,071.

As a result of the cancellation of a number of re-insurance risks, the cash business for the first quarter of 1897 became reduced by fully \$500,000, but this was gradually replaced by direct and better paying business, till the amount now held on the Cash System is \$8,394,899, being an increase of \$419,123 more than it was at the beginning of last year.

The company issued during 1897, 5,950 policies, the total number now in force being 12,871.

These are divided as follows, viz. :-

In the Isolated branch .....	\$6,224,221 72
"    Mercantile    " .....	4,923,933 18
"    Hazardous    " .....	1,936,540 74

Making a total of.....\$13,084,695 64

It will be observed that this distribution places nearly half our risks in the isolated or safest branch.

While the amount of agents' balances, \$10,571, may seem a large sum, it must be remembered that with most of the agents settlements are made monthly, and as the company's receipts are about \$12,000 per month, the agents' balances represent only the December business. Most of this sum has since been paid.

Your directors desire to draw attention to a matter that is well known in insurance circles, namely, the number of incendiary fires. Out of 273 fires your company was called upon to settle last year, 17 were believed to be caused by the fire fiend and 77 are charitably classed as "Unknown." Putting these two classes together they form about one-third of the whole number. Many underwriters claim that incendiarism is responsible for fully one-half the fires that occur. For several reasons it is difficult to induce insurance companies to prosecute, single handed, supposed offenders, unless upon the most positive evidence. We would therefore suggest that fire insurance companies should unite in asking the Government to appoint officers charged with the duty of thoroughly investigating suspicious fires. Such action would, we believe, greatly reduce the fire loss throughout the country.

You will be called upon to elect five directors to take the place of those retiring, namely: Messrs. Breithaupt, Jacobi, Merner, Pabst and Snyder, all of whom are eligible for re-election; also a director for a term of one year to replace Mr. Powell, who resigned last year.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. FENNELL,  
President.

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES OF THE ECONOMICAL MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

Balance on hand as per statement of 31st December, 1896 ..... \$ 82,183 18

Receipts.	
Premiums—	
Mutual System.....	\$22,074 04
Cash System.....	72,954 07
	\$ 95,028 11
Instalments, 1895 .....	\$ 110 84
"    1896 .....	2,365 07
"    1897 .....	32,107 71
	34,583 62
Transfer fees .....	143 90
Re-insurance .....	6,784 46
Interest and rent .....	4,282 90
	\$223,006 17

Expenditures.	
Losses.....	\$ 81,417 70
Rebates .....	7,238 79
Re-insurance .....	9,266 03
Commissions.....	24,221 31
Adjusting losses and traveling expenses.....	1,854 79
Salaries, directors' and auditors' fees .....	8 118 50
Printing, advertising and stationery .....	1,240 07
Postage, telephone and telegraph..	1,244 89
Law costs .....	837 28
Fuel and light .....	48 03
Exchange .....	38 58
Interest on mortgage assumed by company .....	720 00
Miscellaneous expenses .....	2,801 42
	\$139,047 39
Balance .....	83,958 78
	\$223,006 17

Assets.	
Balance as above.....	\$83,958 78
Agents' balances, including unpaid instalments charged to agents' accounts.....	\$10,571 04
Due bills for first premiums.....	1,418 19
Accrued interest and rents .....	1,392 04
	13,381 27
	\$97,340 05
Balance .....	90,918 10
Net premium notes .....	189,253 41
Office furniture and Goad's plans \$5,000 (not extended) .....	
	\$280,171 51

Liabilities.	
Unpaid claims, unadjusted.....	\$8,046 95
Less amount re-insured .	1,625 00
Balance .....	6,421 95
	90,918 10
	\$97,340 05

Investments.	
Balance .....	\$83,958 78
Real estate.....	\$18,475 00
Mortgages .....	35,405 39
Deposit receipts .....	18,100 00
Current account Canadian Bank of Commerce .....	7,678 15
Cash at head office .....	4,300 24
	\$83,958 78

Government Deposits.	
Mortgages .....	\$16,310 00
Deposit receipts.....	17,100 00
	\$33,410 00

HUGO KRANZ,  
Manager.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

The president and directors of the Economical Mutual Fire Insurance Co.:

GENTLEMEN,—We beg to report that we have examined the books of account and vouchers of your company for the year ending 31st December, 1897, and that we find the same correct. We submit herewith abstract statements of the company's business for the past year, and of the present assets and liabilities.

J. S. HOFFMAN, }  
J. M. SCULLY, } Auditors.

Berlin, January 26th, 1898.

The adoption of the report was moved by the president, seconded by Mr. Lang, and carried.

The manager read the financial statement of

the year's business, when Mr. Bowlby moved, seconded by Mr. Mackie, the adoption of the financial statement.

The inspector's report was then read, the auditors reappointed, and votes of thanks tendered to the agents of the company and to the directors.

The scrutineers having announced the names, the president declared the following gentlemen re-elected as directors for a term of three years, viz.: C. Pabst, F. Snyder, Hon. S. Merner, P. Jacobi and L. J. Breithaupt, also Mr. Joseph Seagram, M.P., as a director for one year.

A CHEMICAL FIRE ENGINE.

A couple of interesting and picturesque experiments took place on the 8th inst. in a brickfield near Uxbridge Road, with the "Rex" chemical fire engine, an American invention, of which Messrs. J. E. Spagnoletti & Crookes, electrical and mechanical engineers, are the British agents. The "Rex" engine, we are informed, has been in use now in the United States for a quarter of a century, and has met with great success. This is its first appearance in England, and it was examined a few days ago by Commander Wells and other experts. The engine employed—only a hand one, suitable for private use on an estate or in a village—consisted of two aluminium steel cylinders, each of thirty gallons capacity, mounted on wheels, with six loads of soda for each engine, and "Rex" hand extinguishers, two of which accompany each engine, six loads of acid, one hundred feet of one-inch chemical hose and other accessories. The object of the two cylinders is that one may be re-loaded while the other is working, and thus the engine is enabled to keep up a continuous stream of carbonic acid gas. It is claimed that this little engine "will throw over an ordinary house a stream of carbonic acid gas and water forty times more powerful as a fire extinguisher than water alone." The larger engines have a capacity of as many as 200 gallons, and throw a correspondingly higher jet.

A shed 14 feet square, built of wood, faced with tarred felt, had been erected for the purpose of the first experiment, and the shavings and timber which were scattered over the floor were, with the planks composing the shed, saturated with fifteen gallons of petroleum and five of naphtha. As soon as this was fairly alight—and of course the oil and naphtha made a huge flame and smoke—the engine was brought into play, and an ex-fireman of an American brigade, wearing the Bader patent fireman's smoke protector, which is something like a diver's helmet, got close up to the burning building, and in less than a minute got the flames well under control with the expenditure of about twenty gallons of fluid. In another quarter of a minute the shed was almost sparkless. A second experiment with a smaller shed and a couple of "Rex" hand fire-extinguishers, with a capacity of three gallons each was equally successful.—*Insurance Record.*

—An English journal says there is not now one steamer engaged in the Anglo-Indian passenger or freight service that is capable of more than fourteen knots, or 16½ miles per hour. The ordinary rate even of the P. & O. steamers is ten knots. A conference of the leading men in the British carrying trade has been arranged. They more far-seeing among them declare that they must start building twenty-knot boats without waiting until Russia completes the railway through Manchuria.

—The *Insurance Press* tells of a New York woman—Mrs. Catherine Clarke—who has an office on Broad street, and who makes it her specialty to insure the lives of her own sex. "But Mrs. Clarke departs from the usual order of things, and does not go out after her risks, after the manner of men, but advertises in the papers, and women of many classes come to see her in her office. They are coming down town anyway: Mrs. Clarke, by a craftily-worded card in the papers, says she is "at home;" what more natural than that they should call? Mrs. Clarke will succeed; she has hit upon a great scheme to get at a woman; with an afternoon teakettle on the brew, her possibilities are unlimited."