

that considering the times we have passed through, and the fact that Accident Insurance was not like Fire or Life or Marine Insurance—a necessity, although a most desirable description of provision, it was to him almost a matter of surprise that they had been so successful in attaining the large amount of business they had. He could hardly realize how they had been able to get \$30,000 from the public for what it was not actually in need of during such times, and he must say it reflected great credit upon the management that the Company had in such a year as the last, been so eminently successful in this respect. The losses, he was glad to say, had been less than those calculated on, and it was a matter of considerable congratulation that, after paying the necessary heavy expenses connected with the great extension of the Company's field of operations during the year, and debiting it with over a thousand dollars on account of the former year's preliminary expenses, they had been able to pay the shareholders 8 per cent. dividend, and carry over a balance of nearly \$1,800 to the reserve account. He remarked that he was sorry that the severe competition with which the company had to contend seemed at present disposed to continue unrelentingly, and therefore the field might be expected to be somewhat limited; but he hoped and fully anticipated that this company would continue to hold such a position and so increase in the confidence of the public—it being really the only absolutely Accident Insurance Company—that its competitors would by-and-by see the desirability of giving up the contest, if not from lack of business, at all events from an experience that "cutting rates" in so speculative a business as Accident Insurance is not a remunerative undertaking, especially where the interests of more important branches of business might be jeopardised thereby.

In respect of our special claim to support, we had shown a desire to give every possible security to the public. All our capital and funds were exclusively for the security of the one business of Accident Insurance, and we had made the full special deposit required by Government for the same purpose, which neither of our competitors had done, and he thought that the security we offered in the shape of our stockholders was second to that of no institution in the Dominion, and that we should therefore be entitled to special consideration in the estimation of all who desired to make the provision of insurance against accidents.

The shareholders would remark that in the statement of assets and liabilities the sum of \$3,500 was set apart for estimated losses on unearned premiums. This, he thought, was in excess of the sum actually requisite for the purpose; but inasmuch as the money was not actually expended but would to a great extent probably remain to the use of the company and the augmentation of its reserves, the directors thought it best to adopt a strictly conservative principle on that head. It might be added that the dividend that had been paid the stockholders was slightly less than the interest on investments, so that the premium revenue fund had not been touched for that purpose.

Having then read the statements of receipts and expenditures, profit and loss, and assets and liabilities, and submitted them for the inspection of the meeting he proposed, seconded by Mr. JOHN RANKIN, that the report now read be received and adopted.

Carried unanimously.

The amendment of the by-law altering the date of closing of the books to 31st December in each year was then approved and adopted.

The Hon. DONALD A. SMITH, M. P., moved, seconded by J. C. HATTON, that the thanks of the shareholders are due and are hereby tendered to the directors for their services in the past year. In moving this, Mr. SMITH said that he felt very great pleasure in doing so, and in fact being able to attend a meeting where they were to learn of so pleasing a success as that which he gathered from the report, and the speech of this president,—had attended the operations of this Company during the trying

times of last year. Referring to the dividend of 8 per cent., he thought the shareholders were to be much congratulated on such a return, in comparison to the results of some of its kindred institutions, and in a time when we might reasonably expect little or nothing. It was very gratifying to learn of the prosperity of a young Company like this, which he fancied from its peculiar and exclusive formation—must under a continuation of the good guidance that had thus far led to its success—become a very important and gratifying institution to its supporters. He thought the meeting should certainly return thanks to the Directors, and he proposed the resolution with considerable satisfaction.

Mr. J. C. HATTON in seconding said that from his personal knowledge of and contact with the Directors in connection with the Company's business from time to time, he felt that in seconding the resolution he could do so with a knowledge of the value of their services to and association with the Company. The report just read he considered most satisfactory.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Sir A. T. GALT thanked the meeting on behalf of the Board, and assured them that the services and attention of the Directors would always be cheerfully given to the interest and advancement of the Company, and he hoped that the result of the combined exertion and influence of all connected with the Company would continue to advance it in the public estimation.

Mr. ROBT. CAMPBELL, Jr., seconded by Mr. ANDREW ROBERTSON, moved—That the thanks of the Shareholders are due, and are hereby tendered to the Manager and to the Officers of the Company for their services and attention to the Company's interests in the past year.

The President in submitting the motion wished to make a few remarks. He said that whilst acknowledging the vote of thanks on behalf of the Directors, he must really say that the great bulk of such recognition was more properly the due of their Manager, Mr. Rawlings, for it must of course be known that it is mainly due to his exertions that the success which had so far attended the Company's progress was owing. He would therefore beg to add his own thanks and those of the Board to the resolution just proposed, and he would say that the Company was fortunate indeed in having a gentleman of such experience and ability in charge of their affairs as Mr. GALT.

Mr. RAWLINGS thanked the meeting very much for the compliment paid him and the officers of the Company. He felt gratified that after the difficult period they had passed through in the last year, that they were able to present a result which was satisfactory to the shareholders. As he had on previous occasions said, he could only repeat that what success had been attained was in a great degree owing to the good accord that always existed between the directors and himself—and as surely as that lasted he thought there need be no fear of the company being other than successful.

He thanked the meeting on behalf of the officers of the company. During the last six months there had been two inspectors appointed, and in acknowledging the compliment he would not be justified in omitting to state that these gentlemen had been of material service in opening up and promoting with much success the several agency operations of the company.

The staff of the office was not a very extensive one, but those gentlemen comprising it were assiduous in their duties and commanded his full confidence and approbation.

The labor of the past year had certainly been heavy on all parties, and probably more especially to the agents, and to their co-operation all praise is due, but now that the Company had passed its initiation, and with a nucleus in the shape of an income of \$30,000 a year and a favorable record, it should and doubtless would go on and prosper. It was his intention to make it do so, if possible, and he trusted that at the next annual meeting a record equally, if not more, satisfactory would be able to be presented to the stockholders.

The ballot having been taken, the scrutineers, Messrs. Andrew Robertson and J. C. HATTON, reported the retiring Directors, Messrs. Thomas Cramp, R. J. Reekie and Edward Mackay duly re-elected.

The usual vote of thanks closed the meeting. At a subsequent meeting of the Board, Sir A. T. GALT was re-elected President and John Rankin, Esq., Vice-President.

The following is the Executive for the year 1877:

Directors—President, Sir Alexander T. Galt, K.C.M.G.

Vice-President—John Rankin, Esq.

Thos. Cramp, Esq., D. L. Macdougall, Esq.

John Molson, Esq., Andw. Robertson, Esq., Edward Mackay, Esq., R. J. Reekie, Esq., Jas. Rose, Esq., Wm. Moore, Esq., Quebec.

Solicitor—J. C. HATTON, Esq.

Auditors—Evans & Riddell.

Manager and Secretary—Edward Rawlings.

Head Office; Corner St. François Xavier and Notre Dame streets, Montreal.

RESUMPTION THIRTY-SIX DAYS HENCE.

(From the N. Y. Bulletin.)

Much as we could wish to see resumption established on the 4th of March, 1877, we are disposed to credit the President with more common sense than is attributed to him in the report that he is preparing a special message in advocacy of some such impossibility. As, however, the President is not to be expected to know much about finance, and has never shown anything beyond a surface acquaintance with such questions, it is not beyond the range of possibility that somebody, for some purpose, may have induced him to believe that the close of his reign may be glorified by some extraordinary feat of this kind. It may be amusing, if it serves no better purpose, to notice some of the reasons why, according to the story of the correspondents, the President thinks we may reach the Canaan of resumption within the space of thirty-six days. Let us take the points seriatim.

1. The President is reported as having said "that last year in our commercial relations with foreign countries we had shown a balance of trade amounting to \$120,000,000 in our favor. During the present fiscal year the country could already present the extraordinary and flattering exhibit of \$100,000,000 in our favor." All true, but what then? Did this condition of things bring from Europe \$120,000,000 of gold during the last fiscal year; or have we received \$100,000,000 during the current fiscal year? The answer is, we have now only about the average stock of gold in the country, and that portion of the stock that belongs to the Government has not been lower for years than it is to-day. In what respect then has this admittedly extraordinary balance of trade improved our condition for resuming? The President's trade balance, however, is an incomplete one. It takes no account of some \$80,000,000, or more, of interest that has to be annually paid to foreign holders of our securities; nor does it recognize the reflux movement of securities from Europe that has been in operation for many months past to an extent wholly unprecedented. The settlement of these two items has swallowed up all these huge surpluses of exports, without leaving a dollar to be accumulated for the day of resumption.

2. Further said the President, "we have, in addition to this, gotten over the idea that it is essential to our life and happiness to indulge in the manufactures of other countries when we can produce the same with equal merit at home." This he thought a decided advantage gained in the direction of specie payments. But, unfortunately, we have also gotten over the idea that it is essential to our life and happiness to indulge in the products of our own country to the same extent as formerly, and hence the relative largeness of our exports.