

mills. The Bent Chair factory is very busy. Some 100,000 chairs, etc., have been shipped to New Zealand, Australia, China and England. Sundry other industries of the town seem all to be in a prosperous condition. I note the dissolution, some weeks ago, of McColl & Lee, dry goods. Both are in business separately. Mr. Lee in dress goods and millinery.

MEAFORD.

There is good country all around Meaford; cereals grow abundantly and fruit is plentifully cultivated with success. A joint-stock company has been formed to erect an apple packing premises, where apples are picked over, assorted and put up in good shape for the European market. This is a good move, and a necessary one, for much fruit is sent over improperly packed as well as imperfectly assorted. I learn that Mr. James Randle, who has been running his woolen mill for some twelve years in Meaford is going to remove to larger premises. The building is four stories, 55x60 feet. A neat store will also be included, which will be used for retailing the various goods manufactured by himself and a few others. The building is to be heated by steam, and lighted by electricity from power developed on the premises.

T. G. O.

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

A general meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada was held in St. George's Hall, on Saturday evening last. The chair was occupied by Mr. R. J. Orr, the retiring president. The result of the nominations was that Mr. C. E. Kyle, of Eckhart & Co., was chosen president, and Mr. M. C. Ellis, of P. W. Ellis & Co., first vice-president, by acclamation. For second vice-president, there are two nominees, Mr. William Cauldwell, representing Brown Bros., and Mr. Joseph Taylor, representing Kilgour Bros. This is expected to be a keen contest, as both candidates are well-known and popular. Ex-President J. C. Black, of W. R. Johnston & Co., was again elected treasurer by acclamation. The directors for Brantford, Montreal, Winnipeg and Victoria were elected by acclamation.

The nominations for directors for the Toronto board are: Thos. Blake, H. Bedlington, John Burns, T. F. Corey, P. M. Goff, H. Goodman, G. W. Henderson, A. Hatch, L. A. Howard, W. Hopwood, R. Keyes, H. Lamont, A. M. Mathews, D. Morton, jr., Thos. McQuillan, John Orr, C. Ryan, W. F. Smith, S. M. Sterling, C. J. Tuthill, Geo. West, H. T. White.

Hamilton Board—W. E. Lachance, first vice-president; William Bremner, second vice-president (elected by acclamation). Directors: T. P. Allan, T. M. Davis, Jas. Hooper, J. H. Herring, Geo. Matheson, G. M. McGregor, W. G. Reid, F. T. Smythe, Robert Stewart, H. G. Wright.

Berlin Board—J. Cummings, A. Foster, Julian Jnauff, M. H. Whiting.

Kingston Board—W. S. R. Smith, B. W. Robertson, M. S. Sutherland.

WESTERN ONTARIO COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday evening last this body held its annual meeting in the Masonic Temple Building, London. There was a large attendance and much enthusiasm, for it is expected that there will be a number of spirited contests for coveted offices in the association. Mr. John Lennox, of Hamilton, was chosen to the third vice-presidency by acclamation. Mr. Samuel Munro was re-elected treasurer and Mr. Alf. Robinson secretary. There are two candidates each for president and first vice-president and there is to be a three-cornered contest for second vice-president. Mr. William Gray, who has been president for two years, has been induced to stand for a third term. His opponent will be Mr. C. E. Perry. The election is to be held on Friday, 23rd instant, at ten in the morning.

The annual statement was read by the secretary. It showed receipts of \$16,511.25, which included \$11,080 received for traveling certificates and \$450 for associate members' fees. Dividends on debentures and interest on deposits, totalled \$2,120.78. Twelve thousand dollars had been paid out in death and accident claims. The assets of the association show a surplus in favor of the reserve fund of \$51,822.50, the gain on the year being close upon \$3,000.

During the year 202 new members were received, making a net gain for the year of 75, and the total membership 1,150. The nominations were as follows:

For President.—Messrs. Wm. Gray and C. E. Perry,

For Vice-President.—Messrs. H. G. Collamore and W. L. Underwood,

For Second Vice-President.—Messrs W. S. Wilcox, F. H. Crabb and J. C. Hazard.

For Third Vice-President.—Mr. John Lennox, Hamilton (acclamation).

For Treasurer.—Mr. Samuel Munro (acclamation).

For Directors, seven to be elected.—Messrs. G. A. F. Jackson, James Granger, J. M. Ferguson, T. P. Blackwell, W. H. Escott, W. A. Wilson, R. C. Eckert, C. W. Nicholls, Wm. Turnbull, W. A. Cameron, H. S. Townsend, Wm. Mayo, G. F. Brickenden and G. A. McGillivray.

Outside Directors (elected by acclamation):—Toronto, F. W. Heath, R. H. Greene, H. Horsman; Hamilton, Geo. Hope, John Booker; Stratford, James Dow; Brantford, Geo. Watt, jr.; St. Mary's, Jas. Maxwell; Galt, John Wardlaw; Ayr, John G. Watson; Oshawa, E. O. Felt; Waterloo, S. Snider; St. Thomas, B. F. Honsinger; Woodstock, F. J. Richards; Windsor, Jas. F. Smyth; Chatham, Chas. Hadley; Ingersoll, R. H. Cotter; Sarnia, Wm. Storey; New Hamburg, J. Ratz; Winnipeg, T. Harry Slater; Aylmer, R. G. B. Moore.

In accepting the resignation of R. K. Hope as one of the directors for Hamilton by reason of his appointment to the registrarship of Wentworth county, a resolution acknowledging his services was unanimously carried. Mr. Hope had been more than twenty years a member of the association.

INSURANCE MATTERS.

There are some people who tell us that acetylene gas does not explode. They may be the better of learning that an explosion of acetylene gas took place in the Barker House, Fredericton, on Saturday, which shook the building from top to bottom, but nobody was hurt. The explosion was caused by thoughtless workmen using an exposed light while removing the machine from one room to another.

We learn that Mr. John R. Hegeman, jr., assistant manager of agencies of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, of New York, is on a visit to Canada. He is accompanied on this trip by Mr. J. Staniland, chief supervisor of the Dominion for the company, and they will visit the chief agency points. This is young Mr. Hegeman's first visit to Canada, we are told, but doubtless he has heard about us from his father.

The odor of fried fish on Michigan avenue, Chicago, caused a pedestrian to wonder, for there was no restaurant or dwelling house near. He investigated and found that the fish warehouse of A. Booth & Son was on fire. Sent in an alarm. His nose thus saved untold millions.

A serious fire occurred in one of the New York sky-scraping buildings on Sunday last. The Home Life Building, fourteen stories high, ostensibly fireproof, took fire near the top. The fire leaped over to the United States Life building, which was probably saved by its iron shutters; one floor of the Postal Telegraph building is a wreck, and the main part of Rogers, Peet & Co.'s warehouse is entirely gone. Experts were called to examine the building, and they pronounced favorably upon the building with a steel skeleton and brick and stonework facings. It showed, even though the fire was disastrous, that the tenants would have had ample time to escape and even to save their valuables. President Brady, of the Building Department, said that the face of the building from the eighth floor upward would have to be removed. The steel structure, however, is practically uninjured, and as strong as ever. The face, however, is bulged out of plumb about six inches. The loss is variously estimated at from \$360,000 to \$500,000. The fire department could not do much with so tall a building.

On Tuesday morning last the Opera House at Kingston, built in 1878, was burned. The fire is presumed to have been communicated from the furnace; loss probably \$6,000 on the house and as much more on scenery and theatrical properties of the Marks' Brothers' troupe. Messrs. J. McLaughlin, confectioner; L. Guess, saloon; W. Abramson, clothier; N. Parent, bicycle livery, and A. G. Flett, clothier, probably lost \$3,000 or \$4,000, in part insured. The Mercantile had a risk of \$10,000 on house and some adjoining stores; the Western had \$1,000.