

1896

FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY OF TORONTO

The Directors, in presenting their Report and Financial Statements, for the year ending 30th September, 1896, have pleasure in reporting an increase in the output of gas and in the number of consumers during the past year, largely attributable, as in the previous year, to the greater demand for gas for fuel purposes.

The slight decrease in the receipts for gas rental, shown in the accompanying statement, is more than accounted for by the reduction in the price, hereinafter referred to.

The Company's appeal against the judgment of the Hon. Mr. Justice Ferguson, in the suit brought against the Company by a gas consumer, was argued before the Court of Appeal on the 22nd January last, and, as the Directors were advised and fully anticipated, the appeal was unanimously allowed, with costs.

The Directors considered themselves then to be at liberty to carry out their intention to make a material reduction in the price of gas, and accordingly, the net price was reduced on the 1st July to 90 cents per 1,000 cubic feet, to all classes of consumers.

The Directors are gratified in being able to state that this price is lower than that charged by any gas company in America, with the exception of one city which is much more favorably situated than Toronto as regards the cost of materials used in the manufacture of gas.

The Directors believe that this reduction will not only be satisfactory to gas consumers, but will in the end be beneficial to the Company.

The appeal against the assessment of the gas mains was not so successful, the Court being divided in opinion; but on the advice of eminent counsel, the Directors have carried the case to a higher Court for adjudication, the question being a very important one, and other Courts throughout the Dominion having, in similar cases, favored the contention held by the Gas Company.

888 gas services have been put in during the year, and over three miles of mains have been laid, making the total mileage 230.

A comparative statement with that of the preceding year shows:

	STREET LAMPS	METERS	GAS RENTAL
Year ending 30th September, 1895	1,145	20,626	\$558,590 12
" " " 1896	1,026	22,107	550,016 74
	Decrease, 119	Increase, 1,481	Decrease, \$ 8,573 38

The Directors have had occasion to regret the loss of one of their number during the past year, by the death of Mr. James Scott, for many years a useful member of the Board and a citizen of standing and of unblemished reputation. The vacancy has been filled by the election of Mr. James Henderson, a gentleman of acknowledged ability and fitness for the position.

The Manager continues to give the utmost satisfaction, and aided by his able assistants and efficient staff, the affairs of the Company have been carried on successfully throughout the year, and with the best results to the stockholders.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAMES AUSTIN, *President*

STATEMENT SHOWING PROFIT

REALIZED BY CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY OF TORONTO, FROM OCT. 1ST, 1895, TO OCT. 1ST, 1896.

DR.		\$ c.	CR.		\$ c.
1896			1896		
Oct. 1	To Coal—Bituminous	116,885 50	Oct. 1	By Gas Rents	550,016 74
	" " Anthracite	11,826 00		" Office Rents	1,991 67
	" Oil	57,112 50		" Tar	22,734 30
	" Salaries	29,899 96		" Coke	86,772 73
	" Auditors	925 00		" Ammoniacal Liquor	7,544 64
	" Stationery and Advertising	2,476 94			
	" Insurances	4,154 61			
	" Supt. Works, Sockets and Engineers	46,615 30			
	" Purification—Lime and Wages	8,948 82			
	" Lamplighting	8,475 00			
	" Meter Settings and Indications	11,942 16			
	" Gas and Meter Inspection	5,354 00			
	" Charges at Works	12,784 18			
	" Directors' Compensation	9,000 00			
	" Horse Board and Expenses	2,253 41			
	" Taxes	23,755 78			
	" Sundries	13,898 12			
	" Balance brought down	251,443 30			
		611,849 98			611,849 98
1896			1896		
Oct. 1	To Dividends	170,000 00	Oct. 1	By Balance brought down	251,443 30
	" Profit and Loss	51,692 22		" Interest	1,311 20
	" Depreciation of Plant from decline in value	50,000 00		" Interest on Debentures	5,895 68
				" Plant and Building Renewal Fund credited to Profit and Loss	13,042 04
		371,692 22			271,692 22

J. AUSTIN,
President.

L. S.

W. H. PEARSON,
General Manager and Secretary.

Examined and found correct—

W. E. SAMPSON,
JNO. C. COPP, } *Auditors.*

TORONTO, 21st OCTOBER, 1896.

W

for the y

TORONTO,

1896.

BALANCE SHEET

—OF THE—

CONSUMERS' GAS COMPANY OF TORONTO, OCTOBER 1ST, 1896

\$ c.

550,016 74
1,991 67
22,724 20
28,722 73
7,544 64

611,319 98

251,443 30
1,211 20
5,895 68
13,042 04
271,692 22

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.	\$	c.	ASSETS.		\$	c.
1896						1896			
Oct. 1	Capital Stock			1,700,000	00	Oct. 1	Works, Plant and General Outlay	2,448,483	65
	Reserve Fund			753,149	69		Main Pipes and Specials	10,219	85
	Plant and Building Renewal Fund, October 1st, 1895.	287,403	80				Service Pipes and Fittings	2,566	40
	Profit and Loss	51,692	22				Retorts, Firebricks, etc.	860	49
							Coal	54,409	67
							Oil	1,099	66
	Less Repairs and Renewals.	330,096	08				Coke	8,800	00
		57,717	60	281,378	48		Tar	17,760	00
	Profit and Loss Reserved for Dividend No. 186.			42,500	00		Oxide of Iron	1,021	82
	Sundry Accounts Owing			14,748	08		Cash	207	28
							Dominion Bank	24,528	22
							Debentures	123,978	84
							Horses and Conveyances	3,248	88
							Gas Accounts Owing	89,500	00
							Sundry Accounts Owing	6,094	18
				2,791,776	15			2,791,776	15

J. AUSTIN,

President.

L. S.

W. H. PEARSON,

General Manager and Secretary.

We beg to report the completion of the audit of the books and accounts of the Consumers' Gas Company, of Toronto, for the year ending 1st October, 1896, and certify to their correctness.

(Signed) W. E. SAMPSON, }
JNO. C. COPP, } Auditor.

TORONTO, 21st October, 1896.

Auditors.

Consumers' Gas Company

The Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Consumers' Gas Company was held at the Company's office, 19 Toronto Street, on Monday, 26th October, 1896, at noon.

Present:—James Austin, Dr. Larratt W. Smith, Sir Frank Smith, Henry Cawthra, I. C. Gilmour, G. S. C. Bethune, John Stewart, C. C. Baines, W. S. Lee, Samuel Alcorn, W. H. Evans, Rev. A. H. Baldwin, B. E. Bull, M. Baldwin, Dr. Andrew Smith, Oliver Gilpin, George Robinson, J. C. McGee, J. J. Foy, Q.C., G. R. R. Cockburn, M.A., James Henderson, M.A., W. H. Pearson and John Laxton.

The Vice-President occupied the chair and read the Forty-Eighth Annual Report, of which the President moved the adoption. In seconding the motion for adoption, the Vice-President made a few appropriate remarks upon the various matters referred to in the Report. He called the attention of the stockholders to the fact that the reduction made in the price during the past year was the third reduction which had been voluntarily made since the passing of the Act of 1887. He spoke in the highest terms of the Manager, Mr. Pearson, to whose ability and good judgment the present prosperous condition of the Company was largely attributable.

Sir Frank Smith took occasion to say that as one of the Directors, he was pleased to be able to meet the Shareholders with so satisfactory a Report. He called attention to its being the forty-eighth, and hoped that as Stockholders they would have as good reason to be satisfied when their "Golden Wedding" Report would be presented. The Directors, he said, realized the duty which they owed to the Citizens as well as to the Stockholders, and their purpose had been and would still be to sell gas as cheaply as possible. They had cause for satisfaction in the fact that gas was now being supplied in Toronto at a price lower than that charged in any other city in America, with a single exception.

The Report was unanimously adopted.

A resolution of thanks to the President and Vice-President for their efficient services during the year was moved by Dr. Andrew Smith, seconded by Mr. B. E. Bull, and carried unanimously.

Mr. Walter S. Lee moved, seconded by Mr. W. H. Evans, a resolution of thanks to the General Manager and Secretary and the other Officers and Employees of the Company, which was carried unanimously.

The General Manager and Secretary for himself, and on behalf of the other Officers and Employees, thanked the Stockholders for the resolution. The printed Report of the Directors, he said, and the statement which had been made by the Vice-President and Sir Frank Smith, contained nearly all that it was necessary to say regarding the past year's business of the Company. With regard to the future prospects, however, he considered that the consumption of gas, especially for fuel purposes, would continue to increase. The increase in the sales of gas for fuel in 1895 over 1894 had been 23.1 per cent., and in 1896 over 1895 12.05 per cent. The total consumption during the past year was 3½ per cent. more than that of the preceding year, which was a fair increase, taking all the circumstances into consideration. He had been making investigations regarding the use of prepayment meters, and the Directors were considering the advisability of introducing such meters for use by the poorer classes. He estimated that the reduction made in the price of gas, which took effect on 1st July last, had lessened the profits of the year by over \$10,000. Improvements had been introduced at the works from time to time, but he did not see much prospect of further reducing the cost of manufacture, unless there be a reduction in the prices of materials used. Should the Government take the duty off coal it would effect a saving to the Company of about \$20,000 per annum.

On motion of Mr. J. J. Foy, Q.C., seconded by Mr. Oliver Gilpin, Messrs. W. E. Sampson and J. C. Copp were appointed Auditors for the current year.

Mr. Walter S. Lee and Mr. C. C. Baines were appointed Scrutineers and reported the following gentlemen unanimously re-elected Directors for the ensuing year: Samuel Alcorn, James Austin, M. Baldwin, G. S. C. Bethune, Henry Cawthra, G. R. R. Cockburn, M.A., I. C. Gilmour, George Gooderham, James Henderson, M.A., Larratt W. Smith, D.C.L., Q.C., Sir Frank Smith, and Thos. R. Wood.

At a Board Meeting held subsequently, James Austin, Esq., was unanimously re-elected President, Larratt W. Smith, Esq., D.C.L., Q.C., Vice-President for the ensuing year.