



REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OF THE

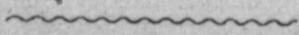
Toronto Mechanics' Institute,

WITH AN

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING, 13TH MAY, 1861.



TORONTO:

PRINTED BY LOVELL & GIBSON, YONGE STREET.

1861.



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ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

The Annual Meeting of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute was held at the Society's Hall on Monday evening, the 13th May, 1861. Jos. D. Ridout, Esq., President, in the Chair. The Secretary having read the

ANNUAL REPORT,

It was moved by Mr. J. E. Pell, Seconded by Mr. James Bain, and Resolved,—

That the Report of the Board of Directors now read by the Secretary be adopted, and printed for the use of members.

Moved by W. Edwards, seconded by W. B. Sullivan,—

That the thanks of the Members be given to Mr. Alfred J. Mason, and Mr. John M. Bond, for their attention to the Auditing of the Accounts of the Institute for the past year. Carried.

The President appointed Messrs E. W. Evans, and W. R. Harris, Scrutineers of the Ballot, which resulted in the election of the following Gentlemen :

RICE LEWIS	<i>President.</i>
R. A. HARRISON	<i>1st Vice President.</i>
WM. EDWARDS	<i>2nd Vice President.</i>
JOHN PATERSON	<i>Treasurer.</i>

DIRECTORS.

WM. HAY.	JAMES LITSTER.
JOS. D. RIDOUT.	W. S. LEE.
PATRICK FREELAND.	J. E. PELL.
JOHN COWAN.	HIRAM PIPER.
C. W. BUNTING.	R. J. GRIFFITH.
JOHN WITHROW.	ROBERT MCPHAIL.

TORONTO, 13th May, 1861.

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REPORT.

The Board of Directors of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, beg leave to present the 30th Annual Report, being a review of the proceedings of the Board for the past year; and also a statement of the present position, including the assets and liabilities, of the Institute.

Since your Board were elected in May last, several important changes have taken place in regard to the working and prospects of the Institute; these, in addition to the ordinary topics of the Report will be considered in their proper order.

THE MEMBERSHIP.

During the year preceding the acceptance of office by your Board, a large decrease took place in the membership of the Institute, the causes for which having been alluded to by their predecessors in the last Annual Report, need not be here repeated.

Your Board had hoped to be in a position to report an increase of members during their term of office. Although their hopes in this respect have not been fully realized, the decrease has been so trifling, compared with the two former years, as to justify them in concluding that the Institute has again entered upon a career of prosperity similar to that which it previously enjoyed.

The number of members at the date of the last Annual Report, was	616
Of Subscribers	10
Total	626

From which deduct—	
By deaths, removals, and withdrawals, during the year.....	239
Remaining	<u>387</u>
New members elected during the year.....	176
New subscribers.....	<u>57</u>
Total.....	620

Classified thus:—

Honorary members	18
Life members.....	86
Members	<u>449</u>
Total members.....	553
Subscribers.....	<u>67</u>
Total members and subscribers'	620

Showing a decrease of six during the year, compared with a decrease of 165 reported last year.

It will be observed that the usual class of junior members, owing to a change in the Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Institute, are omitted in the foregoing statement, no one being now eligible for election as a member unless of the full age of 17 years; consequently, a large number who would otherwise be junior members, have become quarterly, or annual subscribers, and are admitted as follows:—

BYE-LAW No. 1, Section 9. "Any person not eligible for membership, or not wishing to become a member, may be admitted to all the privileges of the Institute, except that of voting and being elected to office, upon paying such subscription, and conforming to such rules and regulations as may from time to time be adopted by the Directors."

* "Females, and males under nineteen years of age, shall pay a sum of fifty cents per quarter, or \$1.50 per annum; and males over nineteen years of age, seventy-five cents per quarter, or \$2.00 per annum."

* Rule 3. Rules and Regulations of Library and Reading-Room.

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Your Board confidently anticipate a large accession to the membership during the ensuing year, induced by more extensive accommodations, the prospect of large additions both to the Library and Reading-Room, and improvement in every other department. Much, however, will depend upon the present membership; *the heavy expenses under which the Institute must labour for some time to come, will not only tax the discretion of its officers, but will require an active interest on the part of its members.*

FINANCES.

As per Treasurer's statement hereto annexed, the receipts for the year, from all sources, amount to...	\$17480 13
And the expenditure to.....	8428 13
Leaving a balance in hand of.....	\$9052 00

The assets, including the estimated value of property held by the Institute, and the liabilities, are also hereto appended

THE LIBRARY.

Your Board beg to refer to the following paragraph which occurs in the last Annual Report:—

“Your Committee remark that there is not at present any provision in the Bye-Laws for closing the Library and calling in the Books, with a view to a thorough examination being made; so that although the number of volumes above given are shown in the Catalogue, yet, for want of this examination, they cannot speak with certainty as to how many of them may be missing.”

This difficulty no longer exists, as provision has been made under the new Bye-Laws for calling in all the Books, and closing the Library, for one week previous to the Annual Meeting in every year.

In compliance with a notice issued by your Board, the principal portion of the Books held by members have been sent in, and a thorough examination has been made.

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The total number of Books in the Library, according to the last Annual Report, was	4121
Added by purchase during the year	292
Bound up from Reading-Room	56
Donations.....	1
Total	4470

Worn out, or rendered unfit for circulation, during the year.....	153
Missing, or worn out during former years, but of which no account had been previously taken, for want of annual examination; and works lost by members, for which payment has been received by the Institute... ..	282
	— 435
Now in Library	4035

The Library Committee report that in addition to the 153 volumes that are now worn out, they have selected and laid by 260 volumes for re-binding, and request the attention of the new Library Committee thereto as soon as practicable.

Your Board would submit, respecting the large number of books lost, that, according to the report of the Library Committee, *many of them were taken out by members who have left the city within the last two or three years, and who failed to return the books they had in their possession at the time of their removal.* Every endeavour should be made to secure the return of books on the expiration of the time allowed for reading them. The coöperation of members and subscribers is particularly requested in this matter.

The only donation made to the Library during the year was by Mr. Norris Black, of one volume, entitled "Evidences of Christianity."

Your Board would respectfully suggest to their successors in office, that a conversazione should be held at the opening of the Music Hall, the profits of which should be exclusively devoted to the purchase of books for the Library.

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READING-ROOM.

This department of the Institute has been well attended during the year, and undoubtedly would have been better appreciated, but for want of room and consequent classification of the periodicals supplied; the interest, however, taken in the Reading-Room augurs well for the future, when the large room with its ample accommodation shall be thrown open.

Your Board would acknowledge the obligations they are under to the gentlemen who have gratuitously furnished the following periodicals, to whom the thanks of the Institute are due, viz. :—

Barrie Advance.....	By the Publishers.
“ Spirit of the Age	“ “
Bradford Chronicle	“ “
Brantford Courier.....	“ “
Brampton Times	“ “
Canadian Baptist	“ “
Christian Journal.....	“ “
Canada Gazette	“ “
Collingwood Enterprise	“ “
Farmers' Guide.....	“ “
Halton New Era	“ “
“ Journal	“ “
Hamilton Banner.....	“ “
Ingersoll Chronicle	“ “
Markham Economist	“ “
Owen Sound Times	“ “
Stratford Beacon	“ “
“ Examiner	“ “
Sherbrooke Leader	“ “
St. Catherines Post	“ “
Toronto Freeman.....	“ “
“ Echo	“ “
Whitby Chronicle.....	“ “
Queen's Bench Reports	“ “
U. C. Law Journal	“ “
“ Journal of Education.....	“ “

Ecclesiastical Gazette	By the Publisher.
The Agriculturist.....	" the Board of Agr.
" New York Herald.....	" Mr. Rice Lewis.
" Toronto Mirror.....	" Mr. Walter Eales.
" Kingston British Whig	" " "
" Evangelical Witness.....	" " "
" Canada Temperance Advocate...	" Mr. George Oals
" Hamilton Daily Spectator	" Mr. J. E. Pell.
" Canadian Journal.....	" Canadian Institute.
" Daily Leader.....	" the Publisher.
" Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures	" the Board of A. & M.

The following Periodicals in addition to the foregoing are regularly received :

CANADIAN.

Montreal Gazette (Daily).	Toronto Globe (Daily).
Quebec Gazette.	Toronto Leader (Daily).

BRITISH.*

All the Year Round.	Journal Society of Arts.
Art Journal.	London Times (Daily).
Blackwood's Magazine.	London Patriot.
Civil Engineer and Architect's Journal.	London Builder.
Chambers' Edinburgh Journal.	London Artizan.
Dublin Warder.	London Punch.
Edinburgh Review.	Mark Lane Express.
Eclectic Review.	North British Review.
Glasgow Citizen.	News of the Churches.
Illustrated London Times.	Quarterly Review.
Illustrated London News.	Westminster Review.

AMERICAN.

American Journal of Science.	Frank Lesslie's Magazine.
Atlantic Monthly.	Harper's Magazine.
Chicago Democrat (Daily).	Harper's Weekly.
Cincinnati Price Current.	Hunt's Merchant's Magazine.

* Arrangements have been made to add several other British Periodicals to this list.

Littell's Living Age
New York
New York

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Littell's Living Age.
 New York Tribune (Daily).
 New York Times (Daily).

New York Independent.
 New York Courier & Enquirer.
 Scientific American.

LECTURES.

For want of accommodation in the present Building, and having to devote so much time and attention to matters connected with the completion of the New Hall, your Board did not make any arrangements for a Course of Lectures, in the Institute during the past Season; one Lecture, however, was delivered by Mr. Richard Lewis, as introductory to the Class conducted by him in connection with the Institute.

CLASSES.

The English Class established in 1859, under the direction of Mr. Richard Lewis, was re-organized last fall and met for a term of five months. The exercises consisted of lessons in English Grammar, on the Analysis of Sentences, on Composition and Rhetoric, and on Logic, Elocution and Public Speaking. Mr. Lewis laboured zealously for the improvement of his Class, which was well attended, and a manifest improvement was the result in all who attended industriously to the studies. It was closed only a week or two since, when the thanks of the class were heartily accorded to Mr. Lewis for the interest he had manifested in the welfare and improvement of its members.

The Class has agreed to meet at intervals through the summer months, so as to continue its organization ready for next session.

A Class for the study of Vocal Music has recently been established in connection with the Institute, conducted by Mr. C. Pearson, which your Board have reason to believe is making satisfactory progress in its studies.

Your Board deem the establishment of classes of the utmost importance to the satisfactory working of the Institute, and should therefore receive a large share of attention from future Boards of Directors, especially when in the New Building, where ample room has been provided for them.

THE NEW HALL.

After numerous difficulties which your Board, in common with their predecessors, have had to contend with, a settlement was obtained with the Provincial Government in August last, and the sum of \$16,000 was accepted for the purpose of covering the cost of alterations and repairs to the New Hall, and for Rent, Insurance and Interest on the debt for such time as the building might be expected to be undergoing the necessary repairs and alterations.

The foregoing sum, although insufficient for the finishing of the Building and covering of Rent, Insurance and Interest, according to the conditions of the Lease to Government, was accepted by your Board, under the conviction that longer delay would be prejudicial to the interests of the Institute.

To your late President, Patrick Freeland, Esq., who so ably and energetically conducted the negotiations with the Government; and to the Hon. G. W. Allan, who took such a warm interest in endeavouring to secure to the Institute its just rights, and in aiding Mr. Freeland in his negotiations with the Government at Quebec, the warmest thanks of the Institute are due. To the exertions of these Gentlemen, mainly, is the Institute indebted for its success in obtaining the above mentioned sum, being an advance of \$8,000 on the first offer made by the Government.

After various delays, from causes which have already been under discussion, the principal works for the completion of the building were given out to contract, and are now, with the exception of the Music Hall, nearly ready for occupation.

Your Board used all possible economy in re-arranging the Building, making no alteration to any portion that would answer the present purposes of the Institute, although not in accordance with the original design; they therefore anticipate that after payment of all contracts and accounts in connection therewith, there will remain a small surplus of funds in hand, which they recommend should be invested as the basis of a sinking fund for the gradual extinction of the debt of \$18,400, which now remains on the building and ground.

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Your Board have leased the set of offices in the south-west corner of the ground floor of the building to Messrs. Roaf & Davis, for a term of five years, at an annual rent of \$300, and taxes; and have also leased three rooms on the south-west corner of the second story to the Board of Arts and Manufactures, for its Model Rooms, and Free Library of Reference, for a term of three years, at an annual rent of \$240.

Other rooms, both for permanent and casual rentals, are yet at the disposal of the Institute, from the whole of which a sufficient revenue to meet the annual interest, and insurance on the building, may be anticipated.

EXHIBITION.

Your Board have entered into an arrangement with the "Toronto Electoral Division Society" to hold a joint Exhibition of Arts, Manufactures, and Horticultural and Agricultural products, in the new Hall of the Institute, in October next, on the basis of an agreement adopted by both bodies, and as contained in a circular just issued to the members of the Institute.

When the building was in course of erection—in the year 1854—the Institute had determined to hold such an Exhibition as is now contemplated; and also to hold a Bazaar in connection therewith, where any article presented should be sold for the benefit of the Institute; this object is still intended to be carried out.

Your Board therefore strongly recommend that the proceeds of such sales of articles as may be presented, as well as the one-half of profits arising from the general receipts of the Exhibition, to which the Institute will be entitled under the agreement with the "Electoral Division Society," be devoted exclusively to the purchase of a suitable organ for the Music Hall, where it may be at all times available for concerts, musical societies, &c.

CHARTER AND BYE-LAWS.

Under authority of the Act passed during the last session of the Provincial Legislature, your Board surrendered the original Charter of the Institute, and filed declarations incorporating it under the

general act for the Incorporation of Mechanics' Institutes, Chap. 72 Consolidated Statutes of Canada. The new Constitution and Bye-Laws adopted under said Act have been in force since the first day of September last.

BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES.

Your Board would strongly recommend to the members the monthly journal published by the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada, as having a claim on their support. From the numbers already published and supplied to the Reading-Room, and from the following extract of a circular addressed to the Secretary of the Institute, its general design and object may be gathered:—

“As indicated in the Prospectus, the Journal will be devoted mainly to the promotion of the Arts and Manufactures of the Province; but it is also the desire of the Board to render it available as a medium of communication between the several Mechanics' Institutes of Upper Canada, whose interests, it is intended, the Journal shall at all times advocate. Abstracts of Reports and Proceedings of Institutes, as well as correspondence on any subject within the scope of the Journal, are therefore requested to be furnished for publication.”

The annual subscription is only fifty cents to members of the Institute, to non-members, \$1.

Your Board have also received copies of a programme of Examinations in the several departments of science and education, proposed to be held annually by said Board, of such members of Mechanics' Institutes as may choose to avail themselves of their advantages.

In a communication accompanying the programme, the Board states that—

“The system therein proposed is very nearly the same as that which has been, for some years past, in successful operation in England, under the direction and management of the Society of Arts. One of the advantages to the holders of the Society's Certificates is, that it generally secures to its possessor ready

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"employment, and at the highest rate of remuneration, in that special branch of business in which his previous studies, and certified attainments, may be more particularly available."

Your Board trusts that during next year, with the extensive accommodation for classes already referred to, a large number of its members will prepare themselves to compete for the diplomas of that Board.

SECRETARY AND LIBRARIAN.

Under the new Constitution and Bye-Laws of the Institute, the office of Secretary and Librarian is made a joint office, filled by the appointment of the Board of Directors, instead of by annual election by the members as heretofore.

This change would not have taken place until the present time, had not the late Secretary, Mr. W. Edwards, and the Librarian, Mr. W. Eales, tendered their resignations in January last, so as to enable your Board to make the appointment three months before the expiration of their year of office. Your Board received numerous applications for the office, and, after due consideration, appointed Mr. George Longman, believing him to be well adapted for the position.

By this arrangement, Mr. Longman has had considerable time to become acquainted with the duties of his office before entering the new Hall, where more arduous duties and responsibilities await him, and a large amount of re-organization of the different departments of the Institute will become necessary.

All which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH D. RIDOUT,

President.

TORONTO, 13TH MAY, 1861.

TREASURER'S STATEMENT.**RECEIPTS:**

Government	\$16,000	00
Members	1,072	46
Rents	164	10
Interest on Bank Deposits	223	26
Fines	12	27
Catalogues	6	82
Lost book paid for	1	50
Balance 7th May, 1860	1	22
	<u>\$17,481</u>	<u>63</u>

EXPENDITURE:

Paid Interest on Mortgage, 18 months, to 1st January, 1861	\$1,656	00
Rent to Corporation, two years to 15th Feb., 1861	480	00
Insurance, including Carpenter's Risk	235	00
Periodicals and Newspapers	470	05
Printing	125	50
New books	296	86
Binding and re-binding	189	95
Advertising	149	85
Gas and Fuel	296	62
Secretary's Salary to date	200	00
" " " 1859, 1860	150	00
Librarian's " " " " "	400	00
" " " " "	180	00
Hall Keepers " "	100	00
" Fees for 1858, W. Eales	34	37
" Extras for 1858, W. Ellingsworth	30	50
Stationary and Blank Books	60	42
Expenses of Deputation to Quebec	43	00
Bills Payable	204	91
Contractors	3008	85
Postage	34	82
Society of Arts, 2 years' Subscriptions	21	03
Repairs to Hall	8	08
Sewerage Rate	4	02
	<u>8,429</u>	<u>63</u>
Balance in hand	\$9,052	00

ASSETS.

Balance—Cash in hand	\$9052	00
Members' Subscriptions due	128	00
Rents due	26	37
Value of Building	32000	00
" Ground (Cost)	6525	00
" Library, Furniture, &c.	4200	00
	<u>\$51931</u>	<u>37</u>

LIABILITIES.

Loan on Building and Ground	18400	00
	<u>\$33531</u>	<u>37</u>