



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX

Mutual Fire Insurance Co.,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER, 1860,

PRESENTED AT A

GENERAL MEETING OF THE MEMBERS

HELD AT THE

CITY HALL, LONDON,

ON

THE 15TH DAY OF JANUARY, 1861;

ALSO,

A REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE SAID MEETING.

LONDON, C. W.:

PRINTED AT THE "FREE PRESS" STEAM PRINTING OFFICE, LONDON.

1861.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—1861.

	.....	*.....	PRESIDENT (pro tem.)*	
WILLIAM NILES,	.....	.....	Township of North Dorchester.	} County of Middlesex.
JOHN W. VAN WORMER,	.....	.....	" Gore of London.	
HAMILTON DUNLOP,	.....	.....	" London.	
RICHARD BIDDULPH,	.....	.....	" Westminster.	
WILBER R. VINING,	.....	.....	" Nissouri West.	
CROWELL WILLSON,	.....	.....	" London.	
ABRAHAM B. CLEMENS,	.....	.....	Co. Waterloo.	
CHAS. G. CODY,	.....	.....	" Oxford.	
ROBERT S. FISHER,	.....	.....	" Kent.	
JOHN DOBBYN,	.....	.....	" Lambton.	
JOHN G. BUCHANAN,	.....	.....	" Essex.	
READ BURRITT,	.....	.....	" Perth.	
DANIEL BLACK,	.....	.....	" Elgin.	
ROBERT BELL,	.....	.....	" Huron.	

* See page 6.

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX
MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY.

[At a General Meeting of the Members of the County of Middlesex Mutual Fire Insurance Company, held for the Election of Directors, and such other business as might be brought before it, at the City Hall, London, C.W., at aoon on the 15th day of January, 1861, T. H. Buckley, Esq , the President of the Company, was called to the Chair, and Alexander McDonald, the Secretary of the Company, appointed to act as Secretary. The Chairman having addressed the meeting at some length, explanatory of the rise, progress, present standing, and future prospects of the Company, called on the Secretary to read the following report:—

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX MUTUAL FIRE
INSURANCE COMPANY.

The President and Members of the Board of Directors, beg
to report as follows :

When your Board, in April last, assumed the management of the Company, they found the prospect far from encouraging. The Company had been in operation ten months, and had only issued ninety-eight Policies—in the last six months of that period, only five. It was in debt \$347 06, for books, printing, and advertising, necessary to getting it up, and had only \$20 62 in the exchequer. It is true there were \$2,351 05 of Premium Notes, but an assessment, then made, would have been tantamount to winding up the Company, for no further business could have been done. To add to their embarrassment, the former Secretary, Mr. Chisholm, had signified his retirement from the office, owing to mercantile claims on his time. Still, in the face of all difficulty, your Board did not despair. It appeared to

them that there existed a want in the country, which the Company, if rightly conducted, was calculated to supply, and they determined, so far as in them lay, having put their hands to the plough, not to let go while any room for hope was left.

One of the first things they applied themselves to, was a remodelling of the rates, which, as they previously existed, appeared to them too high. They reduced them by from twenty-five to forty-three per cent., according to the different classes of property, to what they now are—giving the already enrolled members the benefit of the reduction—and they appointed the present Secretary, Mr. A. McDonald, who had been represented as possessing some knowledge of Insurance, to the office vacated by Mr. Chisholm, instructing him to do all in his power, within their rules, for the benefit of the Company, and to keep his office open during regular business hours, whether there was anything doing or not. At the same time, they omitted no opportunity by their individual exertions, as well as collectively at the Board, to promote the advancement of the Company.

Its business, they had the satisfaction to observe, began to move on under their arrangements, slowly at first, but markedly. In April they issued 8 Policies ; in May, 28 ; in June, 114 ; in July, 160 ; in August, 565 ; in September, 336 ; in October, 430 ; in November, 508 ; and in December, 441 ; making, in all, 2,620 Policies in nine months ; while, for the last five months, the number is, 2,310 ; being a larger amount of business, so your Board is informed, than ever was done, in the same length of time, by any Insurance Company in Canada.

There are now 2,715 Policies in force, averaging \$577 each, and covering an amount at risk, of \$1,567,247, while the capital of the Company amounts to \$29,518 19, as will be seen in the annexed statement of accounts.

The losses, so far, have been but two ; one for \$200, the other for \$20. Both have been paid ; the first the day following the first meeting of the Board after the requisite proofs were sent in ; as regards the second, the building, a School-house, was at once repaired, under the arrangements of the Board, to the satisfaction of the Trustees. While on this head, the Board wish to say that it may, they think, reasonably be expected that the losses will be small.* They insure nothing but farm property and isolated dwellings, Churches and School-houses, of no greater hazard, and according to the conditions of the Policies, each member is made his own Insurer to at least one-third the value of his property, thus giving him a direct and impressive interest in watching over its safety. Experience demonstrates that the number of accidental fires, occurring to such descriptions of pro-

* For rates and more particular description of property insurable, see inside of last leaf of cover.

erty, generally, is very small, and, under the provisions referred to, the proportion, it may be hoped, will not be greater among those Insured by your Company.

The Board has extended the business of the Company to the Counties of Huron, Perth, Lambton, Oxford, Kent, Essex, Elgin, Brant, Wellington, Waterloo and Grey ; and they are about to do the same in Norfolk, Haldimand, Welland, Wentworth, Halton, York, Simcoe, Durham, Victoria and Peterboro'. The stronger the Company the more equable will be the annual proportionate amount of losses, which is a great point to be gained in Insurance of any kind.

With a view to the extension of the business, the Board would respectfully suggest the expediency of electing Directors in those localities out of the County where the Company has been carrying on its operations. They have, for this reason, passed a resolution, increasing the number of Directors from the present number, 7, to 15, to take effect only if you approve of it. Should your decision be favorable to the increase, your Board would then suggest your electing as Directors, some qualified member of the Company in each of the Counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Huron, Perth, Oxford, Elgin and Waterloo. It is not likely that such Directors will attend very frequently, but if they choose they will have the right to do so, and will doubtless avail themselves of that right on any particular matter occurring. This will give confidence and satisfaction to the members of the Company in their vicinity, and will doubtless further its interests generally.

To return to the Accounts, which have been audited by Messrs. A. S. Abbott and A. G. Smyth, it will be seen by them that the money received from all sources, since your Board came into office, has been \$2,993 56, including the proceeds of a Note they got discounted at the Gore Bank, to help them on in their difficulties ; of which \$2,598 19 has been expended, \$178 in retiring the Note, \$347 06 in discharging the liabilities under the old Board, \$220 in paying losses, and \$1, 844 13 to meet the current expenses of the Company ; leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands of \$395,37, and a further sum of \$1,026 11 due by Agents, nearly all of which is secured by Due Bills, at a short date, received from members for their Insurance, and which the Agents have deposited as collateral. These are being paid up day after day, and the whole will shortly be liquidated, so that they may fairly be regarded as Cash.

The salary of the Secretary has been continued at what it was under the old Board, viz., fifty cents for each Policy issued, for which he pays the hire of clerks, and for all the work done in the office, and will receive nothing further during the three years the Policy remains in force. It is at the rate of 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ cents per

annum for each Policy. It has been thought better to pay him according to the amount of work done, than by a fixed salary.

Your Board have appointed a Treasurer, distinct from the Secretary, who has the custody of the Premium Notes, and the surplus funds of the Company. These are no, doubt, quite safe in the hands of Mr. Monsarrat.

Mr. Buckley, the President, liberally gave the use of the present office for one year, rent free, requiring the Board only to make the repairs necessary to its proper equipment. This was in the dark days of the Company. It would not be reasonable to expect that he will continue the boon.—It will be proper that the new Board provide the office with a Safe for the secure custody of the Books and Papers, to which constant reference is required, and they could not be, without inconvenience, consigned to the keeping of the Treasurer.

Last summer business required the absence of the President for a few weeks in Europe, but the interests of the Company were not allowed to suffer thereby, as they were well attended to by one of your Board, Mr. R. Biddulph, who was selected to act as President in the meantime.

Your Board beg to bear testimony to the exertions of the Agents in promoting the advancement of the Company. It is, in most cases, where all have, doubtless, done their best, invidious to particularize any, but in this instance it would scarcely be fair not especially to point to Mr. D. Campbell McDonald, who was mainly instrumental in getting the Company up in the beginning; to Mr. George W. Kiely, who took hold vigorously in its days of small beginnings: and Messrs. W. T. Kiely, Leslie Johnston, and Richard Taylor, who shortly after gave their energetic services. All these very materially contributed to the success of the Company. A Table is appended, showing the work done by each Agent. If there is any more active Agent in Canada than Mr. Wm. T. Kiely, your Board have yet to learn it. But all the Agents, more especially those who make a business of it, have done well, and your Board believe they have given satisfaction to those they Insured. Only four complaints have come in; and these, so far as they have been investigated, would appear to have arisen from misapprehension on the part of the member, rather than from any attempt at deception on the part of the Agent. The Agents have it in their instructions particularly laid down, *to avoid all representations in any way calculated to deceive, and to be careful in dealing with illiterate parties, that they fully understand the nature and effect of every paper they sign.* Your Board trust their Agents will continue to exert themselves as they have done. No Insurance Company of any kind can arrive at eminence, or maintain itself afterwards, without an active and intelligent staff of agents.

As regards themselves, your Board would remark that they have hitherto given their services without any pecuniary remuneration, and borne their own expenses. This they were quite willing to do in the wintry days of the Company, but they submit it is only reasonable they should now receive a moderate compensation for their services. To this end they passed a resolution, subject to your approval, allowing themselves two dollars each for every day they have attended a Board Meeting since the last Election, which took place in March last, and at the same rate on prospectively.

In conclusion, they would say that they have pleasure in handing over the Company to you in its present prosperous condition. They have studied to keep the expenses at as low a figure as was consistent with a wise economy. The whole expenses, so far, amount to \$2,294 31, for which you have a strong and thriving Company. Compared with any other institution of the sort arrived at similar magnitude, the expenditure will be found to be indeed small; while, as regards the future management, it need not be so great in proportion, as the preliminary expenses, which are necessary in getting up such an Association, and are always considerable, will not again occur.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Board,

A. McDONALD,

Secretary.

T. H. BUCKLEY,

President.

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING.

The Report having been read, its adoption was moved and carried, not unanimously, for there was one dissentient voice.

A Vote of Thanks was next passed to the President and Directors, for their very able and satisfactory management of the affairs of the Company,

A Vote was also passed, acknowledging the services of the Secretary, in conducting the business of his office, as reported to the meeting by the President.

A similar vote was then passed, acknowledging the services and exertions of Mr. D. Campbell McDonald, and the Agents of the Company.

After which it was moved and carried that four thousand copies of the Report be printed, for the use of the members and others.

Messrs. Henry D. O'Neill, Richard Taylor, and D. C. McDonald having been appointed Scrutineers, the balloting for Directors then took place under their supervision. When it had terminated they reported the following gentlemen as duly elected, viz. :—William Niles, North Dorchester; John W. Van Wormer,

Gore of London ; Hamilton Dunlop, London ; Richard Biddulph, Westminster ; T. H. Buckley, Westminster ; Wilber R. Vining, Nissouri West ; Crowell Willson, London ; Abraham B. Clemens, County Waterloo ; Charles G. Cody, County Oxford ; Robert S. Fisher, County Kent ; John Dobbyn, County Lambton ; John G. Buchanan, County Essex ; Read Burritt, County Perth ; Daniel Black, County Elgin ; Robert Bell, County Huron.

At an informal meeting of such of the newly elected Directors as were present, held at the Company's Office, immediately after, a Special Meeting was ordered to be called for Tuesday, the 12th prox., for, among other matters, the election of a President—the late President, Mr. Buckley, being requested and authorized to act in that capacity in the meantime.

T. H. BUCKLEY, President.

A. McDONALD, Secretary.

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**CAPITAL OF COMPANY.**

|                                                                                                                            |              |                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|
| Amount available of Premium Notes, . . . . .                                                                               |              | \$28,096 71        |
| Due by Agents, secured by Due Bills, at short date,<br>taken from members of the Company for their<br>Insurance, . . . . . |              | 1,026 11           |
| Cash in Treasurer's Hand, . . . . .                                                                                        |              | 395 37             |
| Total, . . . . .                                                                                                           |              | <u>\$29,518 19</u> |
| No. of Policies in force 1st April . . . . .                                                                               | 98           |                    |
| “ “ issued since “ . . . . .                                                                                               | 2,620        |                    |
|                                                                                                                            | <u>2,718</u> |                    |
| “ Cancelled, . . . . .                                                                                                     | 3            |                    |
| “ Remain in force . . . . .                                                                                                | 2,715        |                    |
| Amount covered by Insurance, . . . . .                                                                                     | \$1,568,047  |                    |
| Average amount of each Policy, . . . . .                                                                                   | 577          |                    |
| Amount of expense account under old Board, . . . . .                                                                       |              | \$ 450 18          |
| “ “ under new board, . . . . .                                                                                             |              | 1844 13            |
|                                                                                                                            |              | <u>\$2294 31</u>   |

A. McDONALD, Sec'y.

A. G. SMYTH, }  
A. S. ABBOTT, } Auditors.

January 14, 1861





## Statement of Risks

Taken by the different Agents since 1st April last,  
SHOWING THE MONTHLY LABORS OF EACH UP TO 31st DEC., 1860.

| NAME OF AGENT.       | DISTRICT.   | APRIL. | MAY. | JUNE. | JULY. | AUG. | SEPT. | OCT. | NOV. | DEC. | TOTAL. |
|----------------------|-------------|--------|------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|------|------|--------|
| D. C. Macdonald ..   | London      | 4      | 8    | 37    | 29    | 46   | 38    | 23   | 14   | 5    | 204    |
| Marshall M'Kay ..    | Travelling. | 1      | ..   | 2     | ..    | ..   | ..    | 2    | ..   | ..   | 5      |
| C. J. Cody ..        | Dereham     | 2      | ..   | 3     | ..    | 2    | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 7      |
| James Gustin*        | Beachville  | 1      | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 1      |
| Wm. Livingston ..    | Delaware    | ..     | 4    | 4     | 18    | 13   | 7     | 4    | 11   | 3    | 64     |
| G. W. Kiely ..       | Travelling  | ..     | 16   | 44    | 30    | 94   | 39    | 51   | 24   | 57   | 355    |
| John Irwin ..        | Lobo        | ..     | ..   | 1     | ..    | 2    | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 3      |
| J. M. Fowler ..      | Burford     | ..     | ..   | 8     | 1     | 1    | 3     | 4    | 1    | ..   | 18     |
| W. M. Johnston ..    | Strathroy   | ..     | ..   | 1     | ..    | ..   | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 1      |
| P. J. Alison ..      | Warwick     | ..     | ..   | 4     | 3     | 5    | ..    | ..   | 3    | 25   | 40     |
| G. W. Lawrence ..    | Stratford   | ..     | ..   | 3     | 5     | 2    | 4     | 2    | 3    | ..   | 19     |
| Maurice Kiely ..     | London      | ..     | ..   | 7     | 1     | ..   | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 8      |
| Niel M'Kay ..        | Ingersoll   | ..     | ..   | ..    | 3     | 4    | 16    | ..   | 5    | ..   | 28     |
| Donald M'Kenzie ..   | Clinton     | ..     | ..   | ..    | 10    | 5    | 6     | 4    | 2    | ..   | 27     |
| George Y. Hutton ..  | Caradoc     | ..     | ..   | ..    | 1     | ..   | 3     | ..   | ..   | ..   | 4      |
| D. R. M'Pherson ..   | Embro       | ..     | ..   | ..    | 2     | 1    | 2     | 1    | ..   | ..   | 6      |
| R. C. M'Mullin*      | Sarnia      | ..     | ..   | ..    | 1     | ..   | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 1      |
| Leslie Johnston ..   | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | 16    | 88   | 49    | 38   | 42   | 37   | 270    |
| Richard Taylor ..    | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | 5     | 104  | 52    | 42   | 81   | 27   | 311    |
| W. T. Kiely ..       | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | 34    | 127  | 53    | 107  | 103  | 65   | 489    |
| A. J. B. Macdonald.. | London      | ..     | ..   | ..    | 1     | 3    | 5     | 3    | 1    | ..   | 13     |
| J. J. Cowley ..      | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | 46   | 15    | 17   | 1    | 23   | 102    |
| George Wilson ..     | Essex       | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | 2    | 39    | 9    | 9    | 11   | 70     |
| R. J. Earl*          | Kent        | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | 10   | ..    | ..   | ..   | ..   | 10     |
| A. Willis ..         | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | 4    | 17    | 19   | 25   | 14   | 79     |
| B. V. Elliott ..     | Huron       | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | 6    | 14    | 6    | ..   | 2    | 28     |
| Robt. Ferguson, sen. | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | 4     | 28   | 41   | 28   | 101    |
| J. S. Armstrong ..   | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | 33   | 55   | 64   | 152    |
| William Smyth ..     | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | 36   | 49   | 40   | 125    |
| S. R. Reynett ..     | Paris       | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | 1    | ..   | ..   | 1      |
| Robt. Ferguson, jun. | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | ..   | 36   | 32   | 68     |
| H. Dunlop ..         | London      | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | ..   | 1    | ..   | 1      |
| William Clark ..     | London      | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | ..   | 1    | ..   | 1      |
| J. N. G. Lodge ..    | Travelling  | ..     | ..   | ..    | ..    | ..   | ..    | ..   | ..   | 8    | 8      |
|                      |             | 8      | 28   | 114   | 160   | 565  | 366   | 430  | 503  | 441  | 2620   |

GRAND TOTAL..... 2 620.

N.B.—Those after whose names an astensk \* appears, have ceased to be Agents.

**A. M'DONALD,**  
Secretary.

Free Press Steam Printing Office, London.

# TABLE OF RATES.

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A Premium Note will be taken for insurance for three years, on the following classes of property, viz. :—

1st Class.—Dwellings of brick or stone, covered with metal, tile or slate, for  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. for the sum insured.

2nd Class.—Dwellings of brick or stone, covered with shingles, for  $1\frac{3}{4}$  per cent of the sum insured.

3rd Class.—Dwellings of wood, and Barns and Outbuildings, for 2 per cent of the sum insured.

Country Churches and School-houses will be taken at the rates of the class to which by their construction they belong.

Wood-sheds, such as usually adjoin dwellings (if used for no hazardous purpose) are not held to add to the risk, nor Barns or Sheds adjoining or contiguous to each other, to add to their mutual risk.

The contents of buildings - that is Hay, Grain, Live Stock, Farming Implements and Household Furniture will be taken at the same rates that apply to the buildings in which they are contained.

If jewels, plate, plated ware, medals, pictures, family paintings, sculpture, books or musical instruments are desired to be insured, they must be specifically mentioned, and a separate sum placed on each head. The rate will be the same as on the building.

No building is insurable if within 165 feet (the distance adopted by the Company to denote isolation) of a building belonging to another person; nor if situated in any City, Town, or Incorporated Village.

If a barn or shed in which hay or straw is kept be within 60 feet of the dwelling house, the risk cannot be taken.

If they are 60 feet apart, but within 100, the above rates, which are for property wholly isolated, will be increased by one-half—not of one per cent., but of the rate; if over 100 feet, but within 130, by one-quarter; if over 130 feet, but within 165, by one-eighth.

Rented buildings will be charged one-quarter of one per cent. higher than when occupied by the owner. This rule does not affect the personal property of a tenant.

No risk to be taken within 60 feet of a railway.

Twelve and a-half per cent. of the Premium Note to be collected as cash premium, and \$1.50 by the agent on account of his fees.

Members of the Company desiring short insurance on moveable property can have the same by paying for each month, in cash, one-thirty-sixth part of the premium note rate.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD,

A. M'DONALD,

Secretary.