

# REPORT

OF THE

## GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

## TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

WITH AN

## ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

## ANNUAL MEETING,

7th May, 1860.

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**Toronto:**

**THOMAS CUTTELL & SON, PRINTERS,**

**KING STREET EAST.**

**1860.**



# TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

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The Annual Meeting of the Institute was held in the Society's Hall, on Monday evening, May 7th, 1860; the President, Patrick Freeland, Esq., in the Chair.

The Report of the Committee, for the past year, was read by the Secretary, adopted, and ordered to be printed for the use of members.

The President nominated scrutineers of the ballot, which resulted in the election of the following gentlemen as office-bearers for the ensuing year, viz.:—

<i>President</i>	PATRICK FREELAND.
<i>First Vice-President</i>	WILLIAM HAY.
<i>Second Vice-President</i>	JOSEPH LESSLIE.
<i>Treasurer</i>	JOHN PATERSON.
<i>Recording Secretary</i>	WILLIAM EDWARDES.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	J. HERBERT MASON.
<i>Librarian</i>	WALTER EALES.

## COMMITTEE.

ALEXANDER HAMILTON.  
BENJAMIN WALTON.  
D. G. CARNEGIE.  
JOHN McBEAN.  
SAMUEL ROGERS.  
HIRAM PIPER.

ROBERT J. GRIFFITH.  
ROBERT MCPHAIL.  
JOHN BOYD.  
JAMES WITHROW.  
RICE LEWIS.  
C. W. BUNTING.

The ballot for new members resulted in forty-one candidates being elected.

*Resolved*—That the thanks of the meeting be given to the gentlemen who have acted as Scrutineers, for their services during the evening.

*Resolved*—That the thanks of the members be given to the President, Patrick Freeland, Esq., for the able manner in which he has presided over the Institute, and for his close attention to its interests during the past year.

## SUB-COMMITTEES.

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At the First Meeting of the Committee for the current year, held this evening, the various sub-Committees were constituted as follows, viz.:—

### FINANCE.

Messrs. Lesslie, Paterson, Lewis, and Mason.

### LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

Messrs. Hay, Hamilton, Carnegie, and McPhail.

### LECTURES.

Messrs. Hay, Lesslie, Boyd, and Bunting.

### CLASSES.

Messrs. Walton, Rogers, Bunting and Withrow.

### LETTING ROOMS.

Messrs. McBean, Piper, and Withrow.

### EXHIBITION.

Messrs. Griffith, McBean, Rogers, Hay, Eales, and Piper.

### BUILDING.

Messrs. Paterson, Hay, Lesslie, McBean, Walton, & McPhail.

### CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS.

Messrs. Hamilton, Boyd, Carnegie, Bunting, and Mason.

The President and Secretary are *exofficio* members of all sub-Committees.

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In accordance with the recommendation contained in the Annual Report, the Committee have decided to open the Library for the exchange of Books each week-day morning, from 9 to 10 o'clock, in addition to the usual hours for opening from 2 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, and from 7 to 10 o'clock in the evening.

WM. EDWARDS, *Secretary.*

*Toronto Mechanics' Institute, May 15th, 1860.*



# REPORT.

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The General Committee of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute beg to report, for the information of the members, a statement of their proceedings, and of the general affairs of the Institute, for the past year.

The first, and in some respects the most important feature to present, is

## THE MEMBERSHIP.

Your Committee regret that it should fall to their lot to have to report a considerable decrease in the membership during their term of office. The continued depression in the various branches of Commercial and Mechanical pursuits; the removal from Toronto of the seat of the Provincial Government; the unexpected delay in obtaining possession of the Society's new Hall; and other causes altogether beyond their controul, your committee believe, accounts for this result.

With returning prosperity to the industrial classes, and the occupation by the Institute of its new building, with its ample accommodation, there is little reason to doubt but that this ground of complaint will be removed, and the Institute enter upon a new career of usefulness such as it has not hitherto attained.

The number of members at the date of the last Annual Report, was .....	781
From which deduct—	
By deaths, removals and withdrawals.....	261
Remaining .....	520
New Members .....	96
Making a total at present of.....	616
Decrease since last Report .....	165

The members are classified as follows:—

Honorary members.....	21
Life members.....	87
Ordinary members.....	442
Junior members.....	66
Total .....	616

This large reduction in the number of members has, of necessity, had an unfavorable effect upon the

### FINANCES.

The receipts for the year, as per finance statement hereto annexed, amounted to \$2560·10, and the expenditure to \$2458·88, leaving a balance in hand of \$1·22.

The available assets are shown to amount to \$1436·22, and the liabilities to \$1779·30, showing a balance against the Institute of \$343·03.

From the depressed state of the finances,

### THE LIBRARY.

during the year, has not been replenished with any large number of new works.

Your Committee have had under their consideration the desirableness of making some special effort, with a view to large additions to this most important department of the Institute; but believing that the most fitting time for this purpose would be when the Institute takes possession of its new premises, your Committee have not taken any steps in this direction, but have expended only as much as the means placed at their disposal would warrant.

Your Committee consider it would be to the interest of the Institute, and a great convenience to a large class of its members, if the Library were opened for the exchange of Books for at least one hour in the morning of each day, in addition to the usual hours in the afternoon and evening.

The following donations have been made to the Library during the year:—

By Mr. John Elliot—Statutes of Canada for 1859 .....	1 vol.
“ Mr. J. Rordans—Pilgrim’s Progress, and Cheever’s Lectures thereon .....	1 “
“ Mr. W. Smith—His Book of Poems .....	1 “
“ Mr. J. E. Pell—Minutes of the Municipal Council of the City of Toronto .....	1 “
“ “ Carpenter’s Principles of Comparative Physiology .....	1 “
“ the American Institute—Its Transactions for the years 1854–5–6 and 7 .....	4 “
“ the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Upper Canada—Miscellaneous Books .....	13 “
“ Mr. John Edwards—Newton’s Works, with Life by Cecil .....	1 “
“ “ Choice Works of Thomas Adams .....	1 “
“ “ Ahn’s method of teaching the German Language .....	1 “
“ “ Ahn’s introductory course to acquiring the French Language .....	1 “
“ Prof. J. Bovel, M.D.—His Outlines of Natural Theology .....	1 “
“ Mr. E. J. Williams—Three years residence in Abyssinia .....	1 “
“ Mr. William Edwards—Johnston’s National Atlas of Historical, Commercial, and Political Geography (engraved) 1857 .....	1 “

29 vols.

The total number of volumes re-bound during the year was 214.

The number of members who have been taking books out of the Library during the year is 490; and the number of volumes issued, 11,760; being an average of 24 volumes to each.

The Library contained at last Report ..... 4025 volumes.

Worn out during the year ..... 44

Lost “ “ ..... 30

74 “

Remaining ..... 3951 “

Added by purchase ..... 90 “

“ donations ..... 29 “

“ being bound up from Reading Room 51 “

Total number now in Library 4121 “

Your Committee remark that there is not at present any provision in the By-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.

When your Committee entered upon the duties of their office, they did not anticipate that it would devolve upon them, as it had upon their predecessors, to report the continued insufficiency of accommodation in the

### READING ROOM.

In this they have been disappointed, as the Institute still occupies the premises it then held ; and the attendance at the Room having been larger than at any former period, has rendered the want of sufficient space even more severely felt.

Several additional Periodicals and Newspapers, British and American, have been placed on the list since the last Report.

The thanks of the Institute are due to the gentlemen named, for their continued liberality in supplying the Reading Room with the following Canadian publications free of charge, namely :—

Barrie Advance.....	By the Proprietor.
Barrie Spirit of the Age.....	" "
Brantford Courier.....	" "
Brant County Herald.....	" "
Canadian Journal.....	" the Canadian Institute.
Canadian Agriculturist.....	" the Board of Agriculture
Canada Gazette.....	" the Proprietor.
Collingwood Enterprize.....	" "
Canada Temperance Advocate.....	" Mr. George Oal.
Canada Evangelical Witness.....	" Mr. Walter Eales.
Hamilton (Daily) Spectator.....	" Mr. J. E. Pell.
Hamilton Commercial Advertizer.....	" the Proprietor.
Halton New Era .....	" "
Ingersoll Chronicle.....	" "
Kingston British Whig .....	" Mr. W. Eales.
London Liberator .....	" the Proprietor.
Markham Economist .....	" "
Owen Sound Times.....	" "
Port Hope Guide .....	" "
Queen's Bench Reports.....	" "



Stratford Beacon.....	" the Proprietor.
Stratford Examiner.....	" "
Sherbrooke Leader.....	" "
Toronto Evening Leader.....	" "
Toronto Echo.....	" "
Toronto Commercial Advertiser.....	" "
Toronto Mirror.....	" Mr. Walter Eales.
Toronto Canadian Baptist.....	" the Proprietor.
Toronto Catholic Freeman.....	" "
Toronto Ecclesiastical Gazette.....	" "
Toronto Grumbler.....	" "
Toronto Christian Guardian.....	" Mr. J. E. Pell.
Thorald Gazette.....	" the Proprietor.
Upper Canada Journal of Education....	" "
Upper Canada Law Journal.....	" "
Whitby Chronicle.....	" "

## ALSO THE

New York (Daily) Herald.....	" Mr. Rice Lewis.
New York Albion.....	" Mr. J. E. Pell.

Your Committee also acknowledge the donation of a New Colored Post Office Map of Canada, by Captain FERRIS, of this City.

In addition to the above free list, the following Periodicals and Newspapers are regularly received, namely:—

## CANADIAN.

Montreal Gazette (Daily).  
Montreal Price Current  
Quebec Gazette.

Toronto Globe (Daily).  
Toronto Colonist (Daily).  
Toronto Leader (Daily).

## BRITISH.

All the Year Round.  
Art Journal.  
Blackwood's Magazine.  
Civil Engineer & Architect's Journal.  
Chamber's Edinburgh Journal.  
Dublin Warder.  
Edinburgh Review.  
Eclectic Review.  
Glasgow Citizen.  
Illustrated London Times.  
Illustrated London News.

Journal Society of Arts.  
London Times (Daily).  
London Patriot.  
London Builder.  
London Artizan.  
London Punch.  
Mark Lane Express.  
North British Review.  
News of the Churches.  
Quarterly Review.  
Westminster Review.

## AMERICAN.

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

Hunt's Merchant's Magazine.  
Littell's Living Age.  
New York Tribune (Daily).  
New York Times (Daily).  
New York Independent.  
New York Courier & Enquirer  
Scientific American.

Your committee recommend that so soon as sufficient accommodation shall be secured, a vigorous effort be made to re-organize this department so as to make it a first class Commercial News Room, as well as a useful and instructive Reading Room for the Industrial and other classes; this, they believe, can be effected by the Institute more efficiently and economically than by any other existing organization, without in any degree interfering with the more immediate and important objects of the Institute; and would, in the opinion of your Committee, largely tend to its prosperity.

During the past year the plan of providing a series of

### **LECTURES**

For the Winter season, has not been adopted. The smallness of the Society's Lecture Room; the expense attending the engagement of the St. Lawrence Hall; and the uncertain position in which your Committee found themselves by reason of the still pending negotiations with the Government; together with the financial difficulties of the Institute, and the general depression in the various departments of Trade, induced your Committee—with the approbation of the quarterly meeting of November last—to decide on this course.

One Lecture was, however, delivered in the Hall of the Institute on the 18th of November last, on "Self Education," by WALTER A. WATTS, Esq., M.A.; preparatory to efforts being made to establish in the Institute a system of

### **CLASSES**

For the winter session. The subjects selected for study were—"English Grammar and Composition," "Latin," "Arithmetic," "Algebra," "Natural Philosophy," and "Geometry;" but although the Committee afforded every facility, by placing the rates of admission for members very low, they only succeeded in the formation of the class on "English Grammar and Composition." This class, under the able tuition of Mr. Richard Lewis, was continued for upwards of three months, and made very satisfactory progress in the studies engaged in.

Your Committee cannot but regret the apparent apathy manifested on the part of the youthful members of the Institute, in not

availing themselves of the advantages thus offered for their improvement; and they would strongly urge on those having youths in their employ, and also on parents and guardians, the vast importance of education in the various pursuits of life, not only to those intended to be directly benefitted, but to the community at large; and they would also express an earnest hope that the efforts of their successors in this department may be crowned with that measure of success which the importance of the object certainly merits.

An Act praying the Legislature that this Institute may be allowed to surrender its present

### CHARTER,

And become incorporated under the general "Act for the Incorporation and better Management of Library Associations and 'Mechanics' Institutes," has, in answer to the prayer of the Institute, passed its several readings through both houses of Parliament, and now only awaits the sanction of his Excellency the Governor General.\*

In placing the Institute under the provisions of the above-mentioned act, it will become necessary to alter and amend the present By-Laws of the Society; and your Committee, in addition to the changes indicated as desirable in the last Annual Report, deem it also desirable that some change should be made in the manner of receiving new members. At present they can only be elected at the regular Quarterly Meetings of the Institute, and all subsequent propositions must lie over to the next meeting; thus a number of candidates have to wait—some for nearly three months—before they can be admitted. This has always been found to be vexatious in the working, and opposed to the interests of the Society.

Were members received by the General Committee at the regular monthly meetings, or oftener, a stricter scrutiny could be instituted into the characters of the respective candidates than can now be obtained, when so large a number are proposed and balloted for on the same evening.

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\*The Bill has since received his Excellency's sanction.

These suggestions are thus early thrown out that they may receive due consideration by the members of the Institute, prior to the discussion that will undoubtedly arise in connection with the adoption of new By-Laws.

During the present session of Parliament your Committee petitioned the Legislature for a renewal of the usual

### **ANNUAL GOVERNMENT GRANT.**

To this petition your Committee have not received any formal reply, but they perceive by the published proceedings of the Legislative Assembly that the Honorable the Minister of Finance has, in his place in the House, announced that it was not the intention of the Government to ask for money for the ordinary Mechanics' and Literary Institutes.

Upwards of two months prior to the expiration of the lease to the Government of the Society's

### **NEW HALL,**

On the first of October last, your Committee made a proposition to the Department of Public Works to arbitrate the cost of making the necessary alterations required to the building, prior to its being given up to the Institute; this plan of settlement not being acceded to, the Commissioner requested the Institute to have estimates of the cost of the work prepared and submitted to the Department, which, if considered satisfactory, might be taken as the basis of an immediate settlement. These estimates your Committee caused to be prepared in detail, and referred to two professional gentlemen—W. HAY and W. G. STORM, Esquires—who, after examination, verified them as being correct.

These estimates were at once transmitted to the Commissioner of Public Works, from whom an answer was shortly after received containing an offer to the Institute—in full settlement of all claims against the Government—of a sum amounting to a little over one-third of the amount of the verified estimates. This offer your Committee at once refused, and again asked that the whole matter be submitted to arbitration, but without success. Eventually the



Department appointed an Engineer to examine and report on the building, and an offer has since been made of a sum based on that gentleman's report. This last offer of the Government is still under consideration; some further information in relation to certain deductions made by the Departmental Architect being asked from the Government before giving a final answer.

A difference has subsequently arisen in regard to a claim on the Government for rent and premium of insurance on the building, from the expiration of the lease until it shall be finished and given up to the Institute, according to the agreement.

Your Committee append to this their report a copy of the lease, and copies of all correspondence had with Government on the subject of the settlement, in order that the members of the Institute may be able fully to understand the whole matter. To the last communication, sent on the 27th of February last, no reply has yet been received.

Your Committee would here remark that, during the whole of the negotiations, they have acted with the utmost promptness in considering every communication received, and in furnishing all information asked by the Government, having been anxious to arrive at a satisfactory adjustment of the matters in dispute, without an hours unnecessary delay; and they cannot but express their sincere regret that their endeavours should not, long ere this, have been successful, as the unexpected delay has been—both as regards the membership and the finances—very detrimental to the interests of the Institute.

In the year 1857 this Institute became associated with the

#### **SOCIETY OF ARTS,**

In England, and believing that members are not aware of the benefits this connection confers, your Committee avail themselves of this opportunity of calling attention to the subject. The following special privileges are secured to this Institute by being thus associated, viz.:—

The productions or manufactures of this country, transmitted by our Institute, are entitled to receive all due publicity by means of the Society's Exhibitions, Publications, and Discussions.

We receive the weekly Journal of the Society, with its other publications; and a portion of the columns of the Journal is reserved for Colonial discussions and correspondence.

Whenever any member of this Institute, bearing a letter of introduction from the Secretary, shall visit London, he may enjoy the usual privileges of a corresponding member of the Society of Arts during his stay, and may have his letters addressed to him at the Society's House in the Adelphi.

The system of examinations instituted by the Society of Arts is extended so as to embrace candidates who shall have duly attended classes at Colonial associated Institutions; and Certificates of Merit are awarded by the Society's examiners, on examination papers duly authenticated and remitted from the Colonies.

### CONCLUSION.

From the foregoing Report it will appear evident that a very large increase in the membership—and, probably, an increase in the amount of the annual subscription of members—will have to be made, so as to meet the necessary annual expenditure. On the latter point your Committee would remark, as their belief, that the privileges of this Institute are given at a much lower rate of subscription than are those of any other similar institution in Britain or America; and while they would be opposed to any large addition to the present rates, they yet consider it necessary that some slight advance should be made—especially when the Society shall take possession of its new Hall; a step which will of necessity involve increased expenditure and new liabilities.

The settlement with Government, even if attained on the most favorable terms, will yet leave upon us a debt of £4,600, which will require considerable exertion and careful management to meet;

and this can only be done by the active exertions of members to increase the efficiency of the Institute, and by every means in their power to promote its best interests. Upon the individual exertions of each, and the well directed efforts of all, will the future career of the Institute depend; and feeling confident that this will not be wanting, your Committee look forward to the change as one which will mark a new era in the history of the Institute, and the commencement of a career of prosperity and usefulness which even the most sanguine among us can hardly anticipate.

All which is respectfully submitted.

PATRICK FREELAND,

WILLIAM EDWARDS,

*President.*

*Secretary.*

TORONTO, 7TH MAY, 1860.

# **RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 7th, 1860.—CLASSIFIED.**

## **RECEIPTS:**

Balance from last year's account .....	\$99	96
Members' Subscriptions for the year .....	894	30
Rents of Rooms .....	197	59
Rent from Government for New Hall to 30th Sept., 1859	752	00
Catalogues sold in Library.....	8	16
Fines received in Library .....	13	55
Notes Discounted.....	594	54
	<hr/>	\$2560 10

## **EXPENDITURE:**

New Books, and re-binding old ones, for Library.....	\$100	73
Newspapers and other Periodicals for Reading Room.....	68	96
Postage.....	23	55
Stationery and Blank Books .....	9	88
Advertizing, Printing Circulars, Members' Tickets, &c....	26	50
Printing Catalogues of Library—balance. ....	65	85
Printing Account for Lectures of 1858-9.....	30	37
Gas, Candles, and Fuel.....	219	50
Furniture, Repairs to Hall, &c.....	31	98
Rent paid to Corporation.....	240	00
Interest on Building Loan.....	552	00
Premium on Insurance of New Hall .....	205	00
Premium on Insurance of Books, Furniture, &c.....	20	00
Subscription to Board of Arts and Manufactures.....	14	00
Renewals and Interest on Discounts.....	414	56
Salary of Secretary and Librarian for 1858-9.....	175	00
Salaries of Secretary, Librarian, and Hall-Keeper, 1859-60	370	00
	<hr/>	\$2558 88
Balance in hand.....	<hr/>	\$1 22

## **ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.**

<b>Liabilities.</b>		<b>Available Assets.</b>	
General Accounts due.....	\$436 30	Members' subscrip'ns over due	\$304 00
Secretary and Librarian Sal- aries—balance.....	330 00	New Members proposed .....	76 00
Discount.....	200 00	6 months' Rent due by Gov't	752 00
One year's Rent due Corpora'n	240 00	12 months' Insurance Premium due by Government.....	240 00
Subscription to Society of Arts England, for 2 years end- ing March, 1861.....	21 00	Rents of Rooms.....	63 00
Interest due on Building Loan	552 00	Balance in hand.....	1 22
Total.....	\$1779 30	Total.....	\$1436 00
		Balance against the Institute	\$343 08