



REPORT

OF

THE GENERAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING MAY 5TH, 1856.

---

TORONTO:

PRINTED AT THE LEADER OFFICE, 120, KING STREET EAST.

1856.

Shelf No.



TORONTO PUBLIC LIBRARY.



NOV 'r 30 1911

Reference Department.

THIS BOOK MUST NOT BE TAKEN OUT OF THE ROOM.

Dec'r 1 1915

## TORONTO

### MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

---

The Annual Meeting of Members was held in the Society's Hall, on Monday Evening, May 5th, the First Vice-President, Mr. W. Edwards, in the Chair.

The Report of the Society's operations during the past year was read by the Secretary.

Moved by Mr. J. H. Mason, seconded by Mr. A. Christie, and  
*Resolved*, "That the Report now read be adopted and printed, for circulation among the Members of the Institute."

Moved by Mr. H. Piper, seconded by Mr. J. McBean, and  
*Resolved*, "That Mr. A. Christie and Mr. S. Walton be the Scrutineers of the Ballot.

The ballot being taken, resulted in the election of the following gentlemen, as office-bearers, for the ensuing year, viz :

*President* . . . . . E. F. WHITEMORE.  
*Vice President* . . . . . MATHEW SWEETNAM.  
*Second Vice President* . . . . . RICE LEWIS.  
*Treasurer* . . . . . JOHN HARRINGTON.  
*Corresponding Secretary* . . . . . J. J. WOODHOUSE,  
*Recording Sec. [and Acting Librarian]*. ROBERT EDWARDS.  
*Librarian, [Honorary]* . . . . . J. H. MASON.

## COMMITTEE :

J. E. Pell,	Edward Morphy,
William Edwards,	Benjamin Walton,
Joseph Rowell,	George Harcourt,
Samuel Rogers	Patrick Freeland,
Hiram Piper,	John Elliot,
John McBean,	Joseph Lesslie.

Moved by Mr. H. W. Jackson, seconded by Doctor Adams, and

*Resolved*, "That the thanks of this meeting are hereby presented to the President and Members of the Committee for the past year, for their attention to the business of the Institute, and the manner in which they have promoted its interests."

Moved by Mr. J. Elliot, seconded by Mr. H. Piper, and

*Resolved*, "That the thanks of this Institute are due, and are hereby tendered, to the several gentlemen who delivered the excellent course of lectures to the Institute, during the past season."

Moved by Mr. M. Sweetnam, seconded by Mr. S. Rogers, and

*Resolved*, "That the thanks of this Institute be conveyed to Messrs. F. W. Cumberland, and W. G. Storm, for their liberality in furnishing the Institute with the necessary drawings and plans for our new Hall, on Church Street, as well as superintending the several works thereof without remuneration."

## REPORT.

---

The Committee of the Toronto Mechanics' Institute, in submitting a Report of the Society's operations during the past year, would congratulate the members on its satisfactory condition and encouraging prospects.

It is perhaps, unnecessary at this time, to say anything in commendation, or praise, of Mechanics' Institutes; they are sufficiently established in public favor, and have taken their place among the noble institutions of the present day, having for their object the diffusion of useful and scientific knowledge among a numerous class of persons, who, but for the facilities such institutions afford, would be prevented from obtaining many valuable advantages which they hold out; their claims, therefore, cannot be too strongly urged, especially upon the younger portion of our population.

It is cause of much satisfaction, that hitherto, the history of our Institute has been one of progress and increasing usefulness.

It cannot, indeed be denied that large numbers of that class for whose benefit it was more especially designed, still hold themselves aloof from it, declining to share in its advantages, or to assist in promoting its interests; yet its continued advancement, if not so rapid as might be desired, is highly encouraging to its warmest supporters.

At the date of the last Annual Report, the number of members on the books was.....	551
Reduced during the year, by	
Deaths.....	6
Removals from the city.....	74
Withdrawals from various causes.....	22
	— 102
Number remaining.....	449
To this add new members.....	199
	—
Making a total, at present of.....	648
Being an increase since last year of.....	97

The following is a classified arrangement of the members:—

Honorary members.....	27
Life.....	94
Ordinary.....	425
Junior.....	102
	—
Total.....	648

Your Committee would notice the fact of the unusually large number of members who have left the City during the past year; being more than twice the number struck off the roll from the same cause in the previous year. Owing to this the net increase is not so large as would have been gained under ordinary circumstances. Your Committee would further remark, under this head, that if the members generally would use a little exertion to induce their friends to join the Institute, they could materially add to its numbers and influence.

### THE LIBRARY

Has, during the past year, received large augmentations. Through the liberality of the members and friends of the Institute, your Committee have been enabled to expend the sum

of £222 in the purchase of new works. The balance of this special subscription, amounting probably to £75, when the remainder shall have been collected, will be available for the same object next year. From financial causes, the Library, previously to last year, had not received that attention to its requirements which was necessary to its efficiency; but it is to be hoped that, in future, each year will witness an adequate expenditure in this department.

The Library now comprises 3,109 volumes, 1,158 of which have been added since the last annual meeting. The number of members now regularly supplied with books, is very nearly 500. From the fact, that the number of volumes issued, amounted to 9286, during the year just closed, may be inferred the extent to which the advantages of the Library are made use of by subscribers.

In order to accommodate members living at a distance, or who, from other causes, would prefer changing books in the daytime, the Library is now regularly open every afternoon from two to five o'clock.

The above facts are, in the opinion of your Committee, peculiarly gratifying, convinced as they are that the Library is the most important department of the Institute, as it regards the benefits imparted; and that, the more attention there is paid to its condition and improvement, the more numerous will be the accessions to the membership of the society.

Your Committee acknowledge, with pleasure, the following donations; from Mr. James Bain, copies of the Municipal and Educational Manuals for U. C.; from Mr. B. Huson, U. S. Census Report for 1850; from Mr. A. McCallum, a copy of his Chart of Natural History; from Rev. Dr. Ryerson, Report of Schools in U. C. for 1854; from R. A. Harrison, Esq., copies of Trade and Navigation Reports of the Province for 1854; from Hon. W. B. Robinson, M. P. P., and W. L. Mackenzie, M. P. P., Parliamentary Reports.

## THE READING ROOM.

This branch of the Institute receives increased attention from the members; and it is exceedingly gratifying to witness the large number of young men who avail themselves of the opportunities of information, which the valuable amount of interesting matter laid on its tables affords. The opening of the Room in the afternoon, with the Library, has been found to give general satisfaction.

The following publications are regularly received viz. :—

Quarterly Review,	New York Albion,
Edinburgh “	“ Courier & Enquirer,
Westminster “	“ Independent,
North British “	Albany Prohibitionist.
Eclectic “	London (C.W.) Evan. Witness,
London Art Journal,	Quebec Gazette,
“ Artisan,	Montreal “
Blackwood’s Magazine,	“ Transcript,
Harper’s “	Toronto Daily Globe,
Putnam’s “	“ “ Leader,
National “	“ “ Colonist,
Hunt’s Merchant’s “	“ Christian Guardian,
American Journal of Science,	“ Old Countryman,
Chambers’ Journal,	“ Echo,
Canadian “	Hamilton Spectator,
Dickens’ Household Words,	“ Church,
U. C. Journal of Education.	Kingston Daily Herald,
Jour. of U. C. Board of Agricul.	Brantford Courier,
U. C. Jurist,	Bradford Chronicle,
Littell’s Living Age,	Barrie Advance,
London Illustrated News.	Port Hope Guide,
“ Punch,	Streetsville Review,
“ Eve’ng Mail, (Times)	Windsor Herald,
“ Builder,	Owen Sound Times,
“ British Banner,	Stratford Beacon,
“ Herald of Peace,	“ Examiner,
“ Anti-Slavery Reporter	Lambton Observer.
	Ballou’s Pictorial,

Of the above there are furnished gratuitously, the New

York Albion, Hamilton Spectator, Toronto Guardian, and Echo, and the Evangelical Witness, by Mr. J. E. Peil; the Streetsville Review, by Mr. J. Harrington; the Albany Prohibitionist, by Mr. M. Sweetnam; the Herald of Peace, and Anti-Slavery Reporter, by Mr. J. Wickson; the U. C. Jurist, the U. C. Journal of Education, Canadian Agriculturist, Journal of U. C. Board of Agriculture, Toronto Daily Leader, Montreal Transcript, Kingston, Herald, Hamilton Church, Toronto Old Countryman, Barrie Advance, Brantford Courier, Bradford Chronicle, Port Hope Guide, Windsor Herald, Owen Sound Times, Stratford Beacon, and Examiner, and Lambton Observer, by their respective Proprietors.

### LECTURES.

Your Committee experienced considerable difficulty in procuring a course of Lectures for last season; they, however, ultimately succeeded in securing the services of several talented gentlemen, who during the winter, generously supplied useful and interesting information, on various subjects to the members of the Institute. To those gentlemen the thanks of the Institute are specially due, for their disinterested and valuable assistance.

The utility of lectures, in general, your Committee firmly believe, is very great, inasmuch as, independent of the direct instruction they afford, they create a spirit of inquiry, and a thirst for knowledge in the minds of those who attend them which are of the greatest assistance to them in the task of self improvement. At the same time your Committee are of opinion, that in addition to occasional lectures on general subjects, it would be very desirable to obtain a course of teaching lectures on one or more subjects during each winter, that is, lectures in which a connected system of instruction would be pursued, enabling the hearers, or rather pupils, to acquaint themselves with the details of a science, as well as its general principles.

The Lectures delivered during last season were as follows.—

The Opening Lecture—by G. W. Allan, Esq.

Russia, Six Months before the War—by Rev. A. C. Geikie.

Agriculture, Past and Present—by C. Buckland, Esq.

Modern English Literature—by Rev. R. Burns, D. D.

Anomalies in the Structure of Leaves—by Rev. W. Hincks,

**F. L. S.**

Life and Character of the Duke of Wellington,—by Mr. Richard Lewis.

Mental Culture, its Obligations and Advantages—by Rev. A. Lillie, D. D.

The Poetry of Cowper,—by Rev. G. P. Young,

The Song Birds of Canada—by E. M. Hodder, Esq., M. D.

Disinfectants and Deodorizers,—by H. Y. Hind, Esq., M. A.

The Scenery and Antiquities of the Valley of the Nile,—by G. W. Allan, Esq.

Vital Motion,—by James Bovell, Esq. M. D.

The Mechanism of the Human Hand—by Norman Bethune, Esq. M. D.

Concluding Lecture—by T. J. Robertson, Esq.

Your Committee regret that they cannot report the formation of any classes during the past year; the reason, and it is one of long standing, being the want of proper accommodation in the present building. They recommend, however, that means should be taken, before next winter, to procure the necessary accommodation and teachers, so that this justly-valued department of instruction may be efficiently organized and conducted.

It will be recollected that, at the last Annual Meeting, the Retiring Committee reported that an effort was at that time being made to procure additional subscriptions from the members, and the citizens generally, to enable the Institute to finish and occupy a part, at least, of the New Hall; and that they had reason to hope the appeal would not be unsuccessful. In a few days afterwards, however, the Provincial Govern-



ment, through the Hon. Mr. Killaly, offered to lease the building for four years, for public offices, on terms favorable to the Institute. Your Committee, after a consideration of the existing and prospective difficulties which opposed the completion of their heavy undertaking, decided to accept the offer of the Government, which decision was subsequently sanctioned by the Members at a Special Meeting called for the purpose. By the terms of the arrangement, the Government undertook to discharge the Institute's liabilities to the contractors and other parties, amounting to £1,320,—to finish the Hall at the expiration of the lease, according to the original plans, reserving the right of making certain temporary alterations, in the meantime, to suit their own purposes—to keep the building insured, during the time, for £6,000,—and to give the Institute a yearly rent of £376, to enable it to pay the interest on the Building Loan, and for accommodation in its present premises. Your Committee, while regretting the necessity of the Society being obliged to defer its occupation of the New Hall for so long a period, feel that, under the circumstances, the above arrangement was highly advantageous to the Institute, in relieving it, in a great measure, from responsibilities, the extent of which, would necessarily have cramped its energies for some time to come.

An application to the City Council, to allow the Institute to remain in the present building, during the occupation of the New Hall, by Government, was granted,—the rent being fixed at £60 per annum.

On the arrival of His Excellency the Governor General, Sir E. W. Head, to take up his residence in Toronto, your Committee presented an address to him on behalf of the Institute; to which His Excellency replied “that the address gave him great pleasure, convinced as he was that Mechanics' Institutes were of the highest utility; and that he would always be ready to do his utmost to promote their prosperity.”

By the Treasurer's statement, it will be seen that the Finances

of the Institute are in a satisfactory condition. The receipts for the past year amounted to £955 13s. 9½d.,—the Expenditure to £936 4s. 1d.,—leaving a balance in hand of £19 9s. 8½d. The details will be found appended to the Report. A statement of the Receipts and Expenditure connected with the Building Fund, from last May to the closing of the account in September, is also submitted herewith.

Your Committee have now taken up the different matters which, in their judgment, required notice; and while, in doing so, they have found cause of satisfaction for the past, and encouragement for the future, they do not hesitate to say that much yet remains to be done to render our Institute as powerful for good as it might be. Let every member reflect that he can, by his influence and example, contribute in some degree, to its success and efficiency; and so reflecting, make use of all the means and opportunities afforded him towards the accomplishment of so desirable an object. Then will this Institute be enabled more widely to extend the peculiar benefits it was designed to confer, and gain, in an increased degree, the confidence and support of all classes of the community.

G. W. ALLAN, *President.*

ROBT. EDWARDS, *Secretary.*

---

## GENERAL ACCOUNT.

*Receipts and Expenditure for the Year ending May 5th, 1856,  
Classified.*

**RECEIPTS.**

Balance from last year.....	£ 22 18 2
Ordinary and Junior Members' Subscriptions.....	205 8 2½
Life Members' do.....	50 0 0
Legislative Grant for 1855.....	50 0 0
Donations to Library Fund.....	284 10 0
Sundry Rents for Old Hall.....	71 0 0½
Lecture Fees.....	4 4 4½
Library Catalogues Sold.....	3 1 3
Papers from Reading Room sold.....	2 11 9
Rent from Government for New Hall—Six Months, to March 31, 1856.....	188 0 0
Insurance from Government on New Hall for £6000	70 1 3
Miscellaneous.....	3 18 9
Total.....	<u>£955 13 9½</u>

**EXPENDITURE.**

New Books for Library.....	£222 0 3½
Reviews, Magazines, and Newspapers.....	33 10 5
Colton's Map of Europe.....	1 5 0
Printing Annual Report—750 copies.....	7 13 9
“ By-Laws, Catalogue of Books, &c., 1,000 copies.....	17 10 0
General Printing.....	15 14 0½
Binding and Repairing Library Books.....	15 9 10½
Blank Books and Stationary.....	9 4 7½
Postage.....	1 1 1
Posting Bills and Distributing Circulars.....	1 18 9
Insurance on Books and Furniture, for £500.....	4 7 6
“ “ New Hall for £7000.....	93 5 0
Carried forward.....	<u>£422 16 4</u>

Brought forward .....	£422 16 4
Rent to City Council, for the year ending May 2nd, 1855 .....	30 0 0
Rent to City Council, for the year ending May 2nd, 1856 .....	60 0 0
Interest on building Loan—Six Months, to March 30, 1856 .....	138 0 0
Secretary and Librarian's Salary, for the year end- ing May 12th, 1856 .....	150 0 0
Hall Keeper .....	25 0 0
Gas and Candles .....	40 6 6
Fuel .....	17 5 0
Gas Fittings and repairs to do .....	16 19 7
Furniture and repairs to Building .....	23 15 8½
Miscellaneous .....	1 16 11½
Balance in hand .....	19 9 8½
Total .....	<u>955 13 9½</u>

Examined and found correct.

ARCHIBALD McCALLUM, } Auditors.  
JOHN LAIDLAW, }

## BUILDING FUND.

*Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, from May 8th, 1855,  
to the closing of the Account, September 13th, 1855.*

### RECEIPTS.

Balance in hand at last Report .....	£37 12 6
Subscriptions received .....	21 10 0
Amount received from Government to discharge liabilities .....	1,320 16 0
Total .....	<u>£1,379 18 6</u>

**EXPENDITURE.**

Paid B. Walton, for Brick and Stone Work.....	£434	14	0
“ W. H. Pim, for Carpenter’s Work.....	311	5	0
“ A. Hamilton, for Painting .....	63	12	0
“ H. Piper and Brother, for Tinsmith’s Work...	42	15	0
“ Parkes Bros., for Foundry Work.....	6	15	0
“ Bank of U. C., Promissory Note.....	130	0	0
“ Toronto University, Ten Months’ Interest on Loan to September 30th, 1855.....	230	0	0
Subscriptions returned.....	160	17	6
.....	£1,379	18	6

Examined and found correct.

ARCHIBALD McCALLUM, } Auditors.  
JOHN LAIDLAW, }