

*Mechanics
Institute*

THIRTY-NINTH
ANNUAL REPORT,

OF THE

Toronto Mechanics' Institute,

WITH AN

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

ANNUAL MEETING, 9TH MAY, 1870.

TORONTO:

LEADER PRINTING OFFICE, 63 KING STREET EAST.

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OFFICER

FINANC

THOS. DAVISO
DANIEL SPRY.
J. J. WITHRO
BENJAMIN W.
W. EDWARDS.
W. B. HAMIL
E. GURNEY.

THOS. DAVISO
DANIEL SPRY.
W. D. OTTER.

1. The Finance
2. The Library
3. The Lecture

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES FOR THE YEAR 1870-71.

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| PRESIDENT..... | JAMES McLENNAN. | 1 |
| 1ST VICE-PRESIDENT.... | THOMAS DAVISON. | 2 |
| 2ND VICE-PRESIDENT... | THOMAS McCROSSON. | 3 |
| TREASURER..... | WILLIAM EDWARDS. | 4 |

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

THOS. DAVISON, *Chairman.*

DANIEL SPRY.

J. J. WITHROW. 5

BENJAMIN WALTON. 6

W. EDWARDS.

W. B. HAMILTON. 7

E. GURNEY. 8

LIBRARY COMMITTEE:

W. H. SHEPPARD, *Chairman.* 9

THOMAS McCROSSON.

F. PEARSON. 10

JOHN TAYLOR.

W. EDWARDS. 11

F. T. JONES.

LECTURE COMMITTEE:

J. J. WITHROW, *Chairman.*

THOS. DAVISON.

DANIEL SPRY.

W. D. OTTER.

R. H. RAMSAY.

JAMES DICKEY.

JOHN TAYLOR.

1. The Finance Committee also acts as a Building and Letting Rooms Committee.
2. The Library Committee has also charge of the Classes.
3. The Lecture Committee has charge of all Entertainments.

TO

The Annual
held in the Lo
the Vice-Presi
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The Annual
the Secretary,
N. G. Bigelow
Mason, was ad

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members to for
J. H. Mason,
Hallam, John
and D. G. Car

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seconded by M
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private sale ;

TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1870.

MAY 9th, 1870.

The Annual Meeting of members was held in the Lecture Room this evening, the Vice-President, Mr. W. P. Marston, in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The Annual Report was then read by the Secretary, and, on the motion of Mr. N. G. Bigelow, seconded by Mr. J. H. Mason, was adopted.

It was moved by Mr. D. G. Carnegie, seconded by Mr. J. J. Withrow, and *Resolved*, That six gentlemen be elected out of this meeting, to confer with the Directors as to the advisability of going on with the erection of the proposed New Hall, and to report to a special meeting at an early day; the following members to form the Committee, Messrs. J. H. Mason, Robert Wilkes, Alderman Hallam, John Paterson, John McBean and D. G. Carnegie.

It was moved by Mr. J. P. McDonald, seconded by Mr. Thomas Downey, That the Directors be instructed and empowered to negotiate the interest of the Institute, to some party or parties willing to erect the proposed New Hall, on his or their own account without risk to the Institute, with a view of its being used in connexion with, and its internal affairs managed by, the Institute, on reasonable terms, and failing that, to sell the property in question to the highest bidder, at Public Auction, or private sale; but so as no loss shall re-

sult to the Institute, and that the arrangements be submitted to a special meeting of the members, for their sanction before completion. The motion was put to the meeting, and lost.

Mr. J. J. Withrow gave notice that he would move, at next quarterly meeting, that Section 2, of Art. 1, of the constitution be amended by substituting \$3 in place of \$2 50; and that Rule two of "Rules and Regulations for the admission of subscribers" be amended by substituting \$3 for \$2 50; and Rule three by substituting \$2 50 for \$2.

Messrs. J. A. Rattray, W. B. Thompson, and J. E. Cupples, were appointed to act as scrutineers.

The President declared Mr. William Edwards, Treasurer, for the ensuing year, the same being elected without opposition.

The scrutineers reported the following officers elected:—

JAMES MCCLENNAN, *President*.

THOS. DAVISON, *1st Vice-President*.

THOS. MCCROSSON, *2nd do*.

DIRECTORS.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| J. J. WITHROW, | W. H. SHEPPARD, |
| J. TAYLOR, | BENJAMIN WALTON, |
| E. GURNEY, JR., | R. H. RAMSAY, |
| D. SPRY, | W. D. OTTER, |
| W. B. HAMILTON, | FRANCIS PEARSON, |
| F. T. JONES, | JAMES J. DICKEY, |

The meeting then adjourned.

SAMUEL BRODIE,

Secretary.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1870.

At the close of their term of office, and the 40th year of the existence of this Institution, your Directors beg to submit a brief report of their proceedings.

The first and most important department of the Institute is its membership; if that fails, success in the objects for which it has been established must also of necessity fail. The past year, in this respect, has not been one altogether of discouragement.

| | |
|--|-------|
| The number of members returned in last report was | 1,050 |
| From which deduct by deaths, removals, withdrawals, and in arrears prior to January 1st, 1870..... | 559 |
| Leaving | 491 |
| New Members and Subscribers admitted during the year | 669 |
| Total | 1,160 |

Classified thus:—

| | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Life Members | 75 |
| Honorary Members | 14 |
| Members | 850 |
| Subscribers | 221 |
| Total | 1,160 |

Showing an increase of 110 members during the year. There are, however, not included in the above, a large number of names on the books of members whose subscriptions have been in arrears since prior to the 1st of January. Many of these have not relinquished their membership, and will yet pay up their subscriptions. Had these been included in the above returns, as in former years, the increase would have appeared much larger than now reported. Your Directors have decided not to include in this return any whose subscriptions became due and were not renewed before the 1st of January last; and if this system is adhered to in the future, it will more accurately show the increase, or otherwise, for each Institute year.

During last autumn, with a view to add to the membership of the Institute, your Directors engaged with Mr. James Rollo, who made a very successful canvass for

new members. That so many should discontinue their connection with the Institute, year by year, as the annual returns show, is a fact to be deplored; but with an industrial population so liable to change of residence, and the organization of various national and philanthropic societies and associations, having strong claims upon the active sympathies and efforts of so many of our fellow citizens, it appears to be a difficulty with which this Institute has increasingly to contend. Even in respect to a class of entertainments which originated in this institution, and which, for a time, were so successful, and have been copied extensively by other institutions in the province, the various churches and benevolent societies have taken them up; and by the peculiar claims to sympathy presented to their members and the public, have rendered the success of lectures and reunions in this Institute almost impossible. If, however, the moral and intellectual improvement of the youths of our city is promoted, though in connection with other associations than our own, it is still a matter for congratulation; but your Directors, nevertheless, must submit that this Institute has strong claims, peculiarly its own, and quite different to those of any other organization, to the generous support of the citizens of Toronto.

FINANCES.

The finances of the Institute are, undoubtedly, in a very unsatisfactory condition, owing to the project entered into some two years since, for the erection of a large public hall, in connection with the present building. This project, although repeatedly endorsed by the members, at annual and quarterly meetings, and strongly advocated by a portion of the city press, has, from various causes, not yet been proceeded with. In the meantime a total sum of upwards of \$1,300 has been disbursed from the ordinary funds of the Institute, in payment of instalments and interest on the additional property purchased and expenses connected therewith; and upwards of \$600 of the liabilities now reported are also chargeable to the new hall building account. If the hall were proceeded with, and these amounts reimbursed to the ordinary account, the

finances of the Institute
be placed in a healthy
be done at once,
devised for relieving
heavy responsibility.
The Treasurer's
pendent, shows:
Total expenditure
Total receipts

Balance due

The floating liabilities
all sums due
property to date
Available assets

Balance ..

The excess of
shown is larger
Annual Report;
tors have adopted
including liabilities
items of Interest
Newspapers, Pen
instant; although
of these current
distant. Had the
liabilities been a
the returns would
able deduction a
year's report, the
payments made

Full details of
in Appendix A

JANUARY

The depressed
time your Directors
which has continued
prevented as far
purchase of books
able; yet, notwithstanding
pressure the sum
bursed in the purchase
94 in binding
and \$484.51 in
for the Reading

During the year
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proposed should
the Library.
shown in a sub
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the Institute. C
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The Reading
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British and Can

finances of the Institute would immediately be placed in a healthy condition. This must be done at once, or some other means be devised for relieving the Institute of this heavy responsibility.

The Treasurer's statement, hereto appended, shows:—

Total expenditure..... \$6,864 32
Total receipts 6,665 40

Balance due the Treasurer .. \$ 198 92

The floating liabilities, including all sums due on the Stewart property to date, amount to.... \$3,316 45
Available assets 752 16

Balance \$2,564 29

The excess of liabilities over assets thus shown is larger than given in the last Annual Report; but here again your Directors have adopted the system of not only including liabilities actually due, but all items of *Interest, Gas and Water* accounts, *Newspapers, Periodicals, &c.* up to the 1st instant; although the period for payment of these current accounts is yet sometime distant. Had the same mode of reporting liabilities been adopted, as in former years, the returns would have shown a considerable deduction as compared with the last year's report, notwithstanding the large payments made on the new hall account.

Full details of the finances will be found in Appendixes A and B.

LIBRARY AND READING ROOM.

The depressed state of the finances at the time your Directors assumed office, and which has continued through the year, has prevented as large an expenditure in the purchase of books as was felt to be desirable; yet, notwithstanding this financial pressure the sum of \$256 21 has been disbursed in the purchase of new books; \$175 94 in binding magazines and old books, and \$484 51 in newspapers and magazines for the Reading Rooms.

During the year several entertainments were given, the proceeds of which it was proposed should be devoted exclusively to the Library. These, however, as will be shown in a subsequent portion of this report, resulted in a serious financial loss to the Institute. Considering the object proposed to have been benefitted by these entertainments, the result was not only unfortunate, but manifested a want of sympathy on the part of the membership in the efforts put forth by your Directors.

The Reading Room continues to be supplied with a large number of the leading British and Canadian newspapers and maga-

zines, and also a fair representation of American publications. A few papers, for which there did not appear to be a demand, have been discontinued, while some others have been added. The Reading Room still claims, and deserves a generous support.

Your attention is here drawn to the very reprehensible practice on the part of some person or persons unknown, in continuing to remove papers and magazines from the Reading Rooms, and in mutilating others. This has been a source of great annoyance to your Directors, and loss to the Institute. Various notices have from time to time been posted up, and other means resorted to; but so far the guilty parties have not been discovered, nor deterred from their dishonest practices.

The thanks of the Institute are due to a large number of publishers, who continue to furnish their papers to the Reading Room free of charge.

The list of newspapers and magazines regularly received will be found in appendix C.

The number of books in the library at the date of the last annual report was..... 7,572
Added during the year by purchase. 243
Bound up from the Reading Room.. 106

Total..... 7,921
Lost and worn-out during the year.. 127

Present total... 7794

| | Vols. in Lib. | | Issued. | |
|----------------------------|---------------|-------|---------|--------|
| | 1869. | 1870. | 1869. | 1870. |
| Biography..... | 609 | 613 | 751 | 882 |
| History... .. | 676 | 773 | 623 | 892 |
| Miscellaneous.. | 612 | 617 | 709 | 1,074 |
| Fiction..... | 2,289 | 2,302 | 14,106 | 16,226 |
| Poetry and the Drama | 240 | 257 | 564 | 600 |
| Periodical Literature..... | 1,140 | 1,212 | 3,009 | 2,968 |
| Science and Art | 609 | 612 | 591 | 720 |
| Religious Literature.... | 174 | 184 | 272 | 268 |
| Voyages and Travels..... | 520 | 530 | 1,141 | 934 |
| Illustrated Works | 234 | 234 | 000 | |
| Library of Reference | 460 | 460 | 000 | |
| | 7,572 | 7,794 | 21,766 | 24,564 |

EVENING CLASSES.

The series of evening classes organized in the autumn of 1862, has been even more successful than in previous years. The number of pupils in attendance (was 326—

being far in excess of any previous session, and were classified as follows:—

| NUMBER OF PUPILS. | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1868-9. 1869-70. | | |
| Book-keeping and penmanship, Mr Samuel Clare.. | 73 | 107 |
| Arithmetic and mathematics, Mr. Samuel McAlister. | 44 | 44 |
| Architectural and mechanical drawing, Mr. Wm. Gemmell | 17 | 37 |
| Ornamental drawing, Mr. R Baigent..... | 21 | 37 |
| French, Mons. E. Pernet... | 33 | 26 |
| English grammar and composition, Mr. R. Lewis.. | 18 | 38 |
| Chemistry, Dr. May..... | 35 | 12 |
| Elocution, Mr. Richard Lewis. | — | 25 |
| Mutual Instruction..... | — | 24 |
| | 265 | 326 |

The usual examinations were held; and the distribution of prizes awarded to successful pupils took place in the Music Hall, on Monday the 11th of April. His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon. William Pearce Howland, C.B., was present, and took part in the presentation of the prizes.

LECTURES AND ENTERTAINMENTS.

During the past season your Directors arranged for and carried out eight entertainments, namely: 4 Literary Readings, 1 Reunion, and 3 Lectures. As a strong inducement to the members, beyond the mere merits of the entertainments, it was announced that the net proceeds would be devoted to the purchase of new books for the Library. Notwithstanding this announcement and the exertions made to render them a success, each one but the last resulted in a loss to the Institute, amounting in all to the sum of \$106 22; while a profit arising from Mr. Robin's lecture on Scottish song, given under the patronage of the Caledonian Society, amounting to \$28 49, reduced the loss on the whole series to a net sum of \$77 73.

THE NEW HALL.

With a view to test the feeling of the public respecting the erection of the new Hall, the President and Treasurer a short time since called upon a few of our leading citizens—14 gentlemen only were seen, and of these the following contributions were promised:—

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| John McDonald, Esq.,..... | \$100 |
| John Carter, Esq.,..... | 100 |
| A. S. Nordheimer, Esq., | 100 |
| A. R. McMaster & Bros, | 100 |
| F. W. Cumberland, Esq., M. P.P., | 100 |
| James Michie, Esq.,..... | 100 |

Hon. M. C. Cameron, .. 100
 Hon. D. L. Macpherson..... 100
 Hon. Geo. Brown 100 || S. B. Harman, Esq..... | 100 |

J. G. Worts, Esq., of the firm of Gooderham & Worts, promised no specific sum, but assured your committee they would not be behind any other firm in its support. Your Directors regret that they cannot report any further progress in the undertaking.

The scheme has not been placed before the public as a charitable project. A large Hall is required in the city, for the use of the various religious and benevolent institutions, and for other purposes: the Institute, from the fact of its already possessing extensive accommodation, is in a position to provide such a large Hall, and the apartments necessarily connected therewith, at a far less cost than they can otherwise be provided; and, when completed, with the present building will furnish a most magnificent suite of rooms. The Hall, proposed to be 130 feet in length, by 60 feet in width, is anticipated with the site to cost \$20,000; of this amount at least \$10,000 must be furnished by free contributions, to render it safe for the Institute to undertake the responsibility of its erection. The amount already expended by the Institute, in payment of instalments, interest, &c., on the site, is..... \$1426 25

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Received by Rental of House..... | \$60 |
| By one subscription | 50 |
| By sale of old material..... | 8 118 00 |
| Balance | \$1308 25 |
| In addition to the above there are payments due, and included in the Institute's general liabilities, of | \$613 32 |

Making a total of..... \$1921 57

Other payments will also shortly be coming due. A vigorous effort might possibly secure the erection of the Hall; but should it not be found practicable to proceed with the work, your Directors would recommend to their successors to abandon the undertaking, and call upon the friends of the Institute to subscribe towards the liquidation of the present debt.

IN CONCLUSION:

Your Directions would urge upon the members of the Institute to give the office-bearers, now to be elected, their hearty support during the year. There is much work to be done, which, if successfully accomplished, will be gratifying to all engaged in it and beneficial to the community. To interest and benefit the young

and the industrials in their reach a calls for reading to continue but system of even established in instruction of such

ASSE

OF TORONTO M
 Real estate.....
 " " Adela
 Library and furn
 Debts & Member
 Rents due.....

By Balance

By cash in hand
 " Old member
 " New "
 " Rents ...
 " Class fees an
 " Northern R.
 es.....
 " Legislative
 " Entertainme
 " Fees, fines, a
 " Old papers s
 " Old building
 " Sub. to new
 " Due Treasur

and the industrial classes, by placing within their reach a good library, and periodicals for reading and study; and not only to continue but still further to improve the system of evening classes so successfully established in the Institute, for the instruction of such as are daily engaged in

industrial pursuits, is a work that will bring to its promoters its own reward.

All which is respectfully submitted,

G. W. ALLAN,

President.

APPENDIX A.

ASSETS AND LIABILITIES, TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.

| ASSETS | | LIABILITIES | |
|---|--------------------|---|--------------------|
| OF TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, 1869-70. | | OF TORONTO MECHANICS' INSTITUTE, 1869-70. | |
| Real estate..... | \$50,600 00 | Mortgage due University..... | \$18,400 00 |
| " " Adelaide street..... | 5,800 00 | " " A. Stewart..... | 4,000 00 |
| Library and furniture..... | 7,900 00 | " " R. Stewart..... | 1,000 00 |
| Debts & Members subscription due | 629 50 | Sundry liabilities..... | 2,717 53 |
| Rents due..... | 122 66 | Cash Balance due Treasurer..... | 198 92 |
| | | Balance net worth..... | 38,135 71 |
| | <u>\$64,452 16</u> | | <u>\$64,452 16</u> |
| By Balance net worth..... | \$33,135 71 | | |

APPENDIX B.

| RECEIPTS. | | EXPENDITURE. | |
|---|-------------------|--|-------------------|
| By cash in hand at last report... | \$141 95 | To Secretary and Librarian..... | \$674 90 |
| " Old members and subscribers.. | 1,087 12 | " Assistant Librarian..... | 226 00 |
| " New " " "..... | 1,009 83 | " Housekeeper..... | 499 98 |
| " Rents | 3,037 29 | " Assistant housekeeper..... | 157 15 |
| " Class fees and requisites..... | 748 40 | " Interest on mortgage..... | 1,104 00 |
| " Northern R. R. grant to classes... .. | 100 00 | " Interest on discounts..... | 52 56 |
| " Legislative grant..... | 200 00 | " Postage account..... | 72 47 |
| " Entertainments..... | 83 12 | " Fuel..... | 214 80 |
| " Fees, fines, and catalogues .. | 98 40 | " Gas, oil, &c..... | 912 92 |
| " Old papers sold..... | 72 31 | " Water and ice..... | 126 00 |
| " Old building stones sold..... | 8 06 | " Binding books..... | 175 94 |
| " Sub. to new hall..... | 50 00 | " Blank books and stationery.. | 12 70 |
| " Due Treasurer..... | 198 92 | " Insurances..... | 126 95 |
| | | " Classes..... | 672 07 |
| | | " Repairs and furnishing... .. | 330 64 |
| | | " New hall accounts..... | 548 35 |
| | | " Newspapers and magazines .. | 484 57 |
| | | " New books..... | 256 21 |
| | | " Printing..... | 67 79 |
| | | " Entertainments..... | 118 82 |
| | | " Office and housekeepers requisites.... | 29 56 |
| | <u>\$6,864 32</u> | | <u>\$6,864 32</u> |
| | | " Balance due the Treasurer, | |
| | | Brought down..... | 198 92 |

APPENDIX C.

Return showing the Newspapers, Magazines, &c., with which the Reading Room is supplied.

BRITISH NEWSPAPERS.

Athenæum.
Army and Navy Gazette,
Builder, (London.)
Dublin Warder.
Dublin Freeman.
Economist, (London.)
Edinburgh Scotchman.
European Mail.
Glasgow Herald.
Illustrated London News.
" " Times.
Manchester Courier,
Punch.
Public Opinion, (London.)
Saturday Review.
The Times.
Watchman, (London)
Standard (London.)

AUSTRALIAN.

† Sydney Morning Herald.
† " Illustrated News.

BRITISH MAGAZINES.

Art Journal.
Argosy,
Army List.
* All the Year Round.
* Belgravia.
* Blackwood's Magazine
* Chambers's Journal.
* Cornhill Magazine.
Dublin University Magazine.
Dublin Quarterly Review.
* Edinburgh Review
Good Words.
London Society.
Macmillan's Magazine.
Mechanics' Magazine.
Navy List.
* North British Review.
* Quarterly Review
* Temple Bar.
* Westminster Review.
Contemporary "

AMERICAN.

Atlantic Monthly.
Buffalo Commercial Advertiser.
Harper's Monthly Magazine.
Little's Living Age.
Harper's Weekly.

New York Daily Hera'd.
" " Tribune.
" Shipping List.
" Independent.
Scientific American.
Godey's Lady Book.

CANADIAN.

Canadian Builder.
Canada Farmer.
Canada Law Journal.
Hamilton Spectator.
Halifax Citizen.
Illustrated Canadian News.
Kingston News.
London Herald.
London Advertiser.
Montreal News.
Monetary Times, Toronto.
Montreal Herald.
Toronto Globe, (2 copies.)
Toronto Leader "
Toronto Telegraph,
Quebec Chronicle.
Volunteer Review.

The Institute is under obligations to those who have gratuitously furnished the following Periodicals during the year :

Barrie Advance by the Publishers,
Brantford Courier "
" Expositor "
British Canadian, (Port Hope) "
British Canadian, (Sarnia.) "
Bruce Review "
Bruce Reporter "
Canadian Baptist "
" Champion "
" Home Journal. "
" Journal "
(St. Thomas.) "
Canada Gazette "
Christian Guardian "
" Journal "
Collingwood Enterprise .. "
Cornwall Freeholder "
Dundas True Banner "
Guelph Advertiser "
Goderich Star "
Hamilton Times "
Huron Signal "
Huron Express "
Ingersoll Chronicle "

† Presented by Mr. H. J. Clarke. * Extra copies taken for circulation.

Ingersoll News..
Local Courts M
Gazette
Mitchell Advocat
Owen Sound Tin
Owen Sound Adv
Ottawa Citizen..
Port Hope Times
Peterborough Re
Paisley Advocat

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Ingersoll News..... | by the Publishers, | Stratford Beacon .. . | by the Publishers, |
| Local Courts Municipal | | Simcoe News | " |
| Gazette | " | Waterloo Chronicle..... | " |
| Mitchell Advocate..... | " | Walkerton Telescope | " |
| Owen Sound Times | " | Welland County Telegraph | " |
| Owen Sound Advertiser .. | " | Whitby Chronicle | " |
| Ottawa Citizen..... | " | York Herald. | " |
| Port Hope Times..... | " | Upper Canada Law Journal | " |
| Peterborough Review.... | " | Upper Canada Journal of | |
| Paisley Advocate..... | " | Education | " |