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SIXTH  
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

*Montreal Working Men's*  
MUTUAL BENEFIT.

AND

Widows' and Orphans' Provident Society



INCORPORATED 1868.

MONTREAL:  
"HERALD" STEAM PRESS.

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The annual meeting of this Society was held in the Mechanics' Institute on Monday evening, 31st March. There was a large number of members present.

In consequence of the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. A. W. Ogilvie, he sent the following brief address, which was read by the new President, Mr. James W. Thompson :—

GENTLEMEN,—In introducing to you the business of the evening, I am very glad to be able to express to you the pleasure it gives me in coming here to-night to preside at this your sixth annual meeting, and I have good reason I think, to congratulate the members present on the continued good management and the great prosperity which has attended your efforts hitherto. I am glad also to have this opportunity of expressing to you my continued and increasing conviction of the soundness of the

foundation on which the Society is laid, and I heartily rejoice with you in the prosperous condition the Society's affairs are in, as will be shewn by the various reports which will be submitted to you to-night, and as I may not have the opportunity again, at least for some time, of presiding at your meetings, it might not be out of place for me on this occasion to offer a word or two on the advantages and the great amount of good done by the Society since its formation. The Society was organized on the 8th April, 1867, six years ago, with a comparatively small number of members, which has been increasing gradually, till we have now on the register in the neighbourhood of 280 members of good standing—during which period there has been paid for sick allowances to members, while unable to work, the sum of \$1,222 46. There have been five widows and nine orphans receiving benefits, the former at the rate of \$1.50 per week, and the latter at the rate of 25 cents per week, amounting altogether to \$1,076 07, and for funeral expenses there have been paid \$530.00, and those only whose misfortune it has been to require this aid can best testify to the amount of good which has been accomplished in this way. I have had the opportunity of comparing the dues of this society with those of the best organized societies of this kind in England, and I find that the monthly payment of 45 cents, which secures to the members a sick allowance of \$3.00 per week, is about 10 cents less than the monthly dues of those English societies,

paid by members of average age, who receive a weekly allowance during sickness of 12s sterling, which is equivalent to \$3 of our money. And, noticing this fact, it is almost remarkable how successful we have been thus far, seeing that it is necessary in England to pay higher dues than we do, to secure success where benefit societies have in a great many instances proved to be failures. I would, notwithstanding the prosperity to which we have attained, urge upon you the necessity of increasing the membership to a still greater extent, and to use every opportunity of pressing the claims of the society upon your friends, thereby promoting your own personal benefit and advancing the welfare of others. I would remind you also of the privilege you have over any of our sister societies in this city, of the library which contains 325 volumes of well-selected and useful works, and to which you have free access at any monthly meeting. You have a free library among yourselves, and that is more than this great city of Montreal can boast of.

During the six years the Society has been in existence, there has been paid also the sum of \$105.56 by this Society to the library fund. For the physician's services, \$885.62, and for the working expenses of the Society the sum of \$1,060.07. For the same period the total receipts from all sources have amounted to \$8,645.76, of which \$25 were for the library fund; \$826.36 have been realized from concerts and excursions, and \$7,794.40 were received from the members, being for dues and honorary members' subscriptions; and surely when

sums of money like these are circulated by institutions of this kind. it must produce a healthy influence, not only on the members of the Society, but on the community at large.

The following were elected office-bearers for the year 1873 :—

PRESIDENT—James W. Thompson.

1st VICE-PRESIDENT—John Boyd.

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT—C. T. Christie.

TREASURER—Warden King.

SECRETARY—Hugh A. Bain.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY—John Field.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY—David C. Tabb

ASSISTANT FINANCIAL SECRETARY—William Moore.

TRUSTEES—Alexander McGibbon, Gilbert Scott, A. W. Ogilvie.

AUDITORS—Charles Alexander, Alexander Walker, George A. Sargent.

HONORARY SOLICITOR—Edwd. Carter, M.P., Q.C.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE—Wm. Greig, Chairman ; Henry S. Couper, John Lawson, Wm. T. Bostock, Librarian.

STEWARDS.

St Ann's Ward West, Roderick Kell.

St. Ann's Ward East, William Ross.

St. Antoine Ward, James Wright.

St. Lawrence Ward, Robert Inglis.

St. James' Ward, William King.

St. Louis Ward, H. S. Couper.

St. Mary's Ward, Mallery Palmer.

Centre Ward, John Lawson.

West Ward, Thomas Shepherd.

East Ward, Edward McConnell.

PHYSICIAN—John Bell, A.M., M.D.

The first report presented was that of the Physician, John Bell, M.A., M.D., which was read by him and was well received. We give a synopsis of it :—

1 BEAVER HALL TERRACE, }  
MONTREAL, March 31st, 1873. }

To the President and members of the Montreal Workingmen's Mutual Benefit and Widows and Orphans' Provident Society.

GENTLEMEN,—I have much pleasure in presenting to you the following 6th annual report of the Medical affairs of the Society for the past year.

By my Monthly reports, I have from time to time kept you informed of the number of sick members, of the nature and duration of their illness, and of the number, names and physical condition of applicants for admission.

On the roll of benefit members are the names of 267 men. During the official year just closing there were 52 candidates for admission, who passed the medical examination. Of this number, 40 were examined during the last six months, and 33 since the 1st January. As the competition for the prize, so considerately offered by our worthy President, about entering in office, grew warmer, the more frequent became the applications for examination, so that two thirds of the admissions took place during the last three months.

Two of our members have died during the past year. One, Thomas Dobbie, a young and promising man, before whom there seemed to be many years of useful and

honourable life, was accidentally drowned on the 29th of June last. He was unmarried. The other, Edward Buxey, who was one of the original members of this Society, and well on in years, died of inflammation of the lungs on the 13th of August. For a number of years he had suffered from pulmonary disease and finally succumbed, after a short illness, to the extensive acute inflammation which attacked him in the sultry weather of August last. He left a widow and two adult sons. As a sad addition to this I have now to report the death of three more of our members since Saturday, viz.: Wm. Talbot, John Lynn, and James Arnot.

We sympathize with two of our members, who have been by death bereaved of their wives during last month.

In my last annual report, I referred to the scourge of small-pox; only one of our members was attacked by it, and he has made a good recovery. The dreaded advent of Asiatic Cholera has, for many years been mercifully stayed, and it behoves each member of this society to lend his influence in having the city put into such a perfect sanitary condition, that should the deadly poison come into our midst, it will find no friendly nest in which to breed.

Notwithstanding the immunity enjoyed by our society from fatal epidemic disease, its members have not been unusually free from other forms of disease and from accident. Thirty different names appear on the sick benefit roll, and certificates for 125 weeks of sickness were given. Of these, however, forty were paid to two members, thus reducing the number for the remain-

der to eighty-five, not much, if at all, above what it was last year, considering our increase in numbers. One of those members was unable to work for twenty-two weeks, from an unfortunate fracture of his kneecap, and the other, an old member, has been laid up with a still more unfortunate and lingering disease of the bladder and kidneys.

One in less than every nine of our members, has been under my care and on the sick benefit list for a week or more, many for shorter periods.

During the year I have visited the sick members regularly at their own houses when necessary, and have given advice to all consulting me at my surgery, and in all cases have supplied necessary medicine free of extra charge.

Of the diseases and accidents from which the patients suffered, some were comparatively trivial, and such as workmen can scarcely avoid, for example, cuts, sprains, severe bruises, whitlows, neuralgia, rheumatism, influenza, and bronchitis, while others were more grave. There were cases of fracture of the bones of the leg, ribs and kneecap, abscesses, typhoid and scarlet fever, small-pox, acute inflammation of the heart and lungs, chronic inflammation of bladder and the kidneys.

There are three members at present under medical treatment, and for them I would ask your kind sympathy, as they have been for many weeks laid on beds of sickness. It is probable that no office bearer of this Society has such an opportunity as your physician of observing the good you are quietly doing in assisting one another in times of sickness

and distress, and in aiding the widows and orphans of deceased members, permit me, therefore, to encourage you in your practical philanthropy.

I have endeavoured to be prompt and constant in my attendance on the sick, to hasten restoration to health, and alleviate suffering. I thank you for the uniform courtesy extended to me by all the members of this Society, and especially at this time do I thank you for the flattering manner in which you have again elected me as your physician.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your obd't. servant,  
JOHN BELL, M.A., M.D.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Warden King, the Treasurer, Mr. William Greig submitted his report for the year, which was a very satisfactory one, and which showed that the funds had considerably increased since the last annual meeting, and that the Society held stock in the Bank of Montreal to the value of \$3,472, and a considerable balance in the Savings Bank besides.

Mr. WILLIAM GREIG, the Chairman of the Library Committee, then gave a statement of this department, showing some 327 volumes in the Library, a good number of which are in circulation. The Library contains a good selection of recent published works, of the best and most popular writers of the day, and forms a very valuable auxiliary to the Society.

After some routine business had been gone through the meeting was brought to a close.

## OBJECTS OF THE SOCIETY.

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The objects of the Society are to raise Funds for the following purposes:

1. To furnish Medical Attendance, Medicines, and a Weekly Allowance to Members in time of Sickness.
  2. To contribute to the Funeral Expenses of a deceased Member, and to those of his Wife.
  3. To contribute to the support of the Widows and Orphans of deceased Members.
  4. To provide and maintain a Library of useful literature for the use of the Members.
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Protestants of good moral character *only* may become Members, but must not be under eighteen years of age nor over forty-five years.

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The regular meetings of the Society are held in their Rooms, in the Mechanics' Institute, on the evening of the second Monday of each month, at 8 o'clock P.M.

Application for Membership may be made to

William Ross, 76 William Street.

James Wright, 65 St. Antoine Street.

William King, 6 Notre Dame Street.

Mallery Palmer, 205 St. Catherine Street.

Edward McConnell, at G. T. R. Freight Agent's Office, St. Peter Street.

Or to any of the other Stewards, Office-bearers or Members.

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All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, H. A. BAIN, No. 329 Commissioner Street, opposite the Custom House.

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*Society's Physician.* JOHN BELL, A.M., M.D., No. 1 Beaver Hall Terrace, next St. Andrew's Church. Office hours, 8, to 10 morning, 2 to 4 afternoon, and after 6 in the evening.