

WESTERN ASSURANCE COMPANY.
GENERAL ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS.

The annual meeting of the shareholders of the above Company was held at its offices at Toronto on Thursday, 22nd February, 1894. Mr. A. M. Smith, president, occupied the chair, and Mr. J. J. Kenny, managing director, was appointed to act as secretary to the meeting. The secretary read the following

FORTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

The Directors have pleasure in presenting herewith the forty-third annual report of the Company, with revenue and expenditure, and profit and loss accounts, for the year ending 31st December last, and statement of assets and liabilities at the close of the year.

In conformity with the resolutions passed at the special meeting of shareholders held on the 22nd of February last, the paid-up capital of the Company has been increased to \$1,000,000, and the total cash assets now amount to \$2,412,642.63.

In regard to the business transacted during the year, it will be noted that the premium income shows a moderate increase over that of 1892; but, while the rates of premium obtained have, as a rule, been such as, judging by past experience, would have been ample to yield a fair profit in an ordinary year, they have not proved sufficient to meet the exceptional losses which this Company—in common with others doing business in Canada and the United States—has sustained during 1893. Your Directors consider, however, that the causes to which no inconsiderable proportion of the excessive destruction of property by fire during the past twelve months is attributable may be regarded as of a transitory nature; while its effects are likely to be experienced in succeeding years in the maintenance of adequate rates to fully reimburse companies for the losses they have sustained. The experience of this Company in the past, as will be seen by a reference to its annual reports, confirms this opinion, and at the same time demonstrates the wisdom of accumulating in prosperous times an ample reserve to meet the demands of adverse years. In this connection, it may not be out of place to refer here to the fact that from the earnings of the five years preceding the one under review we have been able, after paying dividends at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, to carry \$315,000 to our reserve fund; and although in a business such as that we are engaged in, no reliable forecast can be made of the probable outcome of any one year, your Directors feel that they have every reason to anticipate that the future experience of the Company will prove at least as favourable as its record in the past.

The Directors feel that the thanks of the shareholders are due to the officers and agents of the Company for their work in a year which has been a partly untried trying one to all concerned.

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Revenue account—	
Total income.....	\$2,525,808 03
Expenditure (including appropriation for all losses reported to 31st December, 1893).....	2,426,776 98
Total assets.....	2,412,642 63
Reserve fund.....	315,000 00
Surplus for policy-holders.....	2,097,642 63

The President, in moving the adoption of the Report said:—

In the Report you have just heard read, the Directors have placed before the shareholders what I think must be regarded as a clear and intelligible statement of the transactions of the Company for the past year, and of its financial conditions at the close of 1893. I have referred to the experience of the Company in the past, and to our anticipations for its future, and briefly alluded to the exceptional conditions which have prevailed throughout the financial and commercial world; but it may not be inappropriate for me to extend my observations somewhat, and call your attention for a few moments to the general experience of companies, during the trying times through which we have passed, in the business in which we are engaged. Insurance has been called the hand-maiden of commerce, and it must be admitted that without the protection it offers the trade and commerce of the country would become paralysed. Upon the security afforded by insurance companies every merchant and manufacturer is largely dependent and upon this same protection our banks, loan companies and other financial institutions rely for immunity from the risk of loss by fire and marine disaster, in fact, underwriters may be regarded as endorser, in a limited sense, of almost every commercial and financial transaction of the business community. With these intimate relations existing, it might naturally be supposed that insurance companies could not fail to be affected, in no slight degree, by the disturbed conditions prevailing in all branches of trade during 1893, and a few extracts from the statements of the companies which have been published in Canada and the United States will afford conclusive evidence that this has been the case. The thirty-seven companies licensed by the Dominion Government to do business in Canada report total premium receipts for the year of \$6,740,958, and total losses of \$4,970,266, a ratio of losses to premiums of 73.34 per cent., or 12 per cent. in excess of the average ratio of the preceding six years; and in the United States, although the total figures of all the companies doing business there have not yet been compiled, we find in the report just issued by the New York State Superintendent of Insurance unquestionable evidence that the business of the country has been done at a considerable loss to the companies. This report embraces the statements of one hundred and twenty-eight American and foreign companies doing fire and marine business in the United States and shows a shrinkage of nearly \$10,000,000 in the combined surplus funds of these companies compared with that which they had a year ago, due to the extraordinary losses of the past year, and to the decline in the market value of many of their assets.

Turning from these figures to our own experience, we find that our loss ratio in Canada is nearly 10 per cent. below the average of the companies as a whole, and that in the United States we compare favourably with the American and foreign companies in good business there. I feel,

therefore, that I may sum up the result of our year's business by saying that, comparatively speaking, we regard it as a favourable one, when we consider the general experience as demonstrated by the figures I have quoted.

In presenting the last Annual Report to the shareholders a year ago, I pointed out that in the preceding twenty-seven years during which I had had the honor of occupying a seat at this Board we had, notwithstanding the adverse experience of several years in which expenditure exceeded income, been able, out of the earnings of the business, to pay \$1,015,000 in dividends to shareholders, and to carry nearly \$900,000 to our Reserve Fund; and before resuming my seat it may be well for me to state briefly the grounds upon which the Directors base the opinions expressed in their Report, that at least an equally favourable record may reasonably be looked for in the future.

First, let me say that our business is subject to elements largely beyond human control, as well as sensitive to the fluctuations and disturbances of the commercial world, and that we cannot reduce it to anything like an exact science, nor estimate, with any degree of certainty, the losses which are likely to occur in any one year. Nevertheless, the history of fire insurance shows—and our own records confirm this—that, notwithstanding the fact that we occasionally meet years which are liable to upset our calculations as to rates which should yield a profit, if we take a period (say of five or ten years) sufficient to equalize fluctuations such as I have referred to, we find that the premiums are sufficient to yield a profit to the companies, after paying all losses and expenses. Further, we believe that the present rates of premium, speaking generally, are such as are likely to prove remunerative, and that with these maintained, as they doubtless will be, and a return to anything like a normal fire record, companies will be reimbursed for the losses of 1893; and I am glad to be in a position to say that during the past few months losses have steadily diminished, and that thus far in the present year we have nothing to complain of in this respect. Our confidence in the future is also largely based upon the present strong financial condition of the Company, possessing, as it does, cash assets of upwards of \$2,400,000, which must continue to command for it a liberal share of the best business of this continent.

The Vice-President seconded the adoption of the Report, which was carried unanimously, and a cordial vote of thanks was passed to the President and Board of Directors for their services and attention to the interests of the company during the past year.

The election of Directors for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, and resulted in the unanimous re-election of the old Board, viz:—Messrs. A. M. Smith, George A. Cox, Hon. S. C. Wood, Robt. Beatty, G. R. Cockburn, M. P., George McMurrich, H. N. Baird, W. R. Brock and J. J. Kenny.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held subsequently, Mr. A. M. Smith was re-elected President, and Mr. George A. Cox Vice-President, for the ensuing year.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE WILD LIFE.

An Indian Boy's Training.

The training of the Sioux boy begins when he listens to the songs of war, the songs of the chase, and the songs of the "Great Mystery" or Wakantanka; and these are the lullabies which we heard in our infancy. Of course there were some boys who were deprived of the training they needed, even in wild life; but the true and loving parents were as ambitious and hopeful for their children as any civilized and educated parents could be.

Very early the Indian boy assumed the task of preserving and transmitting the legends and stories of his ancestors and his race. Almost every evening a myth, or a legend of some deed done in the past, was narrated by one of the parents or grandparents, and to it the boy listened with parted mouth and shining eyes. On the following evening he was usually required to repeat it. If he was not an apt scholar, he struggled long with his task; but, as a rule, the Indian boy is a good listener and has a good memory, so that the stories were tolerably well mastered. The household became his audience, by whom he was alternately criticized and applauded.

This sort of teaching at once enlightens the boy's mind and stimulates his ambition. His conception of his own future career becomes a vivid and irresistible force. Whatever there is for him to acquire must be acquired; whatever qualifications are necessary to a truly great warrior and hunter, he must seek at any expense of danger and hardship. Such was the feeling of the imaginative and brave young Indian.

It becomes apparent to him early in life that he must accustom himself to rove alone, and not to fear or dislike the impression of solitude, but acquaint himself thoroughly with nature. Much has been said about Indian children's "instincts." To be sure we inherited some of the characteristics of our ancestors, but the greater part of our faculties we had to acquire by practice. All the stoicism and patience of the Indian are acquired traits. Physical training and dieting were not neglected. I remember I was not allowed to drink beef soup or any warm drink. The soup was for the old men. The general rules for the young were never to eat their food very hot, nor to drink much water.

My uncle, who educated me, was a severe and strict teacher. When I left his teepee for the day, he would say to me: "Hakada watch everything closely and observe its characteristics," and at evening, on my return, he used to catechize me for an hour or so. "On which side of the trees is the lighter-colored bark? On which side do they have most regular branches?" It was his custom to let me name all the new birds that I had seen during the day. I would name them according to the color, or habits, or the shape of the bill, or their song, or the appearance and locality of the nest—in fact, anything about the bird which impressed me as characteristic. I made many ridiculous errors, I must admit. He then usually informed me of the correct name. Occasionally I made a hit, and this he would warmly commend.—[St. Nicholas.]

A NEW BRUNSWICK MIRACLE.

The Terrible Experience of a Well-Known Gentleman.

So Badly Crippled With Rheumatism that he was Helpless as an Infant—How he Was Cured—A Lady Relative also Restored to Health.

From the Richibucto, N. B., Review.

The attention of The Review having been called to two cases in Kingston in which it was alleged remarkable cures had been effected by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, a reporter was sent to interview the parties named, and find out whether the cures were really the result of the use of Pink Pills. Mr. Samuel Barnes, who formerly resided in Dorchester, N. B., and who moved to Kingston, Kent Co., some time ago, was first interviewed, and asked whether the reports concerning his illness and his recovery from the use of these pills were true. He expressed himself willing to add his testimony to the many he saw in the papers concerning the wonderful cures effected by Pink Pills, and hoped his story might be the means of bringing relief to others. We give his story as nearly as possible in his own words:—"I was first attacked with acute muscular rheumatism in March, 1891. I was then living in Dorchester. For three months I lay in bed unable to move hand or foot, more helpless than an infant. The joints of my arms and legs were much swollen, and my hands and fingers twisted almost out of shape. The physician who attended me banded my limbs and in every way attempted to give me relief, but without effect. Two other doctors were called in consultation, but could do nothing for me. I was told by a friend who called to see me of the wonderful cures reported to have been effected by the use of Pink Pills, and I resolved to cast aside doctors' medicine, and give the pills a trial. When I had about half finished the second box I began to feel slightly better. After taking four or five boxes I was able to get out of bed and walk around the house on crutches. I continued taking the pills until I had taken a dozen boxes, when I stopped for a time. I was then able with the help of crutches to get out of doors and around. I have since removed to Kingston, and continued taking the pills, and have continued to improve and hope soon to be entirely cured. Mr. Barnes is a gentleman of education, whose statements will carry weight. The writer remembers when Mr. Barnes first came to Kingston he was forced to use crutches, and was able to get around only with great difficulty. He is now able to move around using only a cane, and apparently without any difficulty. His hands and fingers, however, still bear traces of the severe suffering he has undergone.

His sister, Mrs. John Taylor, was also a sufferer from muscular rheumatism. She was first attacked by the disease eight years ago, and at that time it was only with great difficulty she was able to move around. Doctors' medicine did not help her, and she tried all kinds of so-called cures for rheumatism, but they appeared to do her no good whatever. Through the advice of Mr. Barnes and with the consent of her physician, she began taking Pink Pills last fall. By the time she had finished the second box she felt decidedly improved. She has now finished her fourth box, and is apparently as well as she ever was. She said she was perfectly willing that the public should know that she was a firm believer in the efficacy of Pink Pills. The improvement wrought by these pills in the case of Mr. Barnes had first induced her to give them a trial, and she was now satisfied that the pills possessed wonderful curative powers.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are a specific for all diseases arising from an impoverished condition of the blood or a shattered condition of the nervous forces, such as St. Vitus dance, locomotor ataxia, rheumatism, paralysis, sciatica, the after effects of la grippe, loss of appetite, headache, dizziness, chronic erysipelas, scrofula, etc. They are also a specific for the troubles peculiar to the female system, correcting irregularities, suppressions and all forms of female weakness, building anew the blood and restoring the glow of health to pale and sallow cheeks. In the case of men they effect a radical cure in all cases arising from mental worry, overwork or excesses of any nature.

Dr. Williams' Pink Pills may be had of all druggists or direct by mail from Dr. Williams' Medicine Company, Brockville, Ont., or Schenectady, N. Y., at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50. The price at which these pills are sold makes a course of treatment comparatively inexpensive as compared with other remedies or medical treatment.

Nerve Pain Cure

Polson's Nerviline cures flatulence, chills and spasms; Nerviline cures vomiting, diarrhoea, cholera, and dysentery. Nerviline cures headache, sea sickness and summer complaint. Nerviline cures neuralgia, toothache, lumbago and sciatica. Nerviline cures sprains, bruises, cuts, &c. Polson's Nerviline is the best remedy in the world, and only costs 10 and 25 cents to try it. Sample and large bottles at any drug store Try Polson's Nerviline.

"I find my lessons in bread-making have saved my money dollars." "But I thought you couldn't eat it, you said." "We don't, but I make playthings for the baby out of it, and they never break or wear out."

Wide Awake Soap is a mammoth bar of pure soap. Try it.

Her voice is sweet and clear,
Melodious and low,
And all she said I loved to hear,
Until she told me "no."
"I nearly died of ennui while I was off with Hicks," said the mind-reader. "What was the matter?" "There was not much to do, and nothing to read."
"This amateur performance you speak of—was it a charitable affair?" "Oh, yes; the people knew the young folks were doing as well as they could."
"No, I haven't the faintest idea of her age." "I thought you had been friends since childhood?" "That's just why I am so uncertain. You see, ten years ago she was 18."
"The poor are always with us,"
"Tis so the saying goes;
But wealthy people, also,
Are often pretty close."

A Large Waist

Is not generally considered a necessary adjunct to the grace, beauty or symmetry of the womanly form. Within the body, however, is a great waste made necessary according to the condition of things—continually in process and requiring the perfect action of all bodily functions to absorb or dispel the refuse. When there is irregularity or inaction, ladies who value a clean, pure, healthy body will take Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription—the only remedy for woman sold with a positive guarantee to right all her peculiar wrongs.

To those about to become mothers, it is a priceless boon, for it lessens the pains and perils of childbirth, shortens labour, promotes an abundant secretion of nourishment for the child and shortens the period of confinement.

Dr. Pierce's Pellets cure biliousness, constipation, sick headache, indigestion of dyspepsia, and kindred diseases. "I made a fool of myself again yesterday," said a Cholly in tones of content. "Really?" said Cholly's sister. "You are becoming very unnecessarily energetic."

Teacher—"When does the winter season begin?" "Observing boy—"It generally begins about spring."

RECIPE

For Making Root Beer

During the summer months a more delicious drink than Root Beer could not be desired. For the benefit of our readers we give this recipe. Take Snider's Root Beer Extract one bottle
Yeast half a cask
Sugar 4 lbs.
Luke Warm Water 5 gallons

Dissolve the sugar and yeast in the water, add the extract, and bottle, place in a warm place for twenty-four hours until it ferments, then place on ice, when it will open sparkling and delicious.

The Root Beer Extract can be obtained at all Grocers' and Drug Stores, at 25c. per bottle.

A reliable safety-coupler—the minister.

Little girl (looking at impressionistic landscape)—"Mamma, what made him think it looked like that?"

The Moon's Influence

Upon the weather is accepted by some as real, by others it is disputed. The moon never attracts corns from the tender, aching spot. Putnam's Painless Corn Extract removes the most painful corns in three days. This great remedy makes no sore spots, doesn't go fooling around a man's foot, but gets to business at once, and effects a cure. Don't be imposed upon by substitutes and imitations. Get "Putnam's," and no other.

I say, Tom, my wife got a bar of Wide Awake Soap last week; she says it is the best she ever used for washing. I tried it in my bath on Saturday night and I tell you it beats them all for a toilet soap. You just try it.

If you these days would gather gold
Your coffers great to fill,
Seek not abroad this wealth untold;
Invent a patent pill.

Wide Awake Soap is a solid bar of pure soap that will not vanish like snow in hot water. Try it.

The highest lakes in the world are the Himalayas in Tibet, where there are some bodies of water as high as 20,000 feet above the level of the sea.

Good morning, Mrs. Smith, I have just finished my washing, using Wide Awake Soap; it is the best soap I ever used; it washed so easily, making the clothes far cleaner than I ever had them before, and it lasts twice as long as any other soap I ever used; and just feel how nice and soft my hands are.

It is an indisputable fact that every man who wears his watch in his vest pocket is behind time.

A. P. 702

FREE FACTS

FOR PARTICULARS ABOUT THE
SETTLERS' TRAINS
TO
MANITOBA
AND THE
NORTH-WEST

See your nearest Railroad Agent and get a copy of

"Free Facts, Farms and Sleepers"

FARMS & SLEEPERS

GRANBY RUBBERS.
They give perfect satisfaction in fit style, and finish, and it has become by-word that
"GRANBY RUBBERS wear like iron."

Friday—Lucky or Unlucky.

There are some persons who believe that death and destruction stalk abroad on Friday, and who have any number of facts on hand to prove their position. Well, here is an array of facts from which almost anything, pro or con, might be proven: Lee surrendered on Friday. Moscow was burned on Friday. Washington was born on Friday. Shakespeare was born on Friday. America was discovered on Friday. Richmond was evacuated on Friday. The Bastille was destroyed on Friday. The Mayflower landed on Friday. Queen Victoria was married on Friday. King Charles was beheaded on Friday. For Sumter was bombarded on Friday. Napoleon Bonaparte was born on Friday. Julius Caesar was assassinated on Friday.

The battle of Marengo was fought on Friday. The battle of Waterloo was fought on Friday. Joan of Arc was burned at the stake on Friday.—Boston Post.

Wide Awake people buy Wide Awake Soap because it is the best and cheapest they can get. Try it.

"No," admitted a man this morning, "my wife never tells me that she is fond of me, but she always makes the kind of pie I like best."

Western Assurance Company.
The forty-third annual report of this company must be a satisfaction to the shareholders, and at the same time the executive are to be congratulated. In the hands of a depressed market they show an increased business, and compared to similar institutions their showing is excellent. After paying dividends at the rate of ten per cent. \$315,000 is carried to reserve fund. The report, which will be found in another part of this paper, is worthy of perusal.

CLIP SAVE AND SEND TO US

The following cut shows the outfit which caused such a little commotion among the windmill exhibitors at the World's Fair. Chief Buchanan of the Dept. of Agriculture wished to put up a stock on exhibition and urged other Windmill Co. to put up a mill. They would not, and tried to prevent us from doing so. A regular organization had been formed for the purpose of holding meetings and for weeks occupied their own time and that of the World's Fair officials in trying to prevent us from exhibiting our mill. Our outfit was actually torn down and we were forced to re-erect it after dark, before it was completed. By parties who pulled it over with a rope. Mr. Buchanan sent a committee of the kirkers to see us, and in his presence, the President of the Aermotor Co. offered to pay freight, or express charges on Great outfit that any other exhibitors would put up for public use, and it never got out of order in the slightest particular. If having tools are used in rigging of barn the tools must care be brought down at one side.



MODEL POWER OUTFIT AT WORLD'S FAIR.

The third advertisement in this series will show a Steel Circular Saw and Frame, for Farm and various use. It is a Perfect Pale Saw, with Perfect Safety Guards, and runs with very much less power than ordinary buzz saws and has a better cut. This \$40 Saw and Frame will be given for \$15 for five copies of this advertisement, (which is No. 2 in the series); if sent immediately after the appearance in this paper of the Saw ad. (No. 3), but only one saw will be furnished to any one person. For the extra four copies call on neighboring subscribers to this paper, or induce others to subscribe, because we will not accept these advertisements unless taken from papers mailed to regular subscribers whose names and addresses must be given, together with the date of the paper from which they are clipped. Our Irrigation Pump may be substituted for the Saw. Either L. O. H. Chicago.

Where we thought, we shall make liberal offers to accept copies of these advertisements in part payment for Windmills. If you have any thought of using a windmill this year write us at once, stating what you will need, whether Pumping or Grain, and if possible we will make you a liberal offer.

The Aermotor Co. proposes to distribute \$500. CASH, IN PRIZES for the best essays written by the use of a windmill of a farmer or user of a windmill, answering the question, "WHY SHOULD I USE AN AERMOTOR?" For conditions of competition and amounts and number of prizes see particulars to the Aermotor Co., Chicago, or to its branches, at San Francisco, Kansas City, Lincoln, Neb., Sioux City, Iowa, Minneapolis, Buffalo, or 65 Park Place, New York City. Aermotors, Pumping and Grain same price. All Steel, all Galvanized-Steel. Completion, delivered free on cars at Chicago and shipped to any one, anywhere, at the following prices:
8-ft. \$25. 12-ft. \$50. 16-ft. \$125.

CANVASSERS WANTED for the Farmer's Friend and Account Book, presenting separate accounts for all farm transactions, etc. One agent has already sold nearly 400 copies in one county. Send for circulars and terms. WILLIAM BRIGGS, Publisher, Toronto.

THE STAMMERER. The official orator of the cure of Stammering, Toronto Canada, sent free post-paid.

BOOKS Money spent for good books is well spent. Money spent for bad books is ill spent. Any book or novel, new or standard, mailed post free on receipt of price. Send for our catalogue. Established in 1890 by A. Piddington.

RISSEY & CO.
MAMMOTH BOOK STORE.
248 Yonge St. Toronto