Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Institute:

The Institute has not escaped the baneful effects of the industrial financial depression which settled itself over our country during the year that has just closed. The effects of the former was such as to prevent the members from the enjoyment of their annual summer excursion which had been contemplated as a three days' trip among the large mines and clay working industries of the Hocking valley. The suspension of mining on April 21, which in the main terminated on July 19, although in some portions of the State it is still in force, threw the industry into a state of chaos for a considerable time after the technical resumption of work. This disturbance was followed by the great railroad strike, the effects of which carried us far into the heat of summer before it was possible to make arrangements for an excursion. By this time the drought had so effected the supply of water as to cause great uncertainty as to the mines being able to run should the members of the Institute venture to make the trip.

In view of these conditions and the further fact that the demand for coal was by no means uniform it was deemed best to abandon the excursion for this year. It is hoped that during the coming summer the members will be able to participate in a trip which for both pleasure and profit will eclipse all former excursions.

At the close of the year 1893 there was $162.05 in the treasury. During the year 1894 there was received for dues $161.25; for initiation fees $57.00; for advertising in the Journal $70.50. There was $1.15 realized from the sale of the Journals, making the total receipts for the year $289.90.

There was paid for printing 500 Ohio Mining Journals, No. 21, $218.00; for the services of a stenographer $34.50; hall rent $15.00; salary of secretary for 1891 $25.00; for three trunks in which to preserve the property of the Institute $4.50; for sundry expenses pertaining to the meetings and conducting the affairs of the Institute $33.25, making a total expenditure of $330.25, thus leaving a balance on hand at the close of the year of $121.70.
At the last meeting you passed a resolution authorizing the secretary to drop from the rolls all persons who after having thirty days' notice should then be in arrears for dues for more than two years.

Owing to the severity of the depression in money matters it was feared that this might drop some who desired to retain their membership and the resolution was not enforced. Late in the year an appeal was made to this class of members, which resulted in five of them paying up, two of which asked that their names be dropped from the roll. Letters were received from several who said that they were unable to pay, but expressed a desire to remain with the Institute.

To those who have been active members and have expressed a desire to retain their membership, I would suggest that the Institute extend to them another year in which to retain their membership.

During the year now closed five persons have withdrawn their membership. Three were dropped from the roll and the death of two, John Dunkley, of Hanging Rock, O., on May 15, 1893, and William G. Atchison, at East Palestine, on May 28, 1893, were reported. So far as known the hand of death but once invaded our ranks during the past year, and it was with sorrow that I recorded the death of Mr. Geo. Brashears, at his home in Logan, on September 4. Mr. Brashears was one of our youngest members, having been elected but one year ago, and I would suggest that a committee of three, consisting of W. H. Jennings, Alex Beattie and William Dalrymple be appointed to draft suitable resolutions to his memory and report their actions to the secretary in time that it may appear in the forthcoming Journal.

The roll of the Institute now embraces one hundred and thirty-nine members, a number just double that which appeared at the close of 1889. Of this number sixteen are represented by petitions for membership, which have been received since our last meeting, and await your official action. The wisdom of your resolution in amending the constitution, whereby the membership of the Institute was opened to the world, is here apparent, as of the above number four are from our sister State of Pennsylvania. We now have half a score of members who have come to us from other states and now with our broadened range of interests it is hoped that in the future we will receive the benefits to be derived from papers prepared in fields in which we are unacquainted, as well as receive the benefits arising from the discussion of papers by members who look at matters from a different standpoint.

From the fact that for the want of sufficient funds the Journal
for 1893 (No. 22) has not been published, it has been thought best to combine the proceedings of 1893 and 1894 in one volume, representing Nos. 22 and 23, thus making a saving to the Institute in extra printing and binding, at the same time presenting to the public a large and valuable work.

The absence of a portion of the manuscript has prevented this from being ready for distribution at this meeting, as had been contemplated when it was decided to consolidate the two years' proceedings. When this volume has been issued the publications of the Institute will be up to date.

In view of the adverse conditions which have surrounded every undertaking during the past two years, it is a question if there is in the country any similar society which can make so good a showing at the close of the year as the Ohio Institute of Mining Engineers.

With the hope that the report of our condition will meet with your approval,

I am, very respectfully,

R. M. HASELTINE, Secretary-Treasurer.

On motion of Mr. Doe, duly seconded, the report of secretary and treasurer was received.

Mr. Doe moved the appointment of a committee of three to draft suitable resolutions in memory of Mr. George Brashears, and spoke briefly in eulogy of this deceased member, with whom he had been well acquainted.

Motion seconded and carried, and the following named gentlemen recommended in the report of the secretary-treasurer were appointed by the chair to form this committee, viz., Messrs. W. H. Jennings, Alex. Beattie and William Dalrymple.

President Orton: Next on the program is a paper by Mr. Thomas West, of Dell Roy, Ohio, on the subject of Long Wall Mining and Its Merits.

The following paper was read by Mr. West: