

and regularly and promptly paid to the Company by consumers on any claim thereon which shall have been earned during the year, but no person or firm shall receive a dividend on bills so paid, unless such dividends shall amount to ten dollars or more, and all such dividends less than ten dollars shall be credited of the reserved fund, hereinbefore mentioned.

Sec. 12. *And be it enacted*, That should the losses and expenses of the Company in any one year exceed the earned premiums of that year, and the whole amount of the reserved fund before accumulated, the capital stock shall be deemed to be deficient to the amount of such excess, in case of such deficiency the Directors shall have power to levy an assessment on the shares to make up the deficiency, and after public notice is given in two daily papers in the City of Baltimore, for at least thirty days of such assessment, and requiring its payment, the Directors may sell at Auction the stock of any share holder, who shall neglect or refuse to pay such assessment within a week from the time at which payment is and by said public notice required, *provided*, a price equal to the assessment be realized for it, and a new certificate shall be issued to the purchaser for the shares so purchased, and any surplus received for the stock so sold over and above the assessment and expenses shall be paid over to the holders of such cancelled certificates.

Deficiency--  
how made up.

Proviso.

Sec. 13. *And be it enacted*, That in case any person or persons entitled to interest or dividend on stock, or dividend on bills shall be indebted to the Company, for sums past due and unpaid, the Company may at its option, withhold the interest or dividend, or both, and deduct such sums from the amount thereof, and for any debt due to the Company by any holder of certificates of stock, the Company shall have a lien on all interest of said debtors to said Company in such certificates; but persons consuming Gas or entitled to dividends, shall not be answerable by reason thereof or of any thing contained herein, except for the payment of their bills or for notes given for or in advance of bills.

In case of in-  
debtedness, divi-  
dend to be  
withheld.