he not have placed himself on record as having demanded that the needed power be given him by the city? It is quite possible for a civic official to get into a rut like other people and do his duty in a formal and amiable way, not making himself obnoxious to people by insisting on what he should know are necessary improvements, but along that course lies ultimate danger for the official.

I read an account in a Hamilton paper recently, of the lively pursuit by police officers of some offender against law and order in that city. The details of the chase were summed up in this way—Finally, the man in his eager haste to avoid capture, tumbled over the Mountain, and in falling broke his leg. Upon this paragraph I could remark that whilst sorry that the poor fellow broke his leg, the fact that he fell over the Mountain, just as he might have fallen say, over a log, or a sleeping dog, or a recumbent cow in his headlong flight, goes a long way to set at rest forever, and adversely, too, the claim of the Hamilton folk that they really possess a proper mountain. Just fancy the wicked man did not see the mountain; did not know it was there, perhaps. You remember the old Toronto belief and pronouncement to the effect that the city of Hamilton is really situated on the Lake shore, like as we are, and has behind it a more or less acute rising ground which, when once ascended is found to be only the edge of a long and level tract of country. Therefore, there is no mountain there as the word is explained in the dictionaries, but just a bank, an acclivity. This ought to finally dispose of the question, I think.

Yours,

ARIEL.

Toronto, 29th July, 1902.

## NEW YORK STOCK LETTER.

Office of Cummings & Co., 20 Broad St., New York City.

New York, July 30, 1902.

The main incident of the week has been the phenomenal advance in Rock Island and the unofficial announcement of the proposed financial scheme, whereby those now in control of this property hope to be able to retain the control, and yet be reimbursed for the outlay which it has been necessary for them to make in order to obtain such control. As yet no official announcement has been made regarding this matter, but it is confidently expected that within a few days the full scheme will be promulgated. As is usual, some of the points have leaked out regarding the proposition, and we are not sure but that they were really given out by some of the officials with a view to learning how the scheme would be received by the public. If this was their desire, they must be fully satisfied, for the points as given out have raised a storm of comment, some of which is quite likely to crystalize into very active opposition. The capital of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific was $60,000,000. It was recently increased $15,-000,000, making a total of $75,000,000. Of this, 150,000 shares, it is said that 33,812 shares will be used to pay for the Burlington Cedar Rapids and Northern property, 5,028 shares will be used to pay for the Rock Island & Peoria property, and 20,000 will be used to pay for the St. Louis, Kansas City and Colorado property. Stockholders will be allowed to subscribe to 12½ per cent. of their holdings.

This amount added to 600,000 makes a total of 658,840 shares, leaving 91,160 unissued; 12½ per cent. of 658,840 is 82,355, deducting this would leave 8,805 shares or $880,-500 of unissued stock, which is to be disposed of.

*As the President shall direct*, perhaps, this clause will elucidate the statement given out that no syndicate commissions will be paid in the matter. It is broadly hinted that the active opposition of some of the newspapers is on specific orders from the office of one of the most prominent financiers of the day. If this is true, it would indicate that there is likely to be a clashing of interests between Eastern and Western operators in the near future, for it has long been an open secret, that unless large enterprises went through certain channels that they were quite likely to come to grief, and now that Western parties have undertaken to run a share themselves, interesting developments may be looked for among conservative people. The opinion is that the issuance of bonds with a fixed rate of interest with foreclosure powers upon stock collateral is a most pernicious one and sure sooner or later to meet with disaster.

The copper situation continues to improve, and according to one of the largest dealers is very satisfactory, consumption being far in advance of production and steadily increasing. The market price of the stock is already showing an improvement and it now looks as if it would gradually become much more active and at advancing figures.

Some three and a half millions of gold have gone out this week, and it is not unlikely that some more will go by the Saturday boat. It is most extraordinary the spasms into which some people go at the mere mention of the shipment of gold. The fact is, that up to the present time we are several millions of dollars below the average of the last few years of the shipment of the precious metal abroad. If we could not spare it, there might be some excuse for the uneasiness over such shipments, but in the present condition of affairs, we can well afford to ship, for we have a large amount on hand and it is now coming in freely from Alaska and other producing points, and the season is now very nearly here when our exports of cotton and grain should begin to show a considerable increase. Rates for money have been easy, 2½ to 3½ having been the limits, but as the season progresses, we fully expect to see a very decided hardening of rates, and it is not at all improbable that during September there may be a certain amount of stringency which will cause a decided contraction in stock dealings, but from now on operators will have an opportunity to put their houses in order and prepare for any such event.

The production of pig iron in the first half of 1902 was 8,808,574 gross tons, against 7,674,613 tons in the first half of 1901, and 8,203,741 tons in the second half of 1901. The increase in the first half of 1902 over the second half of 1901 was 604,833 tons.

The stocks which were unsold in the hands of manufacturers or their agents on June 30, 1902, amounted to 29,861 tons against 70,647 tons on December 31, 1901, and 372,560 tons on June 30, 1901. At this rate of consumption the surplus stocks will soon be exhausted. It is such facts as these that make the present basis for the confidence of those who expect a more active and advancing stock market.

Except for parties of large means many stocks are now so high that they are dangerous, not but what the properties which they represent are perfectly good and increasing in value, but should anything happen to the market they might experience a very severe decline and yet be high-priced. We therefore recommend to those who wish to operate to select those lower-priced stocks which have inherent merit and are sure to soon recover from any flurry which the market may have.

The recession in the market which started yesterday has been a good thing, but now it is showing renewed signs of strength and seems likely to resume its upward course and closes firm.