

INVESTMENTS AND THE MARKET

News and Notes of Active Companies—Their Financing, Operations, Developments, Extensions, Dividends and Future Plans

Abitibi Power and Paper Company.—By the middle of this month an output of 180 tons of newsprint is anticipated by the company's officials. A party of prominent Montreal financiers recently visited the plant at Iroquois Falls.

Steel and Radiation, Limited.—Sir Henry Pellatt, president, states that there is no truth in the statement that the control of his company has been bought by New York interests at a price said to be \$60 a share. At present negotiations are on whereby New York interests may purchase the balance of bonds now in the treasury, which amount to \$400,000.

Carriage Factories, Limited.—Mr. T. J. Storey, of Brockville, vice-president of Carriage Factories, Limited, has announced that the Canadian Brisco Company, a new subsidiary of Carriage Factories, will shortly be turning out four and eight cylinder medium-priced automobiles, and that before the end of the year the company figures on placing on the market at least a thousand of these cars.

The cars to be placed on the market will be identical with the American Briscoe output, which will supply such portions of the car as are not made in Canada.

Arrangements had been made to place at the disposal of the new subsidiary the complete selling organization of Carriage Factories, Limited.

Brazilian Traction Company.—The Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Company's statement of combined earnings and expenses of the tramways, gas, electric lighting, power and telephone services, operated by subsidiary companies, controlled by this company, for the month of September, 1915, were:—

	1915. Milreis.	1914. Milreis.	Increase, Milreis.
Total gross earnings	6,494,000	6,096,940	397,060
Operating expenses	2,789,000	2,552,380	236,620
Net earnings	3,705,000	3,544,560	160,440
Aggregate gross earnings from January 1st	57,457,110	55,170,088	2,287,022
Aggregate net earnings from January 1st	33,355,420	31,674,128	1,681,292

National Brick Company.—In spite of the business depression which had begun in 1913, the National Brick Company's sales were maintained at satisfactory levels during that year and in the succeeding year, states a communication of the Quebec Savings and Trust Company, trustee for the bondholders. The outbreak of war resulted in the prostration of the building trade throughout Canada, the building permits issued in Montreal falling to a fraction of the previous year's records. This condition exists in practically all cities in Canada, and may continue as long as war lasts, the building industry, for various reasons, being the most adversely affected of all industries.

The following table gives the sales record in detail:—

	1913.	1914.	1915.
May	\$100,945	\$ 83,917	\$28,706
June	101,636	111,961	44,615
July	104,338	93,756	35,467
August	84,410	74,268	29,744
September	98,922	48,560	30,810
October	65,401	51,608
November	68,785	34,928
December	60,530	28,274

The company's balance sheet and profit and loss statement discloses that the company had maintained its position without incurring debt save to the bondholders. If the proposal to be considered at this meeting for relieving the company of the necessity of paying bond interest for the present be carried out, the company will have an accumulated surplus of about \$250,000. This will enable the company to preserve a strong position as to working capital with which to take advantage of any revival in the building trade that may occur.

COLONIAL BANK AND CANADA

Results of Operations in West Indies Last Year—Canadian Organization of the Bank

The Colonial Bank, with head office in London, England, and affiliations in Canada, does a very extensive business throughout the West Indies. Its 159th half-yearly general meeting was held in London last month. The chairman, Mr. Charles R. Guernsey Hoare, stated that comparing the accounts with those for the same period of 1914, of the first three items on the debit side, the only change was the transfer of £25,000 from reserve to special reserve against depreciation of investments, which was reported at the meeting six months previously. Notes in circulation were £15,000 more. Deposits and current accounts were £75,000 less; but this was very largely accounted for by the reduction of the government balances in the various islands. They had all been using their own money, and carefully avoiding getting any money from England.

Bank's Half-Yearly Profits.

Bills payable were £43,000 less, showing that the bank's customers in the West Indies had been purchasing less on the English side of the ocean, owing, no doubt, to the higher prices consequent on the war. The bank's profit was £8,000 more, and was the most satisfactory for a good many years. This was mainly due to the high value of money in London during the period under review, and this, whilst helping the profit, tends still further to depreciate the value of securities. On the other side, specie was £144,000 less, but this was partly balanced by cash at call and short notice on this side, which showed an increase of £93,000. Investments exhibited an increase of £16,000, and bills receivable £10,000 less. Money due in the colonies was £53,000 less. This was accounted for by the earlier sale of produce this half-year, as compared with the same period last year, and by better prices.

Bills discounted were £10,000 more, and bank premises remained at the same valuation. With the amount brought forward, £36,194, there was a balance of £66,889 to deal with. Out of this balance the directors set aside a further sum of £18,000 for depreciation in the value of investments, which will then stand in the books, with the provisions made, well within the market price on June 30th, and £18,000 for the usual dividend at the rate of 3 per cent. for the half-year, free of income tax, leaving the carry-over £30,889, against £36,134 at this time last year. At that time the bank largely increased the carry-over, but this was done mainly owing to the difficulty then of valuing securities. Even further reductions were expected with the probable high value of money, for some time to come. As to the general trend of the business, though the period had been one of anxiety, it had been satisfactory from a banking point of view. The crops were below the average, but prices were high, and the bank's customers had benefited thereby.

Crops Were Damaged.

A hurricane damaged the banana crop in the north-east corner of Jamaica, but hurricanes are a risk which cultivators in the West Indies are bound to expect, and this one was not unusually severe. Trade had also been handicapped by the lack of shipping, which had been very short of what was required. Still, prices promised to be good; the weather had been favorable, and the directors hoped and expected that the present crops would bring good results.

One of the directors of the bank is Sir Maxwell Aitken. The institution last year obtained a Canadian bank charter under the name Colonial Bank of Canada. Mr. R. A. Doble is the Canadian representative. The Canadian organization of this well-established and progressive institution is being rapidly pushed forward. The subscribed capital of the Colonial Bank is £2,000,000, of which £600,000 is paid up. There are reserve funds of £150,000.

The directors of Dome Mines met in New York this week and declared a stock dividend of 50 cents a share. This is at the rate of 20 per cent. per annum, and the same rate as has been ruling hitherto. The dividend is payable on December 1 to shareholders on record November 23.