

to the Minister of Railways for relief. He sent General Superintendent J. E. Price to investigate conditions. That official found out that the trouble was due chiefly to lack of sidings, there being room at deep water on the harbor front for only 800 cars—about half the requirements.

Halifax has just elected a new Mayor and two new aldermen. There were three candidates for the mayoralty, and R. T. McIlreith, barrister, was elected by a very large majority, strictly on his merits as a representative candidate. One of the aldermen elected is Prof. W. C. Murray, of Dalhousie College. There has been a great effort lately to get a better class of men into the Council, and it is proving successful, as these elections show.

Linseed oil is advancing on this market very rapidly, and hardware men will not give quotations for publication at present. The greater part of the linseed oil sold here is imported from England.

Halifax, and several other places in Nova Scotia, suffered from the collapse of the International Mercantile Agency in its initial stages. A meeting of those who invested in this Chicago proposition was held in Halifax recently. A proposal was made that the shareholders should put up pro rata a sum of money to purchase a present going concern and use the equipment of the International to make a new start. The matter is being considered. The losses here and in New Glasgow in this concern were pretty heavy.

There are still signs of trouble among the men employed in the Sydney works. All classes of artisans are demanding higher wages, and as the management know that they cannot give an increase to one without doing likewise to all, they are refusing all demands. The bricklayers were giving trouble a week or two ago, and now the machinists and railway men are said to be formulating demands.

The Halifax Board of Trade has endorsed the proposal to pay a salary to the leader of the Opposition in the Federal House, but not in the Local Assemblies.

Farmers all over the Annapolis Valley complain of the destruction of fruit trees by small field mice. One orchard company had to uproot about 400 trees and replace them by new ones.

Nearly all of the Lunenburg "bankers," as the fishing fleet are called, have returned after a fairly successful fishing voyage, the majority clearing immediately for another spring trip. They averaged about 300 quintals on the early catch.

Sydney, C.B., is pressing strongly for a night train to Halifax. This would enable them to do business in the capital with the loss of only one day. Intermediate points, such as Antigonish and New Glasgow, object, as such a train would not serve them.

Meetings of creditors of some of the insolvent firms in Yarmouth have been held. In the case of Jacob Sweeney, furniture dealer, a ten days' adjournment was agreed to.

W. A. Godfrey offered 25 cents on the dollar, which was refused, and his grocery stock will be disposed of in the interest of the creditors. In the case of M. A. Shaw, who keeps a haberdashery shop, a meeting will be held on May 20th. His stock, which was appraised at \$2,300, will probably not realize more than enough to cover a bill of sale held by his father-in-law.

Burglars entered the men's furnishing store of C. B. Blackie, at Sydney, on Friday night, and destroyed about five hundred dollars' worth of goods, tore his cash book to pieces, and cut and slashed generally, apparently out of wanton mischief or revenge.

A rumor has been current that the various woolen mills of this Province were about to be amalgamated, but the management of both the Hewson Mills, at Amherst, and the Oxford Mills, at Oxford, in Cumberland County (the two largest in the Province), deny that such action is contemplated. There has been some correspondence on the subject, apparently, but not recently.

Halifax, N.S., 1st May.

AMHERST BOARD OF TRADE.

The Amherst Board of Trade has given good reason for its existence during the past year. The retiring president, John McKeen, Manager of the Bank of Nova Scotia branch at that point, made the annual meeting the occasion for an "at home" to the officers and members, and a few guests. In his address Mr. McKeen told of some of the things accomplished during the year. Among others were the enlargement of the Intercolonial Railway freight sheds, completion of Fort Laurence wharf; subsidy to steamer "Killkeel;" a summer suburban train to Pugwash; mailing boxes throughout the town; and a special Amherst section arranged for at the Provincial Exhibition. He also gave some interesting figures upon the condition of the town from which I quote: Capital invested in leading industries, \$2,368,979; output of same, \$3,594,105; wages paid, \$717,409; number of employees, 1,870. The assessment of the town increased during the years 1904 from \$2,395,661, to \$2,617,905. The board passed a resolution endorsing the carriage factory proposition referred to in last letter. The officers were re-elected as follows: President, John McKeen, vice-president, C. A. Lusby; Secretary-treasurer, A. D. Ross.

—With the exception of the lathers, all the various branches of the building trades in Toronto went harmoniously to work on May 1st. The lathers, however, thought they were entitled to an advance in wages. At present, they get \$2.85 to \$3 for an eight-hour day, whereas they want a standard rate of \$3.50 per day. Most of the contractors refuse to entertain the idea of such an increase which they characterize as exorbitant, particularly as several of the building unions had already agreed to accept the prevailing rate of wages for another year.

The FIVE per cent. Debentures issued by this Company afford the following advantages:

The investment can be converted into cash at any time after two years by giving sixty days' notice.

The issue of Debentures is limited to an amount not exceeding 75 per cent. of the Paid-up Capital of the Company.

The total amount of Debentures to be issued will not exceed 20 per cent. of the value of properties under Mortgage to the Company.

The Debentures issued by the Company will be a first charge upon the assets.

5%
NET

Subscribed Capital,..... \$3,000,000.00
Paid-up Capital,over \$1,000,000.00
Assets,over \$1,400,000.00

The
British Columbia
Permanent Loan and
Savings Company,
VANCOUVER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA.