

STOCK EXCHANGES

CASCADE OF TRANSACTIONS

In Steel and Coal Shares, at Rapidly Advancing Prices, Was Feature of this Week's Markets—Cobalt Stocks and Dividends.

The feature of the markets this week has been the enormous turnover of Dominion Iron and Steel and Dominion Coal shares, especially the former. The reason ascribed for the large number of transactions and the rapidly advancing prices is the alleged contemplated amalgamation of the two companies, the merger to include perhaps the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal and others. Mr. Ross, it is stated, has been asked to sell his Coal holdings. At the time of going to press he is still adamant in refusal. One thing is obvious—someone is benefiting materially by the price appreciation of both securities. It may be that after certain objects have been obtained, the excitement will disappear, the merger story fizzle away, as it has done many times before, and the two companies proceed along the same lines as previously. Unless some special reason be advanced, it is difficult to see what great advantages would be served by the absorption of the Coal Company, especially in view of the strong position in which Mr. Plummer's concern now stands. Few ever know the real, basic reasons for movements such as experienced by the Steel and Coal securities this week. But if so-called "inside information" counts for anything, the Monetary Times may say that the amalgamation of the two companies is still very far distant.

Failure of Wyatt & Company.

While several brokers' failures have occurred in Toronto within the past twelve months, the majority have been branch houses of New York firms. This week Messrs. Wyatt & Company assigned for the benefit of creditors. It will be remembered that Major H. F. Wyatt, senior partner of this stock brokerage firm died suddenly last week. The market was again shocked on Monday with the announcement of the firm's suspension. The news was given out on the Toronto Stock Exchange at the opening of the morning board, but it had no effect on local securities. The liabilities of the firm are estimated at about \$125,000 and the creditors, chiefly customers of the firm, numbered about 60. The rapid advance of five points in Dominion Steel stock on the Toronto Exchange that followed the news of the firm's suspension was understood to be due to "buying under the rule," which occurs when a member of the Exchange fails to deliver stock for which he held contracts. The stock in question is then bought by the officials of the Exchange for the delinquent members who is charged with any deficit resulting therefrom. Stock Exchange officials denied that the buying of Steel stock had any connection with the suspension of Wyatt & Company. That view was held in Montreal when the suspension was announced there.

British Columbia Packers Dividend Undecided.

The total salmon pack for the Fraser River this year will be about 500,000 cases. About 70,000 cases were added to the pack previous to the close season, which began on August 25th and closed on September 15th. Since September 15th, the fish have been running fairly well, with sock-eyes in the majority. The run, though not unusually large, was better than expected. Prices have averaged about

17½c. per fish, though there are instances where the price went as high as 22½c. With the presence of Mr. Aemilius Jarvis, president of the British Columbia Packers' Association, on the Coast, it is stated that deferred dividends on both preferred and common stock would be declared, but officers of the company in Vancouver state that this has not yet been decided, and will not come up again until the next quarterly meeting in December.

The Consumers' Gas Company will apply for permission to add \$2,500,000 to the capital stock of the company. This will make its total stock issue \$6,000,000. Mr. Pearson, the company's general manager, when seen by the Monetary Times this week, stated that this matter would not come up for two or three months. The company has planned several enlargements to its plant, including the construction of a large gas holder.

Mexican Light and Power's Accident.

Much discussion has occurred regarding the accident which occurred in May at the Necaxa Dam. The secretary to the financial agency of the Mexican Government has issued the following statement: "The Mexican Light and Power Company have appealed to the Mexican Government to communicate the result of the inquiry made by the Government engineer as to the accident to the Necaxa dam, forming part of the hydraulic installations of that company, my Government has authorized me by cable to make the following statement, viz.: As soon as the accident occurred at the Necaxa dam in May last the Mexican Government commissioned an official engineer to proceed to the site of the accident and report upon the same and the future consequences on the works. From the engineer's report it appears that the dam was not permanently nor substantially damaged, and that the loss caused thereby amounts approximately to \$500,000 Mex. (about £50,000 sterling). The works necessary to entirely finish the dam, including the repairs caused by the accident, should be completed by the end of the present year." This puts a quietus on the dam accident for the present.

Cobalt Central's Position.

The passing of the Cobalt Central dividend did not affect its stock materially. It is quoted around 28, the price at which it stood early in 1908. The highest figure reached was 74 in December. Last year 70,525 shares changed hands. The dividend paid on February last was 2 per cent. and that on May 15th, 1 per cent. The latest financial statement of this company, published in February, showed cash on hand, due from smelters and ore ready for shipment, \$216,755. That left, after the payment of the February dividend of 2 per cent., \$121,525 applicable to the next quarterly dividend. Mr. T. A. Nevins, president, stated in his annual report that "By reason of recent improvements and developments at the mines this surplus will be materially increased by the next three months operation before the dividend is payable." It required apparently \$95,230 to pay a 2 per cent. dividend and on February 1st the company had \$121,525 for that purpose. Instead of the usual dividend or an increase, in May, it was reduced to 1 per cent. and, as stated, the September disbursement was passed altogether. The reason given is that large sums have been spent in the development of the new properties and additions to plant.

Silver Leaf Bows to Crown Reserve.

Silver Leaf stock did not act graciously as a result of the meeting of its shareholders on Monday, who ratified the proposed deal with Crown Reserve. Some opposition was heard from the Leaf stockholders, but it was pointed out that only \$20,000 was left in the treasury and the mine could not be run for more than four months on that sum. If, at the end of that period, no discovery of valuable ore occurred, the property would have had to be closed. The Silver Leaf property is to be leased to Crown Reserve interests for 5 years on a percentage basis of 25 per cent. of the gross receipts to go to the Silver Leaf. The agreement carries with it an option to renew at the expiry of the five years on a 35 per cent. gross basis. The Crown Reserve people agree to spend \$20,000 in developing the Leaf property the first year, and \$10,000 a year for the next four years. At the afternoon session on Monday on the Toronto Exchange the price declined to 13.

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Montreal, Oct. 7th.

On Tuesday forenoon Montreal stock-exchange lists had to be lengthened by two inches to take in the sales. The occasion for the activity was buyers' eagerness to get hold

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