

### QUERIES' COLUMN.

In order to furnish our readers with information we propose to devote this column to replies to correspondents. Letters should be addressed to "THE CHRONICLE, Enquiry Department, Montreal."

Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise his own discretion.

1439.—O. O. C., Vancouver.—The Sao Paulo Tramway Light and Power Company's year ends 31st December. For the year ending 31st December, 1904, the net earnings after deducting firm charges, were \$648,000.66. The company now pays 8 p.c. per annum in quarterly payments of 2 p.c. each. The meeting held on 25th April was the fourth annual meeting of the company. The earnings for the four years are as follows:—

	Gross	Operating expenses	Net income
1901 . . . .	\$ 749,676	\$468,719	\$262,957
1902 . . . .	1,123,285	417,916	705,369
1903 . . . .	1,303,175	403,748	899,427
1904 . . . .	1,419,338	477,556	941,782

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1440.—D. O. H., Quebec.—The par value of the shares of the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company is \$25 each. The highest for the stock was 520 p.c. in April, 1902. The company now pays quarterly dividends of 2½ p.c. or 10 p.c. per annum..

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1441.—K. T. N., Winnipeg.—Was not the capital stock of the Ottawa Fire Insurance Company reduced either by Act of Parliament or by rate of the shareholders?

Answer. The above company last year obtained a special Act from the Dominion Parliament authorizing it to write off a portion of its capital, which, originally, was as follows:

Capital subscribed, \$500,000; capital paid up, \$100,000. A call of 30 p.c., amounting to \$150,000 was made on the stockholders, after the Toronto and Baltimore conflagrations last year, which increased the paid-up capital to \$250,000. On the 31st December, 1904, the position of the company was as follows:

Capital subscribed, \$250,000; capital paid up, \$100,000. Total assets, \$219,902. Total liabilities (not including \$100,000 capital stock) \$126,719.

### NORWICH UNION FIRE INSURANCE SOCIETY.

The Toronto agency of the Society has been taken over by Mr. T. H. Mason and Mr. John A. Shaw, the firm name being Mason & Shaw, with offices at No. 38 Wellington St. East, Mr. Alex. Dixon having retired.

### BANK DIVIDENDS.

The following dividends have been declared for rates and payable on dates as follows:—

	Rate of divid'd.	When payable.	Annual Meeting.
Bank of Montreal.....	5 per cent.	1st June	.....
Canadian B'k of Commerce	3½ "	"	.....
Merchants Bank.....	3½ "	"	21st June
Bank of Toronto.....	5 "	"	.....
Imperial Bank.....	5 "	"	21st June
Standard Bank.....	5 "	"	21st June
Bank of Ottawa.....	4½ "	"	.....
Quebec Bank.....	3½ "	2nd June	5th June
Bank of Hamilton.....	5 "	1st June	.....
Union Bank.....	3½ "	2nd June	19th June
Ontario Bank.....	3 "	1st June	20th June
Traders Bank.....	3½ "	"	"
Banque d'Hochelaga.....	3½ "	"	.....
Sovereign Bank.....	1½, ¼ly "	15th May	.....
Banque de St. Jean.....	3 per cent.	2nd June	.....

### PROMINENT TOPICS.

THE STRIKE AT CHICAGO.—Scenes are being enacted at Chicago which are a scandal to civilization. Civic government is practically suspended when an irresponsible body of men are allowed to interfere with the free intercourse of citizens with the merchants, and those engaged in transportation services, both passengers and freight, are under the control of men who have no direct interest in such classes of business. The conditions now existing in Chicago are, in some respects, those which are imposed when a city is placed in a state of siege, the vital difference, however, being that a state of siege is regulated by constituted authorities in the interests of law and order, whereas, in Chicago, the interests of law and order are set openly at defiance in the interests of those who constitute a riotous mob. When a military force is engaged in maintaining a state of siege the ordinary traffic is merely regulated in order to protect citizens who desire to conduct their business and social affairs peacefully. In Chicago the movements of the business and social life of the city are being violently obstructed. Chicago will have a heavy bill to pay for damages done by the rioters, and its reputation and credit cannot fail to suffer severely from the failure of its authorities to afford adequate protection to business interests. Anarchy is a deadly foe to prosperity.

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PROPOSAL TO HAVE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS ELECTED.—A movement is afoot to change the plan in vogue in this city under which the school-commissioners are appointed. It is proposed to have all these officials elected at the same time and by the same constituency as the members of the City Council, one commissioner to be elected by each ward. A bill to this effect will probably be laid before the Provincial Legislature, but the details have not