

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Answers will only be given to such communications as bear the writer's name, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith, and only to questions referring to matters of general interest, in regard to which the Editor of Queries' Column will exercise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

1213.—N. G. Mc. V., Lancaster.—The Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault St. Marie Railway, is controlled by the C.P.R., their common stock issue is \$14,000,000, and preferred \$7,000,000, the C.P.R. own 7,066,600, of the common stock, and \$3,533,400 of the preferred stock, they also hold \$3,993,000 of the Bonds. The company owns and operates 1,453 miles of railway, and the gross earnings for the year ending 30 June, 1903 were \$7,293,743.26, and net earnings \$3,573,820.63.

1216.—W. J. C., Ottawa.—The net earnings of the Richelieu Ontario Navigation Company for the year ending 31st December, 1903, were \$189,632.57, which provided the dividend of 6 per cent., and allowed \$1,712.57 to be added to surplus, the capital stock fully paid up \$3,132,000, and there were at 31st December, 1903, \$404,420.02 of 5 per cent. sterling bonds outstanding, of which \$14,650 are shown as held by company.

1214.—B. W. K., Montreal.—The Canadian Colored Cotton Mills Co., has an authorized capital of \$5,000,000, of which \$2,700,000 is subscribed and paid up. There is also a Bond issue of \$2,000,000 bearing 6 per cent. per annum. The Company did not have a very satisfactory year, and although dividends of 1 per cent. quarterly have been paid regularly for some years past the stock is now selling in the neighborhood of 30.

1215.—D. B. D., London.—The Rhode Island Perkins Horse Shoe Company, manufactures Horse Shoes and Toe Calks, at Valley Falls, Rhode Island, capital \$1,000,000, common and \$1,750,000 preferred. The latter is 7 per cent. cumulative. It now pays 5 per cent., per annum.

1217.—M. L. P., Toronto.—The National Enameling and Stamping Company is a New Jersey Corporation. It pays 7 per cent., upon the preferred, which sells at about 80 and 4 per cent. on the common, now selling about 17.

1218.—G. G. W., Brantford.—There are several types of monorail roads, a section of one is now being constructed near Baltimore, when in full operation will inform you regarding it. It is claimed that a speed of 125 miles per hour can be developed on it.

PROMINENT TOPICS.

Differences have arisen between the Toronto Street Railway managers and the employees. A strike is probable. It is becoming almost a misfortune for an industrial enterprise to prosper, for as soon as it gives signs of successful management the employees endeavour to put an end to the prosperity, by striking. Under the law a dispute of this nature may be referred to a conciliation committee appointed by the Minister of Labour, made up of a representative of the railway, one of the men, and the third selected by the two former. Before going to extremes, we hope the company and the men will have the good sense to put their case in train for consideration by a conciliation committee. The real employers of the men are the public. A street railway conducts a public service which is as essential for the industrial classes as for others. A strike at this season would be most injurious to the interests of the citizens of Toronto.

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Bank amalgamation has been active in recent years in England. The latest is that the Lancashire and Yorkshire is to amalgamate with the Mercantile Bank of Lancashire. The bank will have a paid-up capital of \$4,000,000, a rest of \$2,850,000 and 120 branches.

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The Russian government has issued instructions that all the pupils in schools are to be taught what the war is about. The main point is that Russia is naturally expanding and acquires territory by far more humane and honourable means than England or the United States. When lands are seized by Russia it is for the good of the people. Russia colonizes in the interests of the peasants whereas other nations colonize in the interest of capitalists. With such buncombe the youth of Russia are to be stuffed by order of the government.

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When reading a narrative of the collision between a coal laden steamer and the passenger steamer "Canada" at Sorel, by which the latter was sunk, the question is suggested, why two such vessels should have been so near each other when in a channel a mile wide? A misunderstanding of signals may occur on the best navigated steamer, but this danger and others may be avoided altogether by boats keeping so far apart as to need no signalling beyond a salute.

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If the Japs capture Port Arthur Great Britain will have to retire from Wei-Hai-Wei, such being the terms of the treaty under which it came under British control. As the war progresses there will be other developments, the dangers of which may bring about negotiation for peace by the chief powers of Europe.