

yearly dividend out of earnings and one of arrears received from the Government, while the Ordinary has obtained one half-yearly dividend at the rate of 1 1-2 per cent. out of earnings and two payments on account of Government arrears. Since the final years of the last century up to the present announcement, the Second Preference and the Ordinary have received nothing, and the distribution on the Firsts has never reached the proper level of 8 per cent. Nevertheless, the earnings during the past five years have been steadily on the upgrade, and the return on the First Preference has gradually been approaching to the 8 per cent. level, which in the last six months was attained with a margin over.

#### INSURANCE.

The following letter has been addressed to the actuary and secretary of the Star Life Assurance Society:—

Dear Sir,—I understand that the Star Board have been made acquainted unofficially with the arrangement I and my friends have made with the Norwich Union for an alternative scheme of amalgamation to be considered in the event of our defeating the proposed scheme for sale to the United Kingdom Company. We were forced to take this step, bearing in mind your Chairman's statement that amalgamation was a necessity for the future welfare of the society.

"I now desire to inform you officially and to request you to convey to your Board that the Norwich Company are prepared to enter into negotiations for an amalgamation of interests on the following bases:—

"(a) The purchase of the Star shares at a price of 325 dollars net, plus interest, at the rate of 4 per cent. per annum from the date of signing the preliminary agreement to the date of completion of the amalgamation.

"(b) The guarantee to all with-profit policy-holders in the Star Company of an annual bonus at the rate of 30s per cent. on the sum assured from the date of completion of the amalgamation.

"(c) The taking power either by Act of Parliament or otherwise to initiate and carry on a temperance section for the combined offices.

"(d) The same or similar arrangements as should be mutually agreed for making due provision for directors, staff and solicitors as provided in the dropped agreement with the United Kingdom Company.

"(e) The retention of the name "Star" in the title of the combined offices.

"The adjustment of the numerous details would follow the acceptance of the proposed bases, but the Norwich Union would be prepared to keep all foreign and Colonial branches intact.

"I should be glad if you would communicate to me at as early a date as possible the decision of your Board. If it be favourable to the proposals, I should be glad to bring you and Mr. Deuchar together so that they may be fully discussed between you."

WALTER GRIFFITH.

6 Crosby-square, E. C., 26th Oct.

#### STOCK EXCHANGE NOTES.

Wednesday, P. M., November 7, 1906.

The banking of the open hearth furnaces and the closing down of the coke ovens by the Dominion Iron and Steel Company, owing to difficulties connected with the coal supply, the Hughes-Hearst election in New York State, the vote on the Detroit franchise question, and the Montreal Street Railway annual meeting, have all been influencing

factors in this week's market. When the news that the long standing friction between the Dominion Steel Company and the Dominion Coal Company had become acute, reached the market on Monday, it was immediately reflected in the price of the Steel Company's securities, more particularly in the Common stock which dropped three points. Yesterday's elections resulted in the victory of Hughes over Hearst, and has removed the uncertainty from this direction that has so long overshadowed the market. The outcome of the election, however, has shown that Mr. Hearst has a very strong hold on the community, and that he is a man to be reckoned with in politics, and the market, therefore, did not have the upward movement that had been looked for.

The voting in Detroit on the offer of the Detroit United Railway Company for a renewal of franchise went adversely to the Company, and the stock had a sharp decline at the opening, but has since recovered most of the lost ground. It may be necessary for the Company to grant a 3c fare in the city proper to obtain the extension they require, but with their extensive outside connections, their earning power should not be materially affected even if forced to give this seemingly low rate for transportation. In any event the Detroit Street Railway is in a strong position. Detroit Railway sold down to 87 1-2 to-day recovering to 89, a net loss of 3-4 of a point from last week's close. The trading brought out 4,038 shares. At its present price all contingencies seem well discounted, and if any further weakness should develop, it should be a purchase for a fair advance.

C. P. R. was inactive this week and only 125 shares were dealt in. The stock closed at an advance of 3-4 of a point with 175 1-4 bid. The earnings of this Company continue to show enormous increases, those for the last ten days of October amounting to \$528,000. Montreal Street Railway held steady around 257 to 258 all week, but this afternoon after the annual meeting at which the new issue of stock at 175 was authorized by the shareholders, it developed further weakness and sold down to 254 7-8 on sales of some 400 shares, the closing bid being 254 1-2, a decline of 3 full points from last week's closing quotation. Placing the stock on a par basis of \$100 shares and using the 75 per cent. premiums in betterments should not have a depreciating effect. The Dominion Iron securities have had a decline, but closed at a recovery from the lowest of the week. The Common on the announcement of the trouble with the Dominion Coal Company declined to 26, but has since recovered to 28 and closed with 27 1-2 bid, a net loss of 2 1-2 points for the week on sales of 3,570 shares. It was the third stock in point of activity in this week's market. The Preferred on sales of 226 shares declined to 76 and closed with 76 1-2 bid, a net loss of 2 1-4 points for the week. The Bonds were traded in to the extent of \$16,000, and closed with 82 bid. Toronto Railway and Twin City were inactive. The former closed unchanged from a week ago with 115 bid, and the total transactions of the week involved 97 shares. Twin City closed with 110 1-2 bid, an improvement on quotation of 1 1-2 points for the week, and 125 shares were dealt in.

There were no transactions in either Halifax Tram, Toledo Railway, or Northern Ohio Traction, while Illinois Preferred only figured in the trading to the extent of 15 shares. The closing bid of 93 for Illinois, however, shows a gain of 2 points over last week's closing quotation. There were no transactions in the Havana stocks this week, and the Common was not quoted at the close to-day, while the Preferred closed offered at 90 with no bid. The only transaction in R. & O. was 25 shares which changed hands at 81, and the stock closed at a fractional gain of 1-8 point with 81 bid. Mackay Common sales brought out