DOMINION IRON & STEEL CO.—*Continued.*

opinion of the value of our entire plant: our mines, quarries, furnaces, mills and all our profit. This is not a question I should be expected to answer. I will say, however, that I believe the total value of our assets considerably exceeds the amount of our liabilities.

In reply to further questions the president stated that the entire plant, with some exceptions scarcely worth considering in figures of such magnitude, is all needed for the company's purposes, and nearly all in use.

Mr. Morrison asked for information about the preferred dividend and the redemption of the second mortgage bonds.

The President: I will reply to you and to a previous enquirer at the same time. We do not regard the payment of the instalments of the second mortgage bonds as a fixed charge or properly chargeable against our earnings. It is merely the payment of a debt.

Our earnings for the past four months average a little over $73,000 a month, and our interest charges a little over $56,000 a month, leaving a balance of $17,000 a month to the good for sinking fund or other purposes. The earnings in the later months were better than in the earlier, so that we may fairly hope for an increase in the average.

The President then moved, seconded by Vice-President Forget, that the report be adopted, which was carried unanimously.

MR. KINGHORN: I would like to move this resolution: Resolved, that the thanks of the shareholders are due and are hereby tendered to Mr. Frederic Nicholls for his very great services to the company as its vice-president during a very critical and arduous period of its history, and that the shareholders regret his decision to withdraw from that position.

I am sure that those who have considered what Mr. Nicholls has done for the company at that time, will very heartily support this resolution.

MR. PITBLADO: I have very much pleasure in seconding this motion. On being put the motion was carried unanimously.

The President: In presenting this vote of thanks to Mr. Nicholls, I wish to add that the board officially, and the directors in their personal capacity, as his colleagues, have decided to present Mr. Nicholls with two pieces of silver, to serve as a momento of his connection with the company.

Mr. Nicholls: I thank you very much for your kindness in passing this vote of thanks. The work I have done in conjunction with your president has not lacked some pleasant features. From the first, after investigating the plant, although it was then in a very unsatisfactory condition, we were convinced that the industry could be put on a successful basis. We felt that it would be very detrimental to the interests of Canada at large, leaving aside the interests of the shareholders, if such an immense industry should be allowed to fail, and that we should be willing to make some personal sacrifices to save it. Now that it is all over I am pleased to have given the time to it, and from the start I had no thought of accepting any reward for my services. It was sufficient to have the co-operation of, and good will of the directors, who have supported both the chairman and myself in every possible way in the last three years.

At the same time, gentlemen, while you are passing me a vote of thanks, I think few of you realize how much you are indebted to the directors and others who subscribed for the second mortgage bonds at par when the first mortgage bonds were under 60 in the open market. They, as well as Mr. Plummer and myself, took hold of the situation. I have never known in all my experience a board of directors who took hold of a bad situation so heartily and who worked so directly in the interests of the shareholders, when their own interests might have led to an entirely different course. I am glad that my last remarks as vice-president should be devoted to pointing this out to you

Mr. George Caverhill: I move the following resolution: That this meeting learns with regret of the decision of Mr. Graham Fraser to retire from the office of director of works, and desires to express its high appreciation of the value of his services during his incumbency, and tenders the thanks of the shareholders and their best wishes for his continued health and happiness.

Mr. Fraser: I thank you very much for the hearty vote of thanks you have given me. I do not know that I can add much to what the president has said in the report as to the reason for my leaving. It was quite understood when I joined the company that it was only for a period, to help Mr. Plummer through with the work he had undertaken. We have succeeded fairly well, although there are some things that might have gone better and faster. However, we have made no mistakes, and we are gradually getting the tonnage up to a larger quantity, I have just received a telegram from the works showing a very great increase in the first half of October. If we do as well as for the balance of October, our total output for the five months ending 31st October, will be 37 per cent. greater than in the five months ending 31st May, with the promise of larger figures for the later months. We are now using the entire product of two blast furnaces in the open hearth plant for the production of steel, and the third furnace is ready to be started up. The steel plant can be furnished with eight or nine hundred tons of pig per day, and the company may look forward to using that quantity for steel.

A Shareholder: Will the rail mill roll it?

Mr. Fraser: Yes, the rail mill will roll eight hundred to a thousand tons in twenty-four hours if we keep it supplied with steel, and I think this can be accomplished.

I again thank you, gentlemen, for your kind vote of thanks.

A Shareholder: Have rails so far shown a fair profit?

The President: They have, although we would naturally have shown more if our practice from the first had been as good as it is now, but that could not be expected with a new mill and a new crew.

Mr. Fraser: As the workmen have become familiar with their work and the machinery has been got into shape, our results have improved very much. It was the same with the rod mill. We ran that lightly for some months, but we are now making regularly 250 tons a day; in one day—24 hours—we made 308 tons. The rail mill was worse, larger and more complex, but those who see it think it is just about as good as any mill.