Investments and the Market

Winnipeg Railway Valuation Lowered $9,000,000 by Utilities Commission—High Operating Expenses Cause Decline in C.P.R. Net—Good Showing by Montreal Power—Export Trade of Brandram-Henderson Making Advance

Port Hope Sanitary Manufacturing Co.—The annual statement of the company for the year ended January 31st, 1920, shows a net profit of $79,411. Current assets of the company amount to $302,834, and current liabilities, $71,116. Reserves, including income war tax and other contingencies, amounts to $83,688.

Winnipeg Street Railway Co.—According to the report made by the Public Utilities Commission before Commissioner MacDonald in the street car fare case, the valuation of the company is placed at $20,023,236. E. Anderson, K.C., counsel for the company, claimed that there should be added to this amount approximately $1,000,000 for under-valuation and $8,000,000 for intangibles, such as working capital, going value, property worn out and destroyed, and increase in land values and franchise values. In all, the company claimed a total valuation of $29,000,000.

Canadian Niagara Power Co.—At the annual meeting of the Canadian Niagara Power Co. and the Niagara Falls Power Co. at Niagara Falls, Ont., on March 26th, the members of the respective boards were re-elected. They are as follows: Canadian Niagara—President, A. Monro Grier; general manager, Paul A. Schoellkopf; vice-president, Wm. H. Brouse; secretary, F. L. Durdan; treasurer, W. Paxton Little. Niagara Falls Power Co.—Chairman of directors, Jacob L. Schoellkopf; president, Paul A. Schoellkopf; vice-president, C. P. Hugo Schoellkopf; vice-president and general counsel, Morris Kahn, Jun.; secretary, Frederick L. Lovelace; treasurer, W. Paxton Little.

Ames-Holden-McCready, Ltd.—The annual meeting of the company was held in Montreal on March 25th last, and, with two exceptions, the board of directors was re-elected. W. B. Wiegand, formerly chief chemist of the Canadian Consolidated Rubber Co., was added to the board, and Lieut.-Col. C. W. McLean was elected to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Shirley Ogilvie.

The annual report was read and approved, and during the meeting the president, T. H. Reider, stated that the tire factory at Kitchener was in operation, the tire exhibit at the meeting being one of the first manufactured by the company. After adjournment, the shareholders made a tour of inspection of the extensions to the Montreal factory, which is being equipped to produce rubber and canvas footwear, automobile tubes, waterproofed fabrics, etc.

Canadian Pacific Railway.—Net earnings of the company for February, 1920, according to the monthly statement just made public, amounted to $713,873, which figure is $267,242 under the level reported in the corresponding month a year ago. Gross receipts from operation in the month were the most substantial ever reported by the company in any February since its existence, the gain in this respect being almost $2,500,000 over the figures for the same period in 1919, and over $4,000,000 in excess of those for February 1918. Working expenses, on the other hand, increased by $2,760,179 in the month, bringing about the poorer exhibit in the net for the period. The ratio of working costs to gross earnings in the period stood at 94.73 per cent., against 91.1[illegible] per cent. in February, 1919, while for the two expired months of the current calendar year the ratio was 95.27 per cent. compared with 89.48 per cent. in the corresponding period last year.

Montreal Light, Heat and Power Co.—In January, 1920, the company reported gross earnings of $1,081,800, as against $1,001,556 in the same month of the previous year, a gain of $17,244. Net earnings amounted to $538,655, as against $536,063, a gain of $2,592, and the surplus, after charges, was $448,496, against $445,294. For the months of December and January, the total gross amounted to $2,026,133, up from $1,951,201, a gain of $74,932. The net earnings were $1,066,619, as compared with $1,041,447, or a gain of $25,172, and the surplus, after charges, was $886,501, against $859,827, an increase of $26,674. The net February statement will, it is expected, show an even larger increase than the two previous months.

December, January and February are regarded as big months for consumption of gas and electric light, owing to the short days, but cost of coal and other products had the effect of lowering the net earnings. In view of this fact, however, the showing the company is considered to be an exceptional one.

Western Power Co. of Canada.—The annual report of the company shows that operating revenues in 1919 were $472,522, as compared with $448,709 in 1918, an increase of about 5.30 per cent. Operating expenses for the year amounted to $185,486, an increase of $22,067, or 13.50 per cent. over 1918. The chief causes of the increase were higher wages and taxes, exchange on transfers of funds to New York to pay first mortgage bond and debenture coupons and large appropriations for maintenance and depreciation. Non-operating revenues decreased $5,943 and gross income decreased $4,198, or 1.43 per cent. During the year $39,814 was expended for construction, the most important items being extensions to the transmission and distribution systems to supply power to new customers.

Total assets are $12,687,536, of which $11,233,492 is property account, capital liabilities are $5,850,000, and funded debt $6,500,000.

The company operates in Vancouver and district states, and because of the reduction of the amount of power supplied to the British Columbia Electric Railway, Ltd., necessitated by a period of low water in Stave Lake in October and November, the revenue from that source was about one per cent. less than during the preceding year, while the increase in commercial lighting sales was slightly greater than the decrease in commercial power earnings.

Steel Co. of Canada, Ltd.—The annual statement of the company for 1919 shows gross profits of $4,000,940, as compared with $5,367,120 in 1918 and $6,040,318 in 1917. The necessity in both the latter years of making allowances for the excess cost of construction of coke ovens and other plant due to war conditions did not exist last year, thus rendering the showing in the way of gross earnings at well up to the levels of the best record reached by the company in this respect. After allowance was made in the 1918 and 1917 statements for these writings off, there remained a balance a year ago of $3,932,669, and in the previous period, one of $4,233,832, as against the 1919 showing of $4,000,940, so that the earnings result of the year, so far as application to ordinary requirements is concerned, ranks second only to the record performance of 1917, when war conditions and their resultant prosperity to the iron and steel business were at their zenith.

The balance sheet shows further strengthening in the position of the company. Total assets are now $47,660,389, as compared with $45,652,831 in 1918. Current assets, although somewhat below the 1918 figure, show that the working capital of the company is in a splendid position. Cash on hand amounts to over $2,000,000, and inventories total over $5,500,000. Investments in other enterprises, including coal and ore properties, increased in the year by