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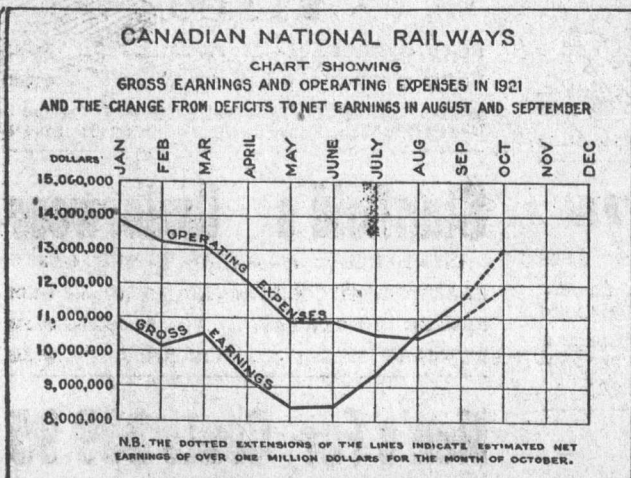
The William Weld Co., London, Ontario

NATIONAL RAILWAYS PROSPECTS BRIGHTEN

The improved financial showing of the Canadian National Railways for the months of August and September has received general and favorable comment in the Press throughout the country. It will be of interest to the public to see in graphic manner the monthly advances made since the beginning of the year.

The accompanying chart shows that Operating Expense, as indicated by the upper line, on the chart, were

brought down month by month, and that they grew gradually towards a meeting with a lower line, which indicates the Gross Earnings. In August the lines met and crossed, showing a small margin to the good for that month, in September the widening gap between the lines indicates net earnings of more than a half million dollars. The trend of the "sweeps" or "curves" as they are sometimes termed, predict a much better showing in October.



Those who were in close touch with the situation, and who knew what was being done to bring about operating economies, could see well in advance that a continuation of these measures with the usual increases in volume of traffic would bring the lines together, and that with the seasonal crop movement, they should cross. It was hardly expected that the month of August would show net earning but reduction in the costs of materials and supplies, coupled with the readjustments of wages, and the increase of Gross Earnings, were factors which, combined, enabled the management to produce a small balance on the right side for August. The crop movement in September was sufficient to enable the much better showing made in that month.

A feature of the situation, which constituted a great difficulty encountered by the management in their endeavors to wipe out the deficit, is graphically displayed by the chart which shows that Gross Earnings dropped after February; that month's Gross is usually the lowest in any year, and, commencing with March, gross earnings invariably improve; but during the present year a new

condition prevailed; the earnings in the months of April, May, June and were lower than those in the months of January and February. This slump in business was general, and affected all lines. If the usual trend of earnings had been followed, the operating economies effected would have brought the lines together at an earlier date.

The chart also shows that the greater reductions in operating expenses were obtained prior to July; this should dispose of the view that the reduction in expenses was largely brought about by the readjustment of wages, effective July 16th.

The Canadian National Railways earlier in the year, informed the people of Canada, by a series of frank explicit articles in the public press, of some of its problems, and in particular, of the pressing need of more traffic. The improvement in the relative position of the National lines has been accomplished, not only by the reductions of operating costs, but, also through the co-operation of the public that realized the truth of the statements made on the National Railway behalf, and who have met the situation in a practical way.

ARKONA

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Roder of Newton, N. J., returned home after a month's visit, accompanied by their daughter, Mrs. John C. Vidi, and granddaughter, Lyle G. Vidi, for the holiday season.

Mr. Norman Stoner is attending the Guelph Winter Fair. Mr. Stoner is an exhibitor of Shorthorns.

Mr. John Sercombe is showing his 3-year-old Clydesdale stallion at the Guelph Winter Fair.

The following parties are called to the trial in Sarnia: Mr. W. J. Clarke, Thos. Grogan, A. E. Stoner, B. Morningstar, Jas. Evans, Thos. Pressey, Glen Miller and Robt. Fitzsimmons.

W. R. Dawson, Inwood, D.D.G.M., of St. Clair District, No. 2, paid his official visit to Arkona Lodge, A. F. & A. M., last Wednesday. He also dedicated the new Masonic Hall, assisted by the following past D. D. G.M.'s of the district: P. P. Winn, D. D. Brodie, John Morrison, Rev. S. P. Irwin. Other brethren were present from Forest, Watford, Kingsville, Thedford, Kitchener and Alvinston.

C. J. Ready and Hugh Johnston have returned from visiting the Texas oil fields.

Real estate is still moving, R. G. Dowding has purchased James Dowding property on Victoria street, and M. H. Chamberlain of Wheatley has bought house and lot on Centre street from E. George.

George Jannay, Sr., aged 93, died last Saturday. The funeral took place Monday. Rev. Mr. Moore of Strathroy assisted Rev. C. L. Couzens who conducted the service.

The continuation school here is purchasing a lot of new equipment amounting to over \$150.

KERWOOD

(Too late for last week.)

Mrs. Capt. Wright of Sarnia has returned home after visiting her sister, Mrs. H. Kerr.

A very successful meeting of the Ladies' Aid was held last week at the home of Mrs. Frank Wright when about forty of the ladies met for sewing and plans were made in connection with the Fowl Supper on Monday evening.

Mr. Forest Denning of Burlington was the guest of his mother, Mrs. Elmer Langford, over Sunday.

Miss Nellie McMahon of Watford, Mrs. Morrison (formerly Miss Irene Poole) of Sarnia, were guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. McMahon.

The U. F. O. have installed a new cleaner in the grain elevator which is a big improvement from the old way.

Mrs. Orval Dowding of Port Huron, is visiting at Mr. G. J. Dowdings.

The thanksgiving meeting held at Mrs. Geo. Freers last week was a decided success both financially and socially, the ladies went home satisfied that the afternoon had been well spent.

The Women's Institute will meet on Friday afternoon, Dec. 16th, at the home of Miss Josie Callaghan at the usual hour, 2.30, and will the committees in charge kindly note the change in date and work accordingly. A very pleasant time is anticipated. All are welcome to come and join our flourishing society.

The Woman's Missionary Society will meet on Dec. 15th, Thursday afternoon at the home of the President, Mrs. Geo. Johnson. A good attendance is requested.

The Ladies' Aid of St. Paul's church will meet at the home of Mrs. Clifford Freer on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 14th, at 2 o'clock. A large attendance is asked for.

The Mission Circle will meet on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 10th, at the home of Miss Reta Denning. A good program is being planned.

The Misses Richards of Melbourne were guests of Miss Hazel Patterson over the week end.

Dr. and Mrs. Brown of Melbourne, spent a day renewing old acquaintance.

A saw mill is being erected in the village just south of the railroad crossing, by Messrs. Humphries and Petch.

Mrs. T. Landsborough of Hyde Park visited friends in the village and vicinity.

Mr. John Richardson and daughter Miss Eva, of Petrolia, visited the former's father, Mr. John Richardson.

Messrs. Elton and Ernest Freer and Miss Alma Freer of Petrolia visited relatives here lately.

ESSEX FARMER BEATEN AND ROBBED

Dirving on the River Front road, a mile east of Island View Hotel, at 10 o'clock Saturday night, Wilfrid Adams, a farmer of Amherstburg, was held up by two men and robbed of \$2,300 in cash. The spot where the hold-up took place is a dark and lonely one.

Although the bandits were armed Adams put up a stiff fight and was only subdued after he had been

beaten almost into unconsciousness. After robbing their victim the men threw him out of his auto, in which they drove off in the direction of Windsor. The police are holding William Rowen for investigation in connection with the robbery. Rowan is said to have admitted being with Adams earlier in the evening. He told a rambling story, declaring he also had been robbed.

Adams was removed to Hotel Dieu, where 25 stitches were taken in his scalp. His condition is said to be serious.

Just what Adams was doing with such a large amount of money in his possession the police as yet have been unable to learn.

SAW THE BRITISH BURN BUFFALO

Mrs. Elizabeth Clark, colored, of Fort Erie, died Nov. 27th, at the age of one hundred and fifteen years. Buzial took place in Saint Paul's Episcopal Church yard, Fort Erie.

Mrs. Clark was an eye-witness of the burning of the village of Buffalo by the British troops in 1814. Her father was killed in that engagement. At that time her father was employed in Buffalo as a cook.

Mrs. Clarke was born in Virginia, the daughter of free parents, who came north when she was about two years old, and lived for a time in Fort Erie. They later went to Buffalo and lived there during the war.

Returning to Fort Erie about 1820 the young girl married Richard Clark a stage-coach driver, who lived until 1896. She remembered nearly all the earlier history of this part of the country, and only a few months ago recounted to a reporter the vivid details of the Fenian raid of 1866. Her extreme age was hardly doubted, and is authenticated by many of the oldest residents of Fort Erie, who remembered her as an old woman when they were children. The last time she was seen on the streets was in 1918. When she had walked up the steep hill to her home after a trip to the store, she admitted that she was not as strong as formerly. About that time she ceased to do her house work. Her daughter, Mrs. Ellen Francis, of Rochester, coming home to take care of her. She was confined to her bed, however, for only the last four weeks. Tom Clark, himself over eighty years old, and Mrs. Francis, are the only surviving members of a family of seven children.

Mrs. Shrapnell, Watford, is requested to call at the Guide-Advocate for two tickets to the Lyceum Weekly Movies tonight (Friday).

PUBLIC LARGELY TO BLAME

Delay or Misdelivery of Mail Often the Result of Carelessness in Addressing.

A bulletin issued by the post office department at Ottawa points out that whenever delay or misdellivry of a letter occurs, the sender or the addressee is prone to adversely criticize the post office. Frequently, however, delay or misdellivry is due to the carelessness of the public in failing to properly address the mail matter in question. During three days this month 128,000 pieces of incorrectly and insufficiently addressed mail matter were handled at 55 of the larger post offices. This is a daily average of 42,800 for the 55 offices or at a rate of 16,000,000 for a year of 365 days. Much trouble is due to careless writing, to the use of a pencil in writing the address and failure to give the proper street address. With the Christmas season at hand, bringing immense quantities of mail to be dealt with, it will be necessary that the public adopt more careful methods in the preparation of its mail matter, if the daily average of misdirected mail is not to amount to an overwhelming figure.

In this connection the following points to be observed are pointed out:—Prepay postage fully; address plainly and fully; place name and address of sender on all mail matter; carefully pack and wrap all articles sent by parcel post, but do not seal the parcels as sealed parcels are subject to letter rate of postage; mail Christmas parcels early; insure valuable parcels.

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