

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN TARIFF.

Several important changes in the tariff were announced by Hon. W. T. White, in the course of his budget speech on Monday. The most important are those affecting the steel industry. New duties in the interests of this industry have been imposed as follows:—

1. To raise the duty on all iron and steel beams up to 120 pounds per lineal yard to \$4.25, British preference, \$6 intermediate and \$7 general tariff per ton. At the present time this is the scale of duty for such products weigh-up to 35 pounds per lineal yard; for beams weighing 35 pounds and over the tariff is \$2, \$2.75 and \$3 in each case. This change will give encouragement to the manufacturers to turn out a large tonnage of the heavier products which, at the time the present scale of duties was determined on were not manufactured in Canada to any extent. The Algoma Steel Corporation for one had announced its intention to extend construction to such products if the tariff rates were changed.
2. To place a duty of \$2.25, British preferential, and \$3.50, intermediate and general, per ton on wire rods, with the qualification that a draw-back of duty will be allowed in respect of wire of 9, 12 and 13 gauges for wire fencing on farms. The duty proposed will give encouragement to the Dominion Steel Corporation and the Steel Company of Canada, who have no protection for the wire rods which they manufacture, while nails which are made from the rods are protected to the extent of about 30 per cent. The new duty, Mr. White stated, was opposed by nail makers other than the companies at Sydney and Hamilton.
3. To raise the duty on all wrought or seamless tubing up to 10 inches in diameter to 20 per cent., British preferential, 30 per cent. intermediate and 35 per cent. general. This duty presently applies only to tubing 4 inches or less in diameter; over 4 inches the tariff rates are 10, 12½ and 15 per cent. respectively.

Other than these changes, Mr. White announced principally an increase in the existing drawback of the duty on imported pig iron subsequently used in the manufacture of articles for export and the placing of charcoal as fuel for pig iron production on the free list. Bituminous coal, when imported for the purpose of manufacturing coke for smelting and foundry use, will be allowed a drawback of duty of 99 per cent.

Regarding agricultural implements, Mr. White announced that it had been decided to make a cut in the duty on harvesters, reapers, binders and mowers, from seventeen and a half per cent. to twelve and a half per cent. Other minor changes are also being made. There will be no "free wheat," the Government preferring to await developments following the completion of the new transcontinentals, the Hudson Bay Railway, and the opening of the Panama Canal. There will be also no iron ore bounties. The importation of aigrettes will be prohibited after January 1, 1915.

Canadian Consolidated Rubber's report shows net sales for 1913, of \$6,788,859, compared with approximately \$8,000,000 in the previous year. Operating profit for the year was \$910,770, total gross income being \$1,000,575. Net income after payment of bond and other interest, cash discounts to customers and bad debts amounted to \$407,060. Beyond this there is a further deduction of \$16,411 for expenses of the previous period not provided for, leaving net profits available for dividends of \$390,649. Dividends on preferred and common stocks are grouped in one item of \$250,907. The net addition carried forward to surplus was, therefore, \$139,742, bringing total surplus at the close of the year up to \$2,129,639.

BANK OF VANCOUVER.

The Bank of Vancouver has given notice of its intention to seek the approval of the Treasury Board for a by-law reducing its capital stock from \$876,713.15 to \$587,400. The terms of the by-law are in the main as follows:—

Whereas the paid-up capital of the Bank of Vancouver is the sum of \$876,713.15;

And whereas \$822,300 thereof has been in respect of 8,223 shares which have been subscribed and issued as fully paid and the remaining \$54,413.15 has been paid in respect of 3,524 shares which have been subscribed but not issued, there being due and payable to the said Bank in respect thereof for calls and instalments the sum of \$297,986.85;

And whereas it is desirable to provide a contingent fund estimated at \$450,000 as a provision against depreciation of investments in railway and other bonds and stocks, and of the bank premises and fixtures, and to provide for all bad, doubtful and overdue accounts and the balance of organisation expenses, and for this purpose to reduce the capital stock of the said The Bank of Vancouver as hereinafter provided:

Therefore, the shareholders of the Bank of Vancouver now assembled in annual general meeting enact as follows:—

The subscribed capital stock of the Bank of Vancouver is hereby reduced to \$587,400 divided into 5,874 shares of the par value of \$100 each, and each shareholder shall be entitled to one fully paid-up share of \$100 for each \$200, exclusive of premium, whether of paid-up capital owned or held by him or of calls and instalments due and payable by him in respect of his shares at the date of the passing of this by-law to be issued to him as fully paid up when all such calls and instalments shall have been paid.

This by-law shall come into operation and be of force and effect after a certificate approving thereof has been issued by the Treasury Board in pursuance of the Bank Act.

LOAN COMPANIES' LEGISLATION.

On consideration by the Banking and Commerce Committee of the new Loan Companies' Bill, the important clause regulating the powers of investment of loan companies again came up. Hon. W. T. White urged that a loan company should be in such condition that in case of large demands from depositors it would have liquid investments sufficient to be readily turned into cash. If its investments are limited to mortgages this forces it to keep large sums in the banks. He would give it power to invest in debentures, bonds, call loans, etc., to a large percentage of its paid-up capital. The committee left the fixing of that percentage to a future meeting.

The clause regarding liabilities to the public was amended by adding the words: "And reserve." It reads: "The total of companies' liabilities shall not exceed four times the amount paid upon actually paid-up and unimpaired capital stock and reserve."

Such companies are to be permitted to hold for their use and occupation real estate to the value of thirty-five per cent. of capital and reserve.

Another clause which was approved provides that if directors declare any dividend which impairs or diminishes the paid-up capital of the company the directors who concur are jointly and severally to be liable for the amount of such dividend.