

ASBESTOS CORPORATION OF CANADA.

How a big Canadian Corporation formerly carrying on most of its trade with Germany was able to find new channels of trade and to do an increased business is told by the Asbestos Corporation of Canada in its annual report. In the days before the war over half of Canada's asbestos found its way to Germany and Austria. When war was declared the Asbestos Corporation of Canada turned to Great Britain and other fields for markets and were not only able to hold their own, but to do an increased business. The earnings made by the company in 1915 are 43 per cent in excess of those made in 1913 the last full year before the war.

Profits for 1915 were \$386,377, an increase of \$43,141, or about 12½ per cent over 1914, and an increase of \$115,445, or about 42½ per cent over 1913. That is, it was the best year for the company in its present form. After appropriating \$142,782 for betterments, renewals, etc., or about \$58,000 more than in 1914, and paying the usual bond interest, \$93,594 was added to surplus against \$68,183 the previous year. Comparisons of profit and loss figures for three years follow:

	1915.	1914.	1913.
Profits	\$386,377	\$343,236	\$270,932
Less:			
Renewals, etc	142,782	85,052	67,416
Spec. res.		40,000	
Bond int.	150,000	150,000	148,750
Total deduc.	\$292,782	\$275,052	\$216,166
Surplus	\$93,594	\$68,183	\$54,765
Prev. surp.	191,031	122,847	68,082
Tot. surp.	\$284,626	\$191,031	\$122,847

NEW GRADE STANDARDS FOR COTTON.

Eleven new grade standards for cotton have been promulgated by the United States Secretary of Agriculture under authority of the Cotton Futures Act. These eleven new grades relate exclusively to "yellow tinged," of which there are five grades; "yellow stained," of which there are three grades, and "blue stained," of which there are three grades. Under the act only those grades listed, approved and promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture can be offered for delivery on a legal future contract. The following are the standards for color of American cotton which have been established and promulgated:

- Yellow tinged cotton of the grade of low middling.
- Yellow tinged cotton of the grade of strict low middling.
- Yellow tinged cotton of the grade of middling.
- Yellow tinged cotton of the grade of good middling.
- Yellow tinged cotton of the grade of strict middling.
- Yellow stained cotton of the grade of middling.
- Yellow stained cotton of the grade of strict middling.
- Yellow stained cotton of the grade of good middling.
- Blue stained cotton of the grade of middling.
- Blue stained cotton of the grade of strict middling.
- Blue stained cotton of the grade of good middling.

WILL MANUFACTURE MUNITIONS.

The Algoma Steel Corporation at Sault Ste. Marie are completing arrangements for the manufacture of munitions in their Soo plant. A contract has been awarded the McPhail and Wright Construction Company for the erection of a new building on the site which was formerly the company's saw mill. The new structure, which will be 350 feet long by 120 feet wide, will cost fifty thousand dollars and the contract calls for the completion of the work in thirty days.

PERSONALS.

W. A. Matheson, general manager of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., was elected a director of the Monarchs Life on January 27th.

F. H. Eaton, late president of American Car and Foundry Co., left an estate of over \$1,000,000.

CANVAS SHOES.

According to a statement by General Sir Sam Hughes in the Commons on Feb. 7, the Canadian Militia Department has purchased 485,000 pairs of canvas shoes since August 4, 1914.



MR. W. G. ROSS,
President Asbestos Corporation of Canada.

FISH DAY—FEBRUARY 29th.

Canada's fish day takes place in two weeks, on the twenty-ninth of the month, Leap Year Day. This excellent institution cannot be too highly praised and encouraged, and every effort should be put forth not only to make the fish consumed by Canadians on "Fish Day" greater than on any day before, but also to make that date the beginning of a new and larger life for the fish trade. In order to bring this about the women of the country must be reached. It is they, when all is said and done, who buy the fish, cook the fish, and most important of all—ay, there's the rub—wash up after the fish. "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world." Be that as it may, no one can deny that the hand that rocks the cradle rules the fish trade. Appeal to her then, stimulate her imagination, teach her the economic and nutritious value of this staple, do more than that, assure her satisfaction. Unfortunately the bulk of the retail fish trade is not handled by regular fish dealers, as is the case in England, but by butchers, who doubtless are experts in their own line. The result is that the preparation of the fish is very uncertain, and the range of varieties is small, and in the suburbs, only procurable once or twice a week. A piece of boiled halibut may reach the table perfect in every way, or again there may be just a few scales left on, enough to spoil the whole dish, due to unskilled preparation. A slice of finnan haddie may be delicious, or again it may be dry, with a hard brittle crust at the edges, and similarly a breakfast kipper may be sweet, juicy and tender, or else salty, dry and tough. The quality is not dependable, though the prices are. It is the fault of our system. Co-operate with the women of the country guarantee them uniformity, and the excellence the quality of our fish, as drawn from the sea, deserves, and they will in their turn co-operate and make this first Fish Day and the days following a wonderful success.

SOUTH AFRICA A SUGAR PRODUCER.

South Africa is fast making herself independent of the rest of the world in the matter of sugar supply, according to consular reports from Cape Town just made public by the United States Department of Commerce.

The bulk of the sugar supplies in South Africa is obtained from Natal and Zululand, the principal districts raising sugar cane. Up to 1915 it was necessary from time to time to import sugar, but the local production has now reached approximately 118,000 tons, which practically represents the consumption in the Union. Of this 118,000 tons, about 5,000 tons were imported from Portuguese West Africa under an agreement with the old Transvaal Government, whereby it is admitted free of import duty.

It is stated that no American sugar, with the exception of cubes, has been imported for the last three years. American cubes have come in because the English cubes were not obtainable. The American cube is of excellent quality, but is somewhat large in size. There should be a continued demand for this line now that it has been established here, as the Natal cube is poor.

The production of sugar in South Africa is fast increasing, and it will not be long before a field for export will have to be found.

MONDAY STOCK MARKET.

Following the close of the New York markets on Saturday both New York and the local stocks showed some improvement Monday morning.

On the local list Scotia, Lyall, and Detroit were the most active. Scotia after the splendid showing made in their annual report sold at from 98 to 99. Detroit United remains strong around the closing figures of last week, while Lyall just came to life on Monday.

On the whole there is a decidedly strong undertone to the market and brokers are predicting increased activity and higher prices before many weeks.

It is certain that every concern making war munitions is in a favorable position and as their name is legion the whole list should respond to the favorable factors.

U.S. DYESTUFF PRODUCTION EXAGGERATED.

According to a statement made by the chairman of a joint conference committee, composed of representatives of twenty-nine associations in the United States affected by the dyestuff situation, in a letter to the Secretary of Commerce, there are only three concerns in the United States which at the present time are actually producing finished dyestuffs in any quantity worthy of consideration. These companies are now producing approximately 6,500 tons per year, consisting mostly of blacks. The letter refutes the statements made by Dr. Thomas Norton, special agent of the Department of Commerce, that the United States was producing about one-half of the quantity of dyes consumed annually before the war shut of supplies from Europe, and gives a detailed account of the present activities in the industry.

The concerns now manufacturing dyestuffs in the United States are: The Schoellkopf Aniline and Chemical Works at Buffalo, who are now producing at the rate of approximately 3,500 tons of dyestuffs per year, of which 65 per cent consists of blacks, presumably direct cotton black and sulphur black, and the rest is made up of a few other direct cotton dyestuffs and some wool colors. The W. Beckers Aniline and Chemical Works of Brooklyn, appear to be producing 2,000 tons of dyes per year, principally of chrome mordant colors for wool dyeing based on logwood and galloxyanin and a couple of acid blues and a few basic colors such as methyl violet, navy blue and basic black. The Bayer Company of Rensselaer, are producing about 900 tons of basic dyes chiefly.

EASTERN CAR COMPANY.

The Eastern Car Company a subsidiary of the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company has had a most profitable year. All the common stock of the Eastern Car Company is held by "Scotia".

The Eastern Car statement for the year ending November 30, had shown profits of \$359,746, out of which it had paid bond interest and all accrued dividends on the preferred stock and carried forward a balance from the year's operations of \$225,460. Since the end of the Car Company's fiscal year that company had completed the balance of a large foreign order, with a profit of \$230,000, and has on their book at present date further orders for three thousand cars.

COMMANDEERED WHEAT.

An official statement in regard to the commandeering of wheat given out by the Government shows that the Government has commandeered 13,621,806 bushels of wheat last year. Authority for the purchase had been cabled by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on November 23rd. Some 8,051,968 bushels had been loaned back to the dealers or operators, a deposit of 10 cents per bush, being required on wheat loaned from eastern elevators, and when loaned from terminal elevators bills of lading and official commandeered wheat certificates were retained until the grain was paid back. There had been shipped from Canada to date 4,296,617 bushels, the shipments being made or under order to the committee of the Allies.

GRAIN ON WESTERN FARMS.

According to Commissioner J. P. Jones, of the Dominion Grain Commission, who has just completed a tour of investigation through the Western Provinces, only some 40 per cent of the grain to be moved East has yet been taken out, and not less than 200,000,000 bushels of the 1915 crop remains to be shipped before the new crop of 1916.

AGRICULTURE RECEIVED FEB 25 1916

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