

hereafter the power of municipal councils to exempt property of any kind from taxation be conditional upon the by-law or by-laws being first submitted to and receiving the assent of the duly qualified ratepayers, as in the case of money by-laws.

13. That as regards the apportioning of the cost of sewers, sidewalks, pavements and street openings, effect be given in such cases as outlined in our report under the heading "Local Improvements," believing that the suggestions offered will result in an equitable distribution in such cases of the charges in proportion to the benefits received.

Lands Sold for Taxes

14. That in connection with applications by municipalities for titles to lands purchased at tax sales, the procedure be simplified, and the cost reduced in such cases in land titles offices.

15. That the provisions of sections 129 and 144 of "The Assessment Act" be amended so as to do away with suit and distress for taxes in cases where the owner of land has a title thereto in fee simple.

16. That "The Succession Duties Act" be so amended as to ensure greater revenues from larger estates.

17. (a) That we approve of the following as being proper sources of provincial revenue:—Corporation taxation, railway taxation, succession duties tax, supplementary revenue tax, unoccupied lands tax, automobile tax, the amusement tax. (b) As regards the amusement tax, we recommend that this form of taxation be abolished so soon as the government sees its way clear to substitute other sources of revenue to take its place. (c) That the annual revenue from automobile licenses be earmarked for expenditure upon roads constructed under the provisions of the Good Roads Act.

Investments and the Market

Shredded Wheat Gross Earnings Increased — Laurentide Power Company's Income Reduced — Shawinigan Power Earned 7.3 Per Cent. on Common Stock — Gain in Receipts of Mackay Companies Offset by Higher Operating Expenses — William A. Rogers' Report Reflects Recovery

Dominion Power and Transmission Co.—At the annual meeting of the company in Hamilton on February 16, gross earnings were reported as \$3,477,386 and operating expenses \$2,287,704. The surplus earnings were \$700,750. Col. J. R. Moodie, president, said that the company expected to increase its waterpower development to 135,000 horse-power. The following directors were re-elected: Sir John Gibson, Col. J. R. Moodie, James Dixon, W. C. Hawkins, Lloyd Harris, Charles E. Neill, C. A. Birge, W. E. Pinn, Robert Hobson and John Dickenson.

Shredded Wheat Co.—The financial statement of the company just issued shows that gross earnings in its last fiscal year exceeded \$2,000,000 and the net \$1,378,450. The latter was an increase over the previous year of more than \$450,000. The balance sheet shows a gain in cash of some \$22,000, a decrease of about \$240,000 in the amount invested in securities and a corresponding increase in the amount invested in subsidiary companies. The surplus shows a gain of nearly \$470,000 as a result of the year's operations. Investments in stock showed a decrease of nearly \$250,000, as compared with the preceding year, while investments in subsidiary companies increased over \$250,000. Total assets in 1919 were \$11,691,207, as compared with \$11,433,623 in 1918. Reserves increased nearly \$100,000 last year.

Shawinigan Water and Power Co.—The financial report of the company for 1919 has just been issued, and shows that earnings on the common stock of \$20,000,000 amounted to 7.3 per cent., as compared with earnings on the \$16,342,500 common stock in the preceding year of 8.8 per cent. Gross earnings increased about \$100,000 to \$3,727,045, expenses increased \$10,000 to \$1,296,187, leaving a balance after depreciation and reduced bond interest of \$1,473,743, as compared with \$1,410,093 in 1918. The surplus after dividends and reserves amounted to \$12,841, which added to the previous surplus of \$17,710 brings present surplus up to \$30,551.

The balance sheet of the company shows that the capital stock has been increased from \$16,342,500 to \$20,000,000. The \$3,582,900 notes have been retired, and there is a slight increase in general reserves, including sinking fund reserves. On the assets side of the balance sheet there is a small increase in property account, also in the value of transmission lines, machinery, etc., and accounts receivable are down over \$1,300,000 to \$1,571,379, while the cash item has increased by \$220,000 to \$525,228. On the liabilities side of the account, accounts payable are \$220,000 lower at \$730,224.

In speaking of the financial position of the company, President J. E. Aldred stated that both note issues and the entire issue of debenture stock has been retired, and that

there remained outstanding only the amount of the newly authorized bond issue, and something less than \$4,000,000 of the original issue of first mortgage bonds.

Mackay Companies.—The annual report of the company which was presented to shareholders at the annual meeting at Boston this week, showed receipts of \$5,021,094, compared with \$4,695,496 in the previous year. This gain in revenue was almost entirely off-set by higher operating expense, which amounted to \$644,883, as against \$301,120. Dividends amounting to \$4,355,988 were paid, compared with \$4,388,677, and the balance carried forward was \$20,223, compared with \$5,698. The balance-sheet shows total assets of \$93,324,774, compared with \$93,304,551. In accordance with the usual custom of the company, no details are given beyond the statement that investments comprise \$93,294,192, and cash \$30,581 of the assets. The liabilities are: Preferred shares, \$50,000,000; common shares, \$41,380,400, both unchanged from last year; and surplus, \$1,944,374, compared with \$1,924,151. A change has been made in the trustees. The Canadian trustees now are Lord Shaughnessy and Sir Edmund Osler. It is understood that Sir Vincent Meredith has resigned.

President Clarence H. Mackay, in his report, reviews the relations between the Mackay Companies and the United States government with reference to the government operation of telegraph, cable and telephone systems during a part of the year. The dispute over the earnings of the telegraph and telephone systems has been considered closed, and the company does not intend to report its cable earnings and expenses.

Ritz-Carlton Hotel Co., Ltd.—At the annual meeting of the company in Montreal, President Chas. R. Hosmer, in his address to shareholders said:—

"The improvement in the receipts of the hotel, which started at the time of the declaration of the armistice, continued throughout the current year, and, although the cost of conducting the business in every department was largely increased, the net results must be considered satisfactory. Your directors, believing that the hotel was firmly established on a paying basis, entered into negotiations with the holders of the first and second mortgage bonds, the interest upon whose securities has not been paid for some years, resulting in an agreement being made by which the holders of the first mortgage bonds of the company would receive second mortgage bonds to cover interest on their securities from the 1st of December, 1913, to the 30th November, 1918, and a cash payment to cover the interest due on the 1st June, 1919,

(Continued on page 58)