

crisis in the affairs of the group were most acute, and asserted that it was simply the aftermath of the Globe crash. He added that the whole of the trouble had arisen owing to the action of certain members of the Stock Exchange. In this way he, of course, referred to the doings of the so-called "syndicate" whose secession, at a critical juncture last December, is said to have been responsible for the debach, and all the subsequent developments. Be this as it may, he claimed that the Globe people were going for this syndicate, and that they had the highest legal authority for their belief that its members could be held responsible for their treachery. After having been howled down in the early stages of the meeting he succeeded in quieting his critics, secured a fair hearing, and in about 12 minutes had apparently convinced the meeting that he was more sinned against than sinning, that the whole of the trouble lay of the door of the "syndicate," that he courted every investigation, so far as his actions were concerned, that he didn't mind whether the corporation was wound up compulsorily, i. e., by order and under the supervision of the court, or voluntarily, i. e., by the shareholders' own liquidator, but he plainly intimated that in any scheme of reconstruction the constitution and company must be altered. The new company must be a mining company pure and simple, and he didn't see then why it might not eventually become a success despite its present critical condition. It was a marvelous performance, and although I have always regarded Mr. Whitaker Wright as a man of great parts, and quite able to defend himself, he astonished us all by the way in which he hushed the shareholders section of the meeting. The Stock Exchange side, however, had suffered too much to sit down tamely. They shouted for lists of the company's assets, asked how far they were mortgaged, how much money the corporation possessed at the time they were stating their willingness to complete their bargains in the shares of the two companies, which have brought them down. What had become of the profits of the Le Roi No. 2 "bear squeeze," and the flotation of the other subsidiary concerns, made other pertinent remarks, which only insiders can make, and earnestly besought the shareholders to refuse to sanction the voluntary liquidation of the company, but rather to get into line with the Stock Exchange petitioners—numbering four now—who are asking the courts to see the matter through. Investigation, said the Stock Exchange representatives, would thereby be assured—investigation was what was wanted. But the board had meanwhile agreed to allow of a committee of shareholders to be appointed to superintend the liquidation, and it was very obvious that even some of the most bitter opponents of the previously howled-down managing director were wavering. When it came to the show of hands it was evident that the board had won, but the conduct of the chairman in regard to the appointment of liquidator was somewhat less clear, and angry shouts were raised against him. He was, undoubtedly, not an ideal chairman, where it was necessary to turn away natural wrath, to appease an angry crowd, and I am much mistaken if some of his actions are not challenged. For that there will be an appeal to the law courts is undoubted. Mr. Whitaker Wright, for his part, indicated the determination of the group, of which he is the head, to fight the syndicate to the bitter end. The Stock Exchange element, and they are exceedingly strong, seem as equally determined that no stone shall be left unturned to wreck the policy of the board, and defeat the steps to reconstruct the ill-managed corporation. The end of the meeting was confusion, but I take it that there is no doubt that on the show of hands the board won over the form under which the corporation is to be wound

up. Of course a "poll" was demanded and this resulted as follows:

Votes cast for the board, i. e., for voluntary liquidation, 403,448.

Votes cast for the creditors of the Stock Exchange, i. e., for compulsory winding-up, 16,750.

Total capital of £1,500,000 into £1 shares fully paid and all issued.

The first-named total of course includes the vast number of shares controlled by the B. A. C. and other companies, etc.

It is very difficult to ascertain the extent of the corporations assets, as the meeting at which the board met the creditors of the Stock Exchange (May 23rd) was private. I have made inquiries, however, in well-informed quarters and gather that the following may be considered as about correct on the date in question. And a perusal of it will show that the poor B. A. C. has not had its interests confined to B. C., but has travelled far and wide to ruin:—

ASSETS—ESTIMATED VALUES.

£254,320 representing 50,864 Le Roi No. 2 shares, £5 fully paid, valued at £5.

£60,000, representing 12,000 Le Roi No. 2 shares, £2, 10s., paid, valued at £5 (said to be mortgaged.)

£840, representing 168 Rossland & Great Western shares, £5, valued at £5.

£7, 10s., representing 75 London & Globe, valued at 2s.

£50,000, representing 20,000 London Valley Coy's shares, valued at 2s. 10d.

£200,000, representing 80,000 Moolort Gold Coy's shares, valued at 2s. 10d.

£58,750, representing 235,000 Standard Exploration shares, fully paid, valued at 5s.

5,625 Columbian Proprietary and a number of Columbia Kootenays, unvalued.

£157, representing "cash in hand."

£50, representing calls in arrear various shares.

£1,843, representing various debtors.

£23,000, representing moneys at Vancouver.

Total, £646,667, 10s. od.

LIABILITIES.

£260,000 due on sundry loans and to various creditors, excluding of course the amounts due to the Stock Exchange, estimated by the creditors at £1,500,000.

It is not surprising perhaps, after being placed in the possession of the above information, that the Stock Exchange creditors should push for a compulsory liquidation and more light, and four petitions were down for hearing on June 5th, and one for June 12. After hearing the speeches of counsel, Mr. Justice Wright acceded to the request of Messrs. C. & A. Paull, backed up by the counsel representing Messrs. Flower, Camden & Douglas, sr., and also the fifth petitioner, for a postponement in order that affidavits might be put in dealing with the new phase created by the shareholders decision of Monday last, Thursday week, June 13, being the date fixed for the rehearing of the claims of the Stock Exchange firms. I understand that it is quite possible that Mr. Whitaker Wright, S. Macleay, and various officials of the corporation will be subpoenaed to attend on that date, or at a subsequent hearing if such should be required.