INVESTMENTS AND THE MARKET

British Columbia Electric Rates Investigation to be Handed Over to Railway Board —Kerr Lake Mines Report — Brazilian Earnings Up

Cape Breton Electric Co., Ltd.—A semi-annual dividend of $3 per share on the preferred capital stock and a dividend of $1.50 per share on the common capital stock of the company, have been declared, both payable November 1, 1919, to stockholders of record at the close of business October 15, 1919.

Trinidad Electric Co., Ltd.—The following is a statement of earnings of the company for the month of August, 1919:—

	Gross.	Net.
Railroad	$14,429.81	$3,116.20
Light and power	11,954.73	2,418.95
Ice and refrigeration	4,968.90	1,462.87
Total net		6,998.02

Demerara Electric Co., Ltd.—The following is a statement of earnings of the company for the month of August:—

	Gross.	Net.
Railroad	$7,553.43	$ 618.36
Light and power	8,582.28	4,256.96
Miscellaneous		314.23
Total net		5,189.55

Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Co.—After a shut-down of about 14 weeks, steel making at the company's plant at Sydney Mines, is once more in progress, and a portion of the open-hearth furnaces are producing ingots. Prospects for the winter are fairly bright. The company has some fairly large orders in view, but have not yet closed with them. Negotiations are in progress, however, and, providing no obstacles appear, contracts will shortly be completed.

Brazilian Traction, Light and Power Co., Ltd.—The statement of the company, in milreis, shows that the earnings in August, 1919, amounted to 9,734,000, compared with 9,491,000 for the same month last year. After deducting 4,849,000 for operating expenses, the net earnings stood at 4,885,000, compared with 5,210,000 last year. Aggregate net earnings from January 1st are 38,624,000, compared with 34,975,000 for the same period last year, an increase of 3,649,000.

Independent Quarries, Ltd.—The company, which has its office at Garson, Man., is offering for sale $30,000 of common stock. The authorized capital of the company is $250,000. Of this there is paid up $216,800. The company owns 205 acres 27 miles north-east of Winnipeg. This includes the townsite of Garson and one-half mile trackage on the main line of the C.P.R. Prospecting pits show this land to contain over 90 acres of stone. This has been tested and the engineer's report that it is 500 ft. to 600 ft. deep, sufficient to ensure a supply of stone for very many years.

Western Power Co. of Canada, Ltd.—August operating revenues of the company amounted to $42,108, an increase of 7.6 per cent., compared with August 20, 1918, and net earnings of $26,470, an increase of 7.7 per cent. There was included in operating expenses for depreciation in August the sum of $2,096. Twelve months ended August 31, operating revenues were $461,333, an increase of 1.8 per cent. over the same period in 1918, and net earnings of $294,285, a decrease of 5.7 per cent., compared with the same period of 1918, after making allowance for depreciation of $20,059.

Porto Rico Railways Co., Ltd.—The following is a comparative statement of earnings for the month of August, 1919:—

	1918.	1919.	Increase.
Gross	$ 92,945.22	$ 95,861.82	$ 2,916.60
Net	22,348.39	41,335.55	18,987.16
For eight months:			
Gross	$686,948.81	$750,327.87	$63,379.06
Net	293,713.41	285,424.54	*8,288.87

*Decrease.

Paton Manufacturing Co.—The company has given public notice that it will withdraw its shares from the official list of the Montreal Stock Exchange. The company, which is engaged in the manufacture of woolen goods, came into prominence some months ago during an investigation at Ottawa concerning the profits of corporations in relation to the high cost of living. No trading has been recorded for years. The shares listed total about 6,000 of the par value of $100, and are all closely held. The company has been on an 8 per cent. basis, and in the way of bonuses this year it declared a 2 per cent., paid in March, and a special 25 per cent. in 1933 Victory bonds, paid in March.

Kerr Lake Mining Co., Ltd.—The financial statement of the company for the year ended August 31, 1919, shows that the profits amounted to $956,258. The cost of production and development for the year was $257,626, while administration and general expenses amounted to $41,510. Proceeds from ore sales totalled $1,637,143. During the year $653,000 was paid in dividends. The report states that 2,382 ft. of development was done by drifting, crosscutting, raising and sinking, all of which failed to encounter new veins of importance, although commercial values were exposed in extensions of ore shoots, portions of which were previously located in known veins.

Northern Alberta Gas Co.—Another bid for Edmonton's support in a joint application to the Public Utilities Commission for a tentative increase in the gas franchise rates in the city, has been made to the council. The plan is to have the domestic rate increased to 35 cents and the power rate to 25 cents for three years. There would also be a clause providing for a minimum charge of 50 cents per meter per month. At the end of the three-year period, both the city and the company would go before the commission to enable that body to ascertain if any adjustment in rate was then necessary. If a company is unable to finance it within a period of six months, it would be prepared to have the rate revert to the franchise price of 25 cents.

British Columbia Electric Railway Co.—Owing to the fact that the company has a Dominion charter for its Lulu Island branch, it has been decided that the fixing of its rates is a matter for the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners. This at least is the view taken by John Retallack, the provincial Public Utilities Commissioner, who has been investigating its claims for a six-cent fare. The investigation followed upon demands made by the employees for more wages and conciliation proceedings. At the last meeting of the Conciliation Board important evidence as to the financial condition of the company was given by W. G. Murrin.

Mr. Murrin made three statements to show why the company was not now in a position to accept the demands now made by the employees. The first he pointed out was that the company could not afford to pay. The return on the investment last year was 2.73 per cent. Second, the net income of $394,824 was only sufficient to pay 1½ per cent. on preferred stock and in the last five years no interest had been paid on ordinary stock. In the third place, he showed that the operations of the railway department in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria during the last year had resulted in a loss to the company of $271,265. He also pointed out that the company had signed the last agreement with the employees in order to save the six-cent fare, and that it was forced to work under conditions for which there was no precedent on the continent.

"The wage that the men are now demanding could not be covered by the six-cent fare," said Mr. Murrin. "An increase in the fare of two cents would be necessary to meet their demands. But there is a limit to what the public will agree to pay for transportation."