MONTREAL STREET RAILWAY.

Negotiations Between the Company and the City Have Been Resumed—The Position To-day.

Monetary Times Office,
Montreal, April 19th.

Financial circles in Montreal are expressing satisfaction at the announcement that the negotiations between the city and the Montreal Tramways—or the Montreal Street Railway as it is still called—will shortly be resumed. It has been evident for some time past that there was some uneasiness in connection with the financial situation generally, and that the uncertainty concerning the Street Railway deal contributed. Brokers who had found difficulty in getting sufficient call money began to offer the explanation that the banks were anxious to have a settlement of several questions before they began to loan freely again.

Among the questions referred to, the Street Railway was always included. The arrangements made with the banks nearly a year ago, when the fight for control began, has apparently existed with few alterations ever since. While the security is just as good, it is the policy of the banks to keep their loans moving, and the Street Railway deal has apparently been too long in the same position. Six months ago, it was generally thought here that when the reorganization took place, English capital would be brought into the deal, possibly through the purchase of part of the $25,000,000 debenture bonds, which it was proposed to create. This would retire the outstanding stock and lift the loans now made by the banks against a very large portion of the stock.

Good Deal With Underwriters.

In order to make a good deal with the underwriters of the proposed new issues, the directors made a strong effort at the last session of the Quebec Parliament to obtain a new franchise with the city of Montreal. This effort was made at Quebec rather than with the city, because of various reasons, one of which was that in the negotiations with the Board of Control the terms demanded by Mr. Wanklyn were of a character which the railway considered would lessen the chances of a profitable underwriting. The city opposed the passage of the bill through the Legislature, and succeeded in making it compulsory for the railway to make terms with the city.

Little has been heard since of further details in connection with the renewal of the contract. The feeling has been that should the railway not succeed in its efforts to finance its scheme the effect would be unfavorable upon the situation in Montreal. Should the re-financing prove successful, the result would not only be that considerable money would be liberated for call loans and other stocks, but that confidence would be greater. As the re-financing would naturally depend considerably upon the nature of the contract with the city, the feeling in the street is strongly in favor of the Street Railway getting a fair deal from the city.

At last the first step for the renewal of negotiations has been taken by the Board of Control, and although the final settlement is distant, and many difficulties will have to be removed, the feeling in financial circles is more optimistic

Correspondence Reopened.

A letter has been sent by the Board of Control to Mr. E. A. Robert, president of the Street Railway, informing him that the city is ready to resume negotiations with the Montreal Tramways Company, and asking for an appointment. The controllers are insistent upon the point that the merger should be accomplished, and that the negotiations should be with the Montreal Tramways Company and not with the Street Railway. President Robert is not disposed to communicate the intentions of the company, which, under the circumstances, is perhaps not unwise. His reply to the question as to whether or not the merger will take place immediately is non-committal.

It is believed that the directors of the company have been actively working on the re-financing proposition, and that they are in a position to complete arrangements at any time. It is stated that instead of coming from London the money is likely to come from New York. Financial circles are watching every move and will be much relieved when the contract is signed.

London, Ont., will soon have a new industry. A company is being formed under a Dominion charter to manufacture the "Holeproof" stocking, and other knit goods, in that city. It will be a branch of the large Milwaukee firm manufacturing this line of goods. The London directors are Mr. Geo. M. Reid and Mr. F. F. Harper. Other London capitalists are interested in the concern.

WESTERN CANADA WHEAT MARKETS.

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, April 18th.

Prices have held fairly well during the week, and the tone of the market is more pronouncedly bullish. This was exemplified in the last session of the week when, after the holiday, the bull interests took hold of the market and succeeded in tossing wheat almost three cents higher. Instead of the dull market looked for there was quite a tornado of buying orders, our local May being carried from 90⅞ to 93⅝c. Since markets have taken a more favorable turn there has been an increase of activity, but the fluctuations are frequently erratic. Owing to the steady decrease in visible supplies and better demand for wheat and flour, cash wheat prices and the nearby deliveries have developed a stronger tone. On the other hand, the new crop futures have shown an inclination to decline on the favorable reports of the new wheat prospects. Most of the crop advices coming in are optimistic, and the spring wheat sections have now ample moisture for the beginning of seeding.

The chief event of the week as affecting markets was the publication of the United States Government report on the condition of winter wheat as at April 1st. The showing was not quite so good as anticipated, the percentage condition being given as 83.3, which is lower than the average for ten years, and indicates a probable yield of 510,000,000 bushels as against 464,000,000 actually harvested last year. While the report was not strikingly bullish, it had the effect of advancing prices, but at the same time traders considered that the condition had materially improved since the report was compiled.

The present renewal of strength, however, is mainly the result of the decreasing supplies, the increased demand for flour, and the diminished wheat stocks in North Dakota and Western Canada. On the other hand, excellent growing conditions are shown everywhere in the winter wheat belt, but it is noted that the market does not weaken under the fine crop prospects as it ordinarily would.

Winnipeg Market Firm and Active.

Receipts at Winnipeg continue of fairly large volume, a large proportion of the grain still grading No. 3 Northern and under. There is a strong demand by millers for Nos. 1 and 2, while some export is worked almost daily, mainly confined to the lower grades. Cash demand has been fair all week. Seeding will be general all this week in the major part of Saskatchewan, with Manitoba following suit immediately the ground dries. The opening of navigation has been somewhat delayed by the recent spell of cold weather, but prospects are for the restoration of the lake service about the 25th inst.

CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.

The following are the figures for the Canadian Clearing Houses for the weeks ended April 21st, 1910; April 13th, and April 20th, 1911, with percentage change:—

	Apr. 21,'10.	Apr. 13,'11.	*Apr. 20,'11.	Chg. %
Montreal ...	$36,753,563	$46,514,305	$30,892,048	—15.9
Toronto	30,829,046	37,427,237	27,430,842	—11.02
Winnipeg ..	17,880,384	19,005,749	16,860,892	— 5.7
Vancouver ..	9,237,654	11,069,941	8,051,426	—12.8
Ottawa	4,318,934	4,262,632	3,661,445	—15.2
Calgary	5,118,594	2,404,488	3,140,327	—40.6
Quebec	2,161,252	2,224,626	2,067,548	— 4.3
Victoria	1,822,950	3,004,782	2,315,408	+25.8
Hamilton ...	1,815,336	2,576,506	2,171,994	+19.6
Halifax	1,978,469	1,961,654	1,314,459	—33.21
St. John	1,508,016	1,366,855	1,318,730	—12.5
Edmonton ...	1,207,980	2,093,741	2,106,902	+74.4
London	1,284,185	1,389,107	1,190,617	— 7.2
Regina	751,090	1,209,300	1,283,041	+70.8
Brandon ...	524,414	506,653	486,928	— 7.1
Total	$117,191,867	$138,017,576	$104,292,607	—11.0
Lethbridge .	....	541,399	405,671	
Saskatoon ..	....	964,458	787,633	
Brantford ..	....	487,891	452,507	
Moose Jaw ..	....	593,089	876,066	

*Four days only—Good Friday and Easter Monday.

That the La Rose Mining Company will have a cash surplus of $1,100,000, after payment of dividends on April 20th, and that the company's surplus would have been greater had not operations been curtailed during the past two months through lack of power was a statement made by Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon, president, recently.