

"The Government are determined to take immediate and drastic action to discourage, and if necessary to prohibit, its operations in Australia. It is not proposed to wait until the combine secures vested interests in this country. The Minister of Trade and Customs is consulting with the Attorney-General with the view to bringing the full force of the present law into operation, and if necessary obtaining further legislation.

"The action of the Government will extend to trust operations in Australia, whether conducted directly or indirectly, and will not permit the repetition in Australia of the scandals and merciless methods characterizing monopolies in other parts of the world."

FOUR INDUSTRIAL MERGERS

Have Capitalization of Forty-nine Million Dollars—Coal, Coke, Brick, Pulp, Paper and Lumber Concerns.

Montreal continues to be the centre of the industrial merger movement. A \$12,000,000 coal combination has been successfully organized in that city, the chief promoters being Messrs. H. A. Lovett, K.C., and E. B. Greenshields, as President and Vice-President, while amongst the capitalists on the directorate are Senator MacKay, Messrs. R. Forget, M.P., C. H. Canan, K.C., J. E. Greenshields, J. W. McConnell, N. Curry and others.

The merger has acquired several of the leading coal and coke companies in the Canadian west, including the Western Coal & Coke Company, The Lethbridge Collieries, Limited, and The Pacific Pass Coal Fields, Limited.

The new corporation will be known as the Canadian Coal & Coke Company, Limited. The conditions of the combination are shares of similar par value in the merger, which also has the option of exchanging its bonds on an equal basis with those of the companies carrying fifty per cent. bonus of common stock.

As previously stated, a \$2,000,000 brick company is being formed at Montreal. Leading capitalists are behind the scheme. The plant will be the largest in Quebec Province. One of the company's plants will be located at Laprairie and another at some other point on the St. Lawrence River.

Pulp and Paper Mills.

Messrs. J. M. Greenshields and H. A. Lovett have left for Europe in connection with the consolidation of several large pulp and paper mills. The recently incorporated Canadian Pulp & Paper Company, with its \$15,000,000 capital, is to be a holding company for several pulp companies which are to be combined. The companies comprising the merger will include the Wayagamack Pulp & Paper Company, the East Canada Company and the Belgo Company at Shawinigan Falls. Control of the latter two concerns is held in Paris and Brussels, while Canadians are largely interested in the Wayagamack Corporation. The promoters will apply to the Montreal, Paris, Brussels, and the London Stock Exchanges to list the entire \$15,000,000 of common stock.

Big Lumber Corporation.

The British Canadian Lumber Corporation, capitalized at \$20,000,000, will have its headquarters in Vancouver, although large Montreal interests are connected with the company. Mr. F. L. Buckley is managing director of the company. The capital behind the British Canadian Lumber Corporation is, for the main part, supplied by British financiers. There is also considerable Eastern Canadian and American capital involved in the deal. The British Columbia Lumber Corporation possesses large timber holdings in many parts of the Pacific coast province as well as in other parts of the Dominion. The total amount of its timber holdings represents over 14,000,000,000 feet, the majority of which is in British Columbia.

One of the most important holdings acquired by the new concern is in the Massett Inlet district, near Prince Rupert. This is a spruce tract, and it is the intention of the company to erect a large saw and pulp mill in that vicinity. Other holdings of the company are on Burrard Inlet, Howe Sound and also several extensive limits in the interior.

While the head offices of the big corporation will be in Vancouver, it is the intention to establish retail yards at different points throughout the prairie provinces. The majority of the coast lumber companies at present only possess wholesale yards at one or two points on the prairies.

In addition to the mill owned by the company on Coal Harbor, in Vancouver, a deal has been closed for the purchase of a large mill and extensive timber limits on the Columbia River. Mr. Buckley states that negotiations will also be closed for the purchase of sites in the Vancouver, Port Moody or New Westminster districts for the erection of two more large mills.

Mr. G. F. Johnston and Mr. S. J. Allison, of Johnston, McConnell & Allison, Montreal, are both interested in the new company.

LITTLE NIPISSING AFFAIRS.

A stormy meeting of the Little Nipissing Mining Company, at which about 200 shareholders were present, was held in Toronto last week. Shares of the company have been over-issued to the extent of 644,244. A resolution was introduced to appeal to the Legislature for an Act increasing the capital stock of the company from \$1,500,000 to \$3,000,000, the motion being adopted without any openly expressed dissent, though several suggested that the capitalization should be made \$5,000,000. The resolution further provided that present holders of certificates should surrender within 90 days, or such time as is fixed by the Legislature, the certificates held by them, and receive new ones in exchange. Certificates not surrendered should cease to entitle their owners to any rights. The stock not required for redeeming outstanding certificates should be reserved as treasury stock and be disposed of by the directors for the purpose of furnishing capital for the operation of the mine. Further, nothing should be done to release or exonerate from responsibility or liability any former or present officer of the company from any liability under which they might be.

"The books and accounts of the company," said the report of Mr. J. P. Langley, "are in as about a deplorable condition as it would be possible for them to be. No transfer book prior to 26th of October, 1910, had been produced, and apparently none had been ever kept. There was great laxity in connection with the issue of stock certificates, a great many of them bearing the signature of only one officer, the name of the second officer being affixed by means of a rubber stamp. Certificates had been issued from books containing 250 each, and 17 of these books were missing out of a total of 58. From the 41 available, and from certificates which had come in for transfer since the change of secretary, I find that at least 644 names and 558,566 shares should be added to the records."

Continuing, the report stated that the total amount of over-issue of shares would amount to 644,244. From the condition of the records, however, it was impossible to distinguish the certificates which had been issued without authority. The current liabilities exceeding capital amounted to \$19,624.99.

Secretary-treasurer W. S. Milne pointed out that no stock had been issued since October, 1910, when the books were in balance. He declared that there had been no chance of anyone knowing about the over-issue of stock until the time it was discovered and made known. On the motion of Mr. Fox it was decided that the directors should be instructed to proceed against any officer guilty of dishonesty.

TRUST COMPANY LEGISLATION IN QUEBEC.

Trust companies are strongly opposing the Quebec Government's bill regulating the operations of these companies, and it is likely the bill will not be pressed this year. At a meeting of the Legislation Committee serious points were raised by advocates representing the companies. Mr. J. H. Montgomery appeared for the National Trust Company, the Montreal Trust Company, the Canadian Trust Company, the Dominion Trust Company, the Prudential Trust Company; Mr. A. Wainwright for the Crown Trust Company and for the Dominion of Canada Trust Company; Mr. Fitzpatrick for the Eastern Trust Company, and Mr. J. V. Cousins for the Investment Trust Company.

The legal representatives pointed out that clause 7096A would seriously restrict the investment of trust funds, as the investment would be confined too much to one class. The clause speaks of moneys that the trust companies hold may be invested in bonds or debentures secured by hypothec.

It was further remarked that according to clause 7096D the trust companies could not lend money on call loans, which was another important part of their operations.

Several other minor objections were made to the bill as drafted, which were all taken into consideration. The bill was held over, and it is probable that it will be reported back to the House for the present session without action being taken on it.

COBALT ORE SHIPMENTS.

The following are the shipments of Cobalt ore, in pounds, for the week ended February 24th: McKinley-Darragh, 188,080; Cobalt Lake, 181,510; Coniagas, 123,740; Beaver, 121,276; Buffalo, 62,570; Chambers-Ferland, 64,000; Townsite, 40,000; Nipissing, 65,860; La Rose 63,710; Crown Reserve, 64,000; total, 974,746 pounds, or 487 tons. The total shipments since January 1st are now 8,190,300 pounds, or 4,095 tons.

In 1904 the camp produced 158 tons, valued at \$316,217; in 1905, 2,144 tons, valued at \$1,437,196; in 1906, 5,129 tons, valued at \$3,900,000; in 1907, 14,040 tons; in 1908, 25,700 tons; in 1909, 29,751 tons; in 1910, 34,041 tons.